



Mitchell County Schools' Update

Date: June 11, 2010
To: Mitchell County Schools
From: M. Brock Womble
RE: Weekly Update

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Mitchell County Board of Education on Monday, June 21, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office Complex in the Boardroom has been cancelled.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There will be a regularly scheduled meeting for the Mitchell County Board of Education on Monday, June 14, 2010 at the Central Office Complex in the Boardroom. Regular session begins at 5:30 p.m.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Attention on Attendance (AOA) Umbrella System Theme for School Year 2010-11

Perhaps the most simple, yet important fact regarding success in school, be it our school system or any other, is that in order to be really successful, students must be at school. It would be almost impossible for anyone to master an academic subject without being present to receive sufficient instruction. This is not a question of intelligence. It is a matter of consistency. That is why, for this school year, Mitchell County Schools have adopted as our year long motto "Attention On Attendance", or "AOA". Inconsistent attendance leads to a variety of difficulties insofar as success in school is concerned. We want to challenge you to assist us in making this the year that Mitchell County Schools focuses its greatest effort ever on attendance. Obviously, we need every parent, every student, every staff member, every teacher, every principal, every central office administrator, our entire system, to work together in order to achieve our goal of "attention on attendance". Our

challenge to parents is to make a greater effort to schedule appointments for your young people after school has concluded if at all possible, and to stay in contact with us when absence is unavoidable. For students, we challenge them to dedicate themselves to working toward perfect attendance, and to do so by making a daily effort to be at school, on time, and prepared to learn. For our faculty and staff, we challenge them to be innovative and original in their approach to education so as to actively engage and motivate our student body to not only be at school but to want to be at school and to enjoy being at school. We now have in place greater resources than ever before to assist families that may have situations that arise which are beyond their control. We want to help. Let us do so. We are ready to tackle these issues with you. We're not the enemy, we're a team! Together, with our system-wide "Attention On Attendance", we believe we will see amazing improvements and results. Yes, it is a challenge, but it is a worthy one. The rewards will certainly prove to be well worth the effort. You'll be seeing this motto throughout our schools. Keep it on your lips and in your mind. Attention On Attendance! A simple slogan, a powerful tool!

Statement by State Superintendent June Atkinson Regarding the N.C. House's Budget

"House members deserve our heartfelt thanks for their work to fund schools first in this very difficult budget year. Thanks to their efforts, local school districts will be able to use lottery funds to save more than 1,600 teacher jobs. Classroom budget cuts were kept at the level written into the budget last year; Career and Technical Education faculty positions were preserved; and proposed cuts to assistant principals, instruction and non-instructional personnel were restored. The efforts of the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee chairs and members give the public school community great hope as we continue to move through the budget process."

Prescription drug abuse article

Yancey, Mitchell Doctors Ask Public

To Help Stop Prescription Drug Abuse

By Jim Haaga MD

Has the life of someone you know or love been affected by drug misuse or abuse? Concerned residents of Yancey and Mitchell counties are invited to learn more at a meeting June 10 so that their communities can start to deal with this problem.

"Misuse of prescription drugs has become epidemic," said Fred W. Brason, program manager for Project Lazarus in Wilkes County.

Project Lazarus was formed to help prevent prescription drug abuse through education of medical care providers, patients, their families and the community. Brason will be the key speaker at a community meeting on the subject Thursday, June 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Burnsville.

The meeting is free and open to all interested residents of Yancey and Mitchell.

Since meeting with Brason a year ago, physicians in the two counties have been looking for approaches they could take to address this epidemic. The doctors have met as a group to discuss best ways of prescribing these sometimes necessary drugs, and now it they feel it is time to try to involve the whole community in deciding where to go next.

The statistics are overwhelming, and truly frightening. The death rate from unintentional drug poisoning has tripled in North Carolina in the last 10 years, with 540 total unintentional overdose deaths from fentanyl (Duragesic), methadone, and oxycodone in 2007 alone. Epidemiologist Kay Sanford, now with Project Lazarus, wrote a report for the North Carolina Medical Board that listed Mitchell and Yancey Counties leading the state in Methadone deaths for several of the 10 years covered in her report.

Hydrocodone is the most dispensed medication in the country, with over 4 million prescriptions written for this medication in N.C. in 2008, and over 2 million for oxycodone.

These medications have legitimate uses to relieve pain and suffering. But their misuse, including being given or sold to friends and family for whom they were not intended, is rapidly creating a public health epidemic. Lives of many, including young people, are being ruined. Those abusing pain relievers often get them from friends and family, some of whom think they are doing a love done a favor, when actually they are doing just the opposite.

While studies show that the number of prescriptions for controlled substances is highest in the 40-59 age group, Yancey County Sheriff's Lieutenant Tom Farmer says the fastest growing group for prescription drug abuse is ages 13-19.

