

School Watch

A look at what is happening in Cleveland and Bradley County Schools

by Tonya Brantley

The Bradley County School board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 9th. The following are highlights from that meeting.

The Board approved field trips for BCHS social studies to go to Washington, DC, May 30-June 6. The Board also approved Prospect Safety Patrol and Taylor Safety Patrol to go to Washington, DC, May 29-June 1.

During Director of Schools, Johnny McDaniel's good news report, he announced the following 2009 Bradley Central High School HOSA State Leadership Conference Winners: First place winners are April Barnhart - Outstanding HOSA Chapter, Harley Grout - First Aid Rescue Breathing, Candace Russell - Personal Care, Jennifer Tenpenny - Administrative Medical Assisting,

Cody Painter - Kaiser Permanente National Health Care Issues Exam, and Ashley Striker - Nursing Assisting. Third place winners are Sara Torbett - Clinical Specialty and Stormer Kyker - Medical Photography. Brittany Bacon won fourth place for Physical Therapy Aide. National Recognition Program Portfolios went to Brittany Bacon, April Barnhart, Courtney Stokes, Jennifer Tenpenny, Sara Torbett, Caitlyn Rayfield and Katie Keller. HOSA Week winner was April Barnhart and the National Service Project (Autism Speaks) winner was Stormer Kyker.

Thirty-five Walker Valley FBLA members attended the State Competition in Chattanooga on April 2-4. The following students won competitions:

Tanner Scales 1st place in Public Speaking II and Nettiquette, Michael Parkison and Zion Shreve 1st place in E-Business Web, Nick

True 2nd place Impromptu Speaking, Megan Brantley and Rossman Tarver 3rd place in Digital Video, Parker Fugate and Morgan Lane 3rd place in Business Presentation, Katie Ellis 3rd place in Business Law, Noah Stallings 3rd place in FBLA Principles, Matthew McTaggart 4th place in Business Procedures, Justin Patty 5th place in Nettiquette, and Michael Lugo 5th place in Ethics.

The Board was given an update on the new school on Minnis Road. An environmental study will help the construction manager for the new school determine where the new building is going to go based on whether or not there are wetlands. The construction manager met with the county mayor, county engineer, parks and recreation and Mr. McDaniel to get coordination and communication going between the two projects on the site.

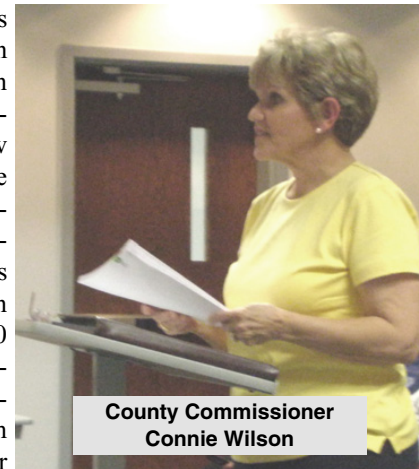
Once the environmental study is complete, a better determination of where the drives will go can be made along with the widening of Minnis Road. The geotechnical exploration for the new elementary is also on hold until the environmental study is completed.

The Board was given an update on the prequalification process for construction for the new school. So far, there are about 80 responses from interested sub contractors that want to bid on the work. Of those 80 responses, 50-60 percent are local. In order to get maximum coverage another prequalification round was advertised. The board will receive a list of all responses at a future meeting.

Johnny Mull from the Land Search Committee updated the board of an-

other potential site which may be the one the Land Search Committee prefers. The Committee hopes to have all their information clarified by next month then ask the Board to direct them as to what direction to take from that point on.

Commissioner Connie



County Commissioner
Connie Wilson

Wilson addressed the Board about the upcoming County Sales Tax Referendum. Wilson presented the Board with a fact sheet and explained that in order for county schools to benefit,

the referendum must pass. Commissioners Ed Elkins, Lisa Stanbery, Ben Atchley, and Chairman Michael Plumley were in attendance at the meeting and offered to speak at upcoming PTO meetings so that parents can be better informed about the referendum. School Board member Terry McGuire made a motion that the Board adopt a resolution firmly supporting the sales tax referendum and to get more actively involved in getting the word out. With a second from Board member Christy Chritchfield, the motion passed unanimously.

