

**Monroe County Schools**

# **News Release**

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For immediate release - April 19, 2006

Mountain View School was the focus of the regular meeting held 7:00 p.m. April 18, 2006. Sherry McLaughlin, Chair of the Local School Improvement Council, made a presentation highlighting several events at the school.

Prior to that, the Board reconvened the meeting of March 28, as is required by statute, and adopted the levy rates for the 06-07 school year and approved the preliminary budget as well.

Ms McLaughlin introduced LSIC members Mary Alice Hazelwood, Patty Preston, Debbie Wilson, Julia Higginbotham, Sally Wallace, Sandy Humphries and Beth Roe. Kristin Crislip and Doris Franklin were unable to attend but also serve on the council. She described the distance learning Spanish class, being offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders by a Marshall University instructor, with Sandy Humphries discussing the technology that made such a class possible. Ms McLaughlin talked about the Veteran's Day Program, the Christmas Concert, the National Junior Honor Society activities, the new Accelerated Math Program, the tutoring program held after school, the visit from local author James Edward Martin, Doris Taylor's fifth grade class's Commit to Get Fit participation, the Healthy Hearts program, the Wellness Center, Kathy Martin's second grade class's birdhouse projects, Mrs. Hazelwood's class's book project and ended with a tribute to the Mentoring program.

Beth Roe, Principal, noted the availability of test data and other information on the Executive Summary provided to Board Members prior to the meeting and answered questions

from the Board. Mountain View's Parent Resource Center also provided refreshments for the group.

Under New Business, the Board approved paying bills as presented and adopted the calendar for the 2006-07 school year.

At the last meeting, the superintendent made a presentation about the Amber View Program, which was developed by the WV High Tech Consortium. The program is designed to aid in the recovery of missing children through its ability to mass broadcast a digital, three-dimensional (3-D) facial image of a missing child to law enforcement officials, media organizations, the private sector and other sources within minutes of a reported abduction. The program is voluntary for parents in Monroe County, and operates in conjunction with state and national Amber Alert programs.

Funded through a federal allocation by the U. S. Department of Justice, Amber View has been featured on national news television shows and was presented to administrators and agency representatives at a county meeting on March 20. The twelve counties of RESA VII were involved this school year as the pilot project. For 2006-07, the plan is to roll out the program in every county in the state. Board members took the first step to bringing the program to Monroe County as they voted to participate for the next school year. Information on the program will go to parents in the fall.

Two travel requests were approved: Becky Yost and Libby Kowalsky to attend Sysco's Food Show in Harrisburg, Virginia, on April 18 & 19. Board members also approved Dr. Lyn Guy's acceptance of an invitation to become one of 13 superintendents, each representing their states, in the Eastern States Consortium. This group will be modeled after a consortium of

western states, who have been working for the past several years in providing leadership projects designed to benefit the students of the district. Guy was chosen for participation by the American Association of School Administrators, with the first meeting to be held in Charlotte, NC, on May 17, 2006. Guy said she is excited about the prospects of the consortium's benefits to Monroe County, noting that she has met several of the superintendents involved in the western consortium and knows the benefits such an alliance can be to a district.

Board members approved the ordering of three International school buses for the 06-07 school year, and in final New Business, approved joining the West Virginia School Boards Association for the upcoming year.

Under Personnel, Danny Wilson and Rose Mann were hired as custodians for the upcoming REACH work camps to be held at James Monroe. 21st Century Enrichment Instructors Holly Brown-Mester and Lauraine Caudill were also hired.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Lyn Guy reported that Monroe County will be one of four counties in West Virginia participating in the WV Scholars Program, a national grant sought by the WV Education Alliance and announced March 31. Guy noted that West Virginia will join 14 other states participating in the initiative that seeks to increase the number of students who take a rigorous curriculum in high school and that she will soon bring recommendations to the Board for providing an opportunity for graduation honors for students who participate.

Guy also reported that both Peterstown Elementary and Mountain View Elementary had been successful in achieving \$10,000 grants from the WV Reads program awarded by the Department of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be May 2, 2006. The

next meeting will be a special meeting on April 24, 2006, for the purpose of two transfer hearings, taking action on the superintendent's recommendations for administrative transfers for the 06-07 school year, hiring probationary personnel, hiring personnel, senior trip, replacing guttering at the board office, and adopting science and health textbooks. The May 16 meeting will be moved to May 15 in order to accommodate schedules.