

Watauga Schools 'Ready'

Written by Gary Childers

Tuesday, 09 August 2011 09:14

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marty Hemric, declared all Watauga County schools ready for students to return during last night's Board of Education meeting. He expressed appreciation to all staff and faculty for the hard work going on to make the buildings and classrooms ready for the student's return on Wednesday,

August 10. Even though buildings and classrooms are ready, apparently all policies are not. In surprise action the Board of Education repealed Watauga's current policy governing "Rules of Conduct and Procedural Code for Student Suspensions" and replaced it with the North Carolina School Boards Association's policy governing student suspensions. As explained by Director of Student Services, Clarissa Schmal, and School Board attorney, Paul Miller, the Board of Education had to take quick action on this policy in order to eliminate conflict or confusion with the legislature's new policy governing student suspension which is required to be in effect at the beginning of this school year. In response to School Board member, Delora Hodges, question as to whether this action would create any "loop holes" in student discipline policies Superintendent Hemric and Board attorney Miller assured her that students will still have to abide by the "code of conduct" but, if necessary, principals will have to use the new suspension guidelines. A new "Rules of Conduct and Procedural Code for Student Suspensions" that incorporates components of the old policy with the new requirements will be developed over the next few months using a process that involves input from teachers, principals, and parents plus several discussions at Board of Education meetings before its final approval.

In another action the Board recognized Linda Hollar's selection as, "Outstanding Secondary School Math Teacher" by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. WHS principal, Michael Wyant, presented a plaque to Ms. Hollars complimenting her excellence as a teacher and leader at Watauga High School.

Dr. Hemric reviewed the schools' performance on last year's ABC-AYP tests stating how proud he was of Watauga County's students, faculty, staff, and parents for their dedication. He shared that 8 of Watauga's nine schools received School of Distinction recognition and one received the highest rating which was Honor School of Excellence.