Walker Valley Principal Danny Coggin made a proposal to start a shooting sports program at the Bradley County High Schools. The program would be organized under the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). With a motion from Christy Chritchfield and a second from Board member Dr. Richard Baker, the motion passed unanimously.

The Bradley County School Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at the administrative office on South Lee Hwy. on the Bradley Central High School campus.

Board members Evelyn Rockholt, Dr. Murl Dirksen, Tom Cloud, and Chairwoman Peggy Pesterfield voted no.

A schedule for the class of 2009 Senior events was presented, they are as follows: Prom - May 9, Honors Assembly - 7:45am, May 15, Honors Banquet - 5:30pm, May 16, Class Night - 7:30pm, May 19, Graduation - 7:00pm, May 22.

The Cleveland City School Board meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm in the school's central office on Mouse Creek Road on the E.L. Ross Elementary School campus.

School Watch - Cleveland City Schools

by Tonya Brantley

The Cleveland City School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Monday April 6. The following are highlights from that meeting.

The Cleveland City School System rolled out their newly redesigned website. The site is more user friendly with a new layout and design. The Board also recognized Dr. Don Robinson who has been the webmaster for Cleveland City Schools for over 13 years. Kathy Blackner from the technology department will be taking over as webmaster.

The Board discussed Director of Schools, Dr. Rick Denning's contract amendment effective January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013. The amendment states: During the term of the contract amendment with the Director, the Board will pay the Director the same percentage annual salary increase as all other employees plus an administrative supple-

ment which all administrators in Cleveland city Schools receive. Total salary including supplement shall not exceed 4% over the prior year unless the system-wide percentage salary increase exceeds 4%. The Board voted to defer discussion until the June meeting.

Dr. Rick Denning updated the Board on funding for capital outlay projects. He mentioned that they are broken up into two parts. Possible County Funds with an estimated balance of \$2,668,736. and Sales Tax which will begin May 1st, however it will be June or July of this year before the School System gets funds from the sales tax. The estimated monthly amount is unknown.

Brian Templeton with Upland Design Group gave the Board an update on the Cleveland High School science wing addition phases. Board member Dawn Robinson, made a motion for Upland to begin the design development phase

with the understanding that they would not receive payment until after July 1st and that Upland Design handle the subsurface coordination. The motion passed unanimously. The design development phase started April 13, 2009 for a 30 day



City School Board Member
Steve Morgan

period of project design and coordination. Design meetings with staff, subsurface investigation, and a preliminary Fire Marshal review will take place. The construction document phase begins May 13th, a bidding phase will begin August 3rd. Construction will begin September 21, 2009 with the period of construc-

tion work to continue for 14 months. Substantial completion of construction is scheduled for December 2010. Mr. Templeton also mentioned that TVA will conduct a test for geothermal.

Board member Steve Morgan, gave a discussion of the science wing delivery method. Morgan explained that after reading the minutes from a meeting from the Site Committee on March 3, 2008, there had been a suggestion concerning the delivery method between the construction manager and the general contractor of having some presentations made to the public and to the Board so they can make a fair and informed decision.

On June 3rd 2008, a motion was passed to use a general contractor, but the presentations were never held. At a recent Site Committee meeting, Morgan brought up the subject that he felt presentations for information purposes only would be helpful. There

were a lot of questions in the public about what the School Board was getting and what they were not getting.

Morgan said, "These discussions and presentations have not taken place and I would like for them to take place. We can't develop qualifications, proposals or design contracts without this. I believe it is my personal responsibility to ask these questions before I ask you, and I'm a taxpayer too, to spend \$8 million on a project that is unique to itself."

Morgan made a motion, which was seconded by Board member Dawn Robinson, that the Board direct Dr. Denning as quickly as possible to put together an informal information only session for the Board and the public to be better informed about how money is being spent and the Board's plan to move forward for the Cleveland High School science wing project. The motion failed with a 4-3 vote.