Written by Gary Childers
Tuesday, 12 March 2013 07:06

It was predominately a night for recognizing outstanding accomplishments by students, teachers, and principals in Watauga County's schools during the Monday evening Board of Education meeting. Director of Human Resources, Dr. Stephen Martin, set the tone for the presentations starting with the schools Teachers of the Year; Each school's TOY was recognized and presented a certificate from the Board of Education members. The 2013-14 Teachers of the Year in the Watauga County Schools are Lindsey Wilson of Bethel, Susan Trew of Blowing Rock, Tiffany Reece of Cove Creek, Donna Greene of Green Valley, Jenny McCourry of Hardin Park, Meghan Mixon of Mabel, Jamie Dale of Parkway, Gina Holste of Valle Crucis, and Klay Anderson of Watauga High School. The County Teacher of the Year will be announced at the TOY banquet in April. Next Dr. Martin recognized Toby Cone, principal of Cove Creek Elementary School, as Watauga County's Principal of the Year. Mr. Cone was also presented a certificate by the Board of Education members. Additionally school counselors and social workers received recognition for their work and all principals were recognized for their assistance to the Watauga Education Foundation fundraiser, Principal/Flap Jack pancake breakfast.

Following the adult recognitions a host of Watauga High School honors band and orchestra students were recognized for their performance in the northwestern region competitions. Band instructor, Tim Walker, recognized the students from WHS who had received honors by placing in the Northwest Middle School All-District Band, Northwest District High School All-District Band, Western Region Jazz Band, Western Region Honors Orchestra, and Western Region Repertory Orchestra.

In other news the BOE approved a recommendation by Dr. Kafitz to revise the school calendar for the purpose of making up instructional days missed due to inclement weather. He proposed this be accomplished by changing March 21st and March 22nd from professional development days for employees to regular student attendance days. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation moving the two professional development days for employees to the end of the school year.

Additionally the Board received a report from After School director, Pam Shirley, indicating the model for the program will be changed next year by extending the hours of operation from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. This was done in response to many parents indicating they needed more time to get from work to their child's school. School Board chair, Dr. Lee Warren, expressed his appreciation for this change and effort to make it possible for more parents from the western end of the county to participate in the after school programs.