VANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD BRIEFS



MARCH 2024

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Board Recognitions



Board Celebrates Arts in Our School Month

Arts In Our Schools Month is a celebration dedicated to recognizing the importance of arts education in the curriculum of schools worldwide. Held annually in March, this observance aims to highlight the significance of the arts in fostering creativity, innovation, and critical thinking among students.

Andrew Markoch, Director of Fine Arts and Physical Education, shared that the month-long celebration not only provides students with opportunities to showcase their artistic abilities but also emphasizes the essential role that arts education plays in promoting holistic development. Studies have shown that exposure to the arts enhances students' cognitive abilities, social skills, and emotional well-being, contributing to their overall academic success and personal growth.

Through participation in arts-related activities and events, students not only develop artistic skills but also cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the arts and their profound impact on society. During Arts In Our Schools Month, Arts Alive 2024 will be a district highlight. The event will take place on March 16 at McGregor Hall. The Heart of the Art event will be from 3:30-4:30, with the Talent Showcase beginning at 5pm.





Read Across America

During Read Across America, schools, libraries, and communities organize various activities to encourage reading and celebrate the joy of books. These activities may include read-aloud sessions, book fairs, storytelling events, author visits, and literacy-themed contests.

Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, shared that Read Across America emphasizes the importance of reading in fostering imagination, critical thinking, and lifelong learning skills. By promoting literacy, Read Across America aims to empower individuals to become confident and proficient readers, enabling them to succeed academically and professionally.

Participation in Read Across America fosters a love of reading from an early age, laying the foundation for a lifetime of literacy and intellectual curiosity. Amber Hines, VCS Literacy Specialist, shared that Vance County Schools hosted Read Across Vance on March 4th at Vance County High School. This free, family-friendly event was filled with literacy activities, free books, meet-the-author opportunities, book walks, an escape room, and much more!



Board of Education Honors School Social Workers

School Social Worker Week is a dedicated time to honor and appreciate the invaluable contributions of school social workers in supporting students' academic success and overall well-being. Celebrated annually during the first full week of March, this week recognizes the vital role that school social workers play in providing crucial services such as counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, and connecting students and families with resources. Chief Officer of Student Services, Rey Horner, shared that these dedicated professionals work tirelessly to create a positive and nurturing school environment where all students can thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. School Social Worker Week is a time to express gratitude for their unwavering commitment to helping students overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.



MARCH 4

MAINTENANCE APPRECIATION WORKER







The Board of Education recognized employees for Maintenance Appreciation Day, celebrated May 4. They recognize and honor the hard work and dedication of maintenance professionals, as these skilled individuals play a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation and upkeep of buildings, facilities, and infrastructure.

From repairing machinery to maintaining cleanliness and safety standards, maintenance workers contribute significantly to the functionality and efficiency of our day-to-day operations. Their expertise and attention to detail help prevent disruptions and ensure that operations run seamlessly.

Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations Officer, expressed gratitude for the efforts of these unsung heroes. Whether they're fixing leaky pipes, performing routine inspections, or responding to emergencies, maintenance professionals deserve recognition for their invaluable contributions to maintaining our everyday environments.



Board of Educations Recognizes NCSPRA Blue Ribbon Awards

The North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPRA) Blue Ribbon Awards recognize excellence in school communications and public relations efforts across the state. These prestigious awards celebrate outstanding achievements in areas such as media relations, publications, social media, marketing campaigns, and crisis communication strategies.

Vance County Schools continues to make its mark through communications and marketing, having also received state recognitions in 2021, 2022, and 2023. This marks the fourth consecutive year for the district receiving state honors, solidifying the district's commitment to the community and ensuring that stakeholders are informed through a variety of mediums.

Chief Officer of Human Resources, Dr. Jennifer Carraway, shared the categories awarded to Vance County Schools for 2023 are as follows:

- Gold: Special Events and Programs (Engage, Inspire, Empower: The Inaugural Young Women's Empowerment Conference) --- This event was held April 2023 for grades 7-12. Students were invited to sign up for this inter-district field trip, which featured successful businesswomen from our community. Additionally, participants signed up for sessions that focused on a variety of interests including stress, fashion, digital presence, healthy habits, STEM careers, finances, and more!

- Gold: Digital Media Engagement (Alumni Roll Call 2023) --- This Facebook post propelled to the top with digital engagement during 2023. This social media campaign allowed alumni to engage on the alumni roll call post just before homecoming. The goal was to see which class had the greatest engagement, which would crown the school and class with the virtual spirit stick. The post reached over 13,000 people and had over 1,100 comments, making this the top-achieving post for Vance County Schools during 2023.

