

There was a full house at Mabel Elementary last night as the Watauga Board of Education took its Town Hall meeting to the Zionville School. The Board met a few minutes before the open session to approve the hiring of a new football coach for Watauga, Ryan Habich, currently the head football coach for Fuquay-Varina High School, to start work here in April. The forum that followed saw parents—very complimentary about most aspects of the operation of Mabel, asking about a number of state school issues, answered for the most part by superintendent Kavitz, but one parent, Jeannie Mercer Ballard, had her own observation in changes she's seeing at the school and in the system, "I've been concerned with all the recent news media articles, some things I've heard from friends and community leaders. When I moved here eight years ago, I was very impressed with the school system. It seemed very stable, teachers stayed here a long time. And I'm hearing that teachers have their resumes out."