

BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS TONY EMISON FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Above: Dr. Tony Emison shows off the beautifully decorated strawberry cake presented to him during a meal prior to his final meeting as a Board of Education member. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Dr. Tony Emison has always had one golden rule that guided his years of service as a member of the Crockett County Board of Education: “Whatever is best for the kids in this system is what I’m going to be for.”

Emison’s final meeting – allegedly – as a member of the Board came Monday night as Chairman Jasper Taylor, District Director of Schools Phillip A. Pratt, and the other Board members celebrated his 20 years (over two stints) of service to the Crockett educational community. “Allegedly” must be mentioned because – as he is wont to do as a public servant – Emison told the group, “If you need me for anything, just holler!”

Emison, who is also the Medical Examiner for Madison and Crockett counties, was presented a plaque by Taylor and a beautifully decorated strawberry cake during a special pre-meeting meal, which featured several members of Emison’s family there to surprise him.

Pratt saluted Emison not only for his 20 years of Board service but also for “16 years beside me on the sidelines” while he was Crockett County High School’s football coach. “Nobody ever had a team doctor better than Tony Emison,” Pratt said, even recounting a basketball game in which Emison stitched up a bloody gash near a player’s eye during halftime but got him back into the game.

Emison couldn’t name a specific highlight of his 20 years of Board service, saying he’d have to give that question some deeper thought. But when asked about the strangest case he could recall as a medical examiner, one could easily detect the thought process he used to help solve problems in the educational realm.

“There was a case in Crockett County once in which a man had been shot in the head,” Emison related. “It initially looked like a suicide, but it was one of those times when things just weren’t adding up. We had originally thought that the bullet had entered one side of the head and exited on the other, but the bullet couldn’t be found where it should have come out. Sometimes the entry wounds and the exit wounds are so similar that you just can’t tell.

“So we reversed the process and examined it the other way around, and sure enough, doing it that way led us to finding a bullet in a glass. It had ricocheted two or three times and settled in the glass somehow, which – after the autopsy had been performed in Nashville – showed that he’d actually been shot by his wife.”

That type of persistence has characterized Emison’s time on the Board of Education.

“I just like helping people out,” he said. “Serving on this Board has given me a chance to do that for the kids and the teachers in this county. If what we do doesn’t benefit the kids in the system, there is no reason to be doing what you’re doing.”

Emison’s position on the Board will be taken by Robert Lovell, who also attended Monday night’s meeting in Crockett’s new Board of Education building next to the high school and the Blue Cross Healthy Place park.



Left: Board Chairman Jasper Taylor presents retiring Dr. Tony Emison with a plaque commemorating 20 years of service to Crockett’s Board of Education. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Several of Dr. Tony Emison’s family members joined him to celebrate his years of service. (Photo by Ron Barry)

