Written by Marshall Ashcraft, WC Schools
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Cove Creek School Principal Toby Cone has been selected by his fellow principals as the Watauga County Schools Principal of the Year for 2013-14. His selection was announced Monday afternoon in a surprise visit to the school by Superintendent Dr. David Kafitz, Board of Education member Barbara Kinsey, Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Fonseca, and additional representatives of the WCS central office.

Cone responded to the award with surprise and with an immediate expression of gratitude to Cove Creek School personnel. “I want to say thanks to all our teachers and support staff at Cove Creek. This is a great honor, and I wouldn’t be here without them.”

Superintendent Dr. David Kafitz said that Cone’s award was well deserved. “He has done an excellent job in these challenging times. He exemplifies the qualities we want to see in a principal and we are proud to congratulate him on this honor as our Principal of the Year.”

Principal of the Year Toby Cone

Human Resources Director Dr. Stephen Martin also praised Cone, saying that “he always makes decisions by putting students first, and that’s a difficult thing to do in this day and age.”

Cone is in his third year as principal at Cove Creek. Before coming to the school, he served as an assistant principal at Parkway School and at Elkin Elementary in Elkin, NC. His experience also includes 11 years as an instructional technology specialist at Bethel Elementary and two years working in the at-risk program of Randolph Union Middle School in Randolph, Vermont. His educational background includes a bachelor of arts in communication from the University of New Hampshire and two master’s degrees from Appalachian State, one in educational media and technology and another in school administration.

Cone will be presented with a check for $500 and a plaque commemorating his selection as Watauga County Schools Principal of the Year. He also becomes a candidate for additional recognition as the Wells Fargo Northwest Region Principal of the Year, an award that will be announced this spring. Cone will be succeeding Blowing Rock Principal Patrick Sukow as the WCS Principal of the Year.

Cove Creek School serves students from prekindergarten through eighth grade and has a total enrollment of approximately 302 students.