Blue Ridge Elementary School will welcome a new principal for the 2012-2013 school year. The Ashe County Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Callie Grubb, an assistant principal at Ashe County High School, on Tuesday evening May 15, 2012. Mrs. Grubb will succeed Mr. John Gregory, a retired principal who has filled the interim position since December 1, 2011.

Mrs. Grubb received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her Master of Science in School Administration at Appalachian State University.

The hiring process for this position began in late February. Dr. Travis Reeves, Superintendent of Ashe County Schools, met with Blue Ridge Elementary School's school improvement team to share and gather information regarding the characteristics they valued in a principal and explained the process. Fifteen stakeholders were involved in the discussion. From this group, a sub-group was formed to comprise the first interview team. Thirteen applicants were screened and seven were interviewed. Three names were recommended for the second round of interviews. The second interview team was comprised of a teacher, principals, central office administration and a retired principal. Each candidate was required to develop and deliver a 15 minute presentation on his/her vision of Blue Ridge Elementary School prior to questioning. A thorough deliberation and analysis of the presentation and questioning was constructed by each interview team member. After completing the interview process, Dr. Travis Reeves said, "I am confident in Mrs. Grubb's ability to lead Blue Ridge Elementary School. Mrs. Grubb has a history of integrity and strong work ethic. Her education philosophy includes putting children first and building teamwork in a collegial setting. She believes in working together, growing together and learning together. I feel her leadership will bring long-term sustained growth in academic achievement and she will welcome the community to be a part of this excellent school."

Mrs. Grubb has been employed with Ashe County Schools since February 2003. Her primary role has been in administration for the past five years. "My education has definitely supplied me with the knowledge and tools to become an effective educational leader while my varied employment experiences have taught me the value of teamwork and collaboration," said Mrs. Grubb. Carmen Wilson, a former North Carolina Teacher of the Year and math teacher at Ashe County High states, "Mrs. Grubb is highly organized and gives attention to detail. She is a very hard-working individual with high expectations for both herself and those around her. Mrs. Grubb emphasizes the importance of communication by being a good listener and by

seeking to understand and finding solutions for issues that are brought to her attention. It is clear that she truly cares about the students and staff of Ashe County Schools. Jason Krider, the principal of Ashe County High states, "Mrs. Grubb is a pleasure to work with. She is dedicated to student success and will be a great addition to Blue Ridge Elementary School. Mrs. Grubb has shown that she is willing to do what it takes to ensure students reach their potential and meet the expectations that are set for them. Her student-centered approach to

decision making will make for a smooth transition to Blue Ridge. Ashe County High School will miss the hard work, enthusiasm, and love for kids that Mrs. Grubb brings to school each day. We wish her well on her new endeavor."

Mrs. Grubb's vision for Blue Ridge will focus on student needs and student engagement while building a sense of team with students, faculty and parents. With a new state curriculum change, there will also be an emphasis on K-2 literacy skills. Teacher preparation with this new reform will be of the upmost priority and Mrs. Grubb and her team will focus on student relationships and academic rigor. Communication with all stakeholders will be essential as Blue Ridge Elementary moves forward in 2012-2013.

Mrs. Grubb resides in Ashe County and is married to Jason Grubb of Boone, NC.