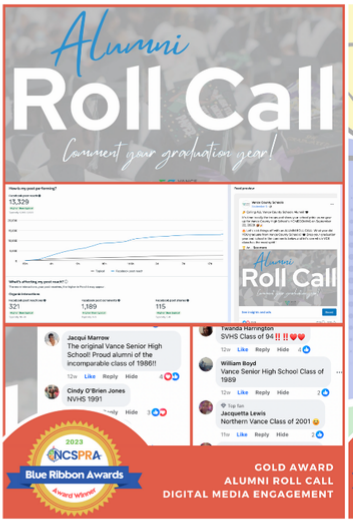
- Silver: Image/Graphic Design (Superhero Principals: 16 Schools, 1 Mission) --- During Principal Appreciation Month, each principal was turned into a superhero through Artificial Intelligence

technology. They were each featured on a comic background, along with information about their education, years of experience, and more. The graphics were shared on social media, where they gained a lot of traction in support of the work our principals do every day.

- Bronze: Image/Graphic Design (Sharing Our Story at New Heights) --- Focusing on our district's billboard campaign, key areas throughout the district were highlighted. The billboard is located on Norlina Road across from the Food Lion shopping center. Over the last year, this included a celebration of the Class of 2023, enrollment, Arts Alive, Educators of the Year, and the EnTech lab reveal.

NCSPRA also honored the top entry in each category with the Best of the Best Award. The Best of the Best for Special Events and Programs in the state of North Carolina was awarded to Vance County Schools for “Engage, Inspire, Empower: The Inaugural Young Women’s Empowerment Conference.” The Conference was a spectacular event held at the Center For Innovation that has now gained state-wide attention for the work taking place within our district. The keynote panel included a physician assistant, insurance agent, dentist, realtor, and business owner! It was truly a day for our community to empower the young women in our district to dream big and work hard to achieve what they set their minds to accomplish.









Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Cindy Bennett shared the following:

- Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report
- The Cooperative Innovation High School Renewal agreement with Vance Granville Community College was presented to the Board of Education.
- The Summer Learning Opportunities program was shared, indicating the district's plan for testing and accountability. Testing will take place within the specific schools that are hosting the summer programs. Transportation will be provided to students.

- The Year-Over-Year Data Report was presented by Superintendent Dr. Cindy Bennett. The state and district data was shared, showing the level of learning recovery for both. The data analysis indicates where we were and the recovery made since the pandemic.

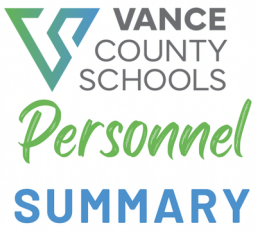
Board Business



Action Items by the Board of Education

The Board of Education voted and approved the following:

- Personnel Recommendations
- Cooperative Innovation High School agreement with VGCC
- Summer Program Plan
- Purchase of chairs and desks for STEM Early High using the school's Title 1 funds
- Gaggle renewal through June 2025
- Purchase of icevonline.com site licenses for CTE training
- Appropriation request for the Vance County Manager
- 2024-2025 School Calendars (Traditional, Early Start and Modified Year-Round)



Personnel

The Board of Education approved 14 employment recommendations. We would like to formally welcome the following: Ebony Jones (Clarke), Tka Giscombe (Clarke), Maria Sparacio (Dabney/NH/ZV), Loricia Martin (EOY), Derek Alston (VCHS), Ryan Bullock (VCHS), Tyra Simes (Pinkston), Bambi Terry (Clarke), Diane Foster (Transportation), Carlos Scott (VCHS), James Owen (VCHS), Kiyanna Kearney (VCHS), Shirley Crudup (VCHS), and Micaela Harrah (Zeb Vance).

The Board accepted resignations for 5, retirements for 2, 5 outside contracted services, 3 VCS contracted services, additional assignments for 2, temporary/substitutes for 2, and transfer/promotions for 4.



Student Transfer Requests

The Vance County Board of Education approved 7 requests to transfer into Vance County Schools and 1 request to transfer out, totaling 8 transfer requests.

Overnight / Out of State Field Trip Approvals

Vance County High School JROTC to Norfolk Navy Base and Busch Gardens April 25-26, 2024.



Board Meeting Livestream Video

Next BOE Meeting will be April 15, 2024 at 6pm.

All meetings take place at 6pm at VCS Administrative Services Center.

2024 Meeting Schedule
April 15, 2024
May 13, 2024
June 17, 2024
July 8, 2024
August 12, 2024
September 9, 2024
October 14, 2024
November 4, 2024
December 9, 2024

2024 Board Meeting Schedule was adopted by the Board of Education on December 11, 2023.

About Us

Vance County Schools, located in Henderson, NC serves students Pre-K through 12th grade, as well as Early College 5th year students. There are 16 schools served in our district.

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