Written by Gary Childers
Friday, 14 September 2012 05:45

After recognizing Ms. Anita Ferguson as their September Employee of the Month during Monday evening's meeting, the Ashe County Board of Education took several items under consideration. One item of note was the approval for Ashe County High School's Marching Band and Steel Drum Band students to attend the Disney Performance Tour in Orlando, Florida on April 2-6. Two additional items were discussed but both will require more information before action can be taken. The first pertained to the Board's policy of administering medicines to students. Amy Quesinberry, Northwest Region School Nurse Consultant, presented information about administering EpiPens, an injection kit containing epinephrine, used for allergic reactions. The current policy allows qualified staff to administer an EpiPen if the parent provides a prescription. The question under consideration is whether a qualified staff member can administer an EpiPen to a student if the parent has not provided a prescription calling for its use. Nurse Quesinberry and Superintendent Reeves will be gathering more information on this topic to present to the Board in a future meeting. The other item needing more information is the development of next year's school calendar. Superintendent Reeves is hopeful that the legislature will provide more flexibility to local school systems next year, "You can't start school unless August 25th unless you get a waiver because of weather—and we should qualify—but then you can't start before August 19th –on or around that date, and you have to finish by June 10 or 11th. If we have an elongated winter like we did two years ago with 23 days missed, I can see us going beyond that." Reeves said they may have to create two calendars—each with their own options, and hope for changes from Raleigh.