This is not a problem medical care providers can deal with alone. Parents, teachers, mental health and substance abuse counselors, local officials, law enforcement officers, church leaders and any others who are interested and willing to learn and help address this problem are welcome.

At the June 10 meeting, Mr. Brason will be the featured speaker, along with others knowledgeable about substance abuse and health in our counties. There will be ample time for discussion, and beginning to plan a local strategy.

Substance Abuse Prevention Free Training - Thursday, June 17th

I wanted to let you know that as a result of some funding that we received, we will be offering a community training on how to identify and support children of alcoholics and addicts. We will also be giving information on how to link up and coordinate with community resources that currently exist in our area. This training is FREE and open to the public. Amy Earnheart, a licensed clinical addictions specialist and licensed clinical social worker, will be conducting the training. It will be held on **Thursday, June 17th at the Hospice meeting room (856 Georges Fork Rd, Burnsville) from 9:00-11:30 AM**. A light breakfast will be served.

Please spread the word to people that may be interested in this wonderful opportunity. We recently conducted a more extensive version of this training for school counselors and nurses in Yancey County Schools and received great feedback.

RSVP to Amy Sheele by Monday, June 14 if you plan to attend. Thanks and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Amy Sheele
Healthy Yancey and Graham Children's Health Services
828-682-7899

Kisha Moore Chosen to Attend AGI Academy

Our own Kisha Moore (1st Grade Teacher in Mitchell County and current Kenan Fellow) is one of 32 teachers nationally to be chosen to attend the American Geological Institute's annual K-5 Earth Science Teacher Leadership Academy in Houston, Texas. We are so proud of Kisha and look forward to her sharing what she learns at the Leadership Academy with her students, her colleagues and our collaborative partners. Congratulations, Kisha!

2010 K-5 Earth Science Teacher Leadership Academy

ExxonMobil and the American Geological Institute are pleased to announce that Kishia Moore has been accepted in the third annual Leadership Academy in Earth science for elementary school teachers in Houston, Texas, July 25-30, 2010 (the program starts with a reception and dinner on the evening of the 25th and concludes at noon on July 30th). The Academy will provide teachers with Earth science content, hands-on activities, resources and field experiences that they can use with their students in the classroom and with their colleagues in professional development settings. The program will be residential in Houston, and all travel, lodging and subsistence costs will be covered by a grant from ExxonMobil. A total of 32 teachers from across the country were chosen.

Topics covered during the 40 hours of the workshop will include:

- Introducing Earth system science to students
- Teaching Earth science as inquiry
- Using Earth science as a context to teach reading and mathematics
- Using learning centers in workshop settings
- Planning, conducting and evaluating successful Earth science workshops
- Hot topics in Earth science
- Resources for learning and teaching Earth science (*K-5 GeoSource* website and many others)
- The work of geoscientists in the energy industry

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL CAMP

Head Coach Daron Williams recently announced the summer men's basketball camp dates and information for student athletes and parents;

CAMP INFO: Campers will receive instruction from the MHS coaching staff, as well as former and current players. Registration begins at 8:30 am on Monday and camp runs until 1:00 pm each day. Snacks and drinks will be sold.

DATES June 21-23 & July 26-28

GRADE LEVELS: Rising 2nd – 8th graders

COST: \$40 Per Camp

NOTE: \$70 to attend both camps
CHECKS: Mitchell Men's Basketball

MAINTENANCE / FACILITIES:

ROOF REPLACEMENTS AT HARRIS MIDDLE, MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL, TIPTON HILL SCHOOL and GOUGE PRIMARY UPDATE

Harris Middle School:

The main roof replacement construction of five (5) large sections – complete (as of Friday, May 14th). There is about 2 days of trim work before the project is officially completed.

Mitchell HS:

Roof replacement construction two (2) large sections (Main Entrance and Vocational Wing) – construction ongoing. This project was delayed for a period of time due to end of course testing and graduation. Projected to be finished in three weeks weather permitting (projected completion date June 28th).

Gouge Primary School:

Roof replacement construction of one (1) large section over auditorium– construction will begin following MHS roof replacement. This project will take two weeks to complete weather permitting (projected end date July 19th).

Tipton Hill School:

Roof replacement of one (1) large section (auditorium) – complete (as of Wednesday, May 5th).

Completed Roof Replacements (as of 4/9/10):

Buladean School roof replaced during January, 2010

Deyton (1 large section) replaced during January, 2010

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION:

MESSAGE TO SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. JUNE ATKINSON – MAY 28, 2010

As the school year draws to a close, all of us are keeping a close eye on the activities and deliberations of the North Carolina General Assembly. Our legislators' work has a direct impact on how well equipped we are to help the 1.5 million public school students in our state do their best. I encourage you to keep an eye on these events as they unfold and to remain in contact with your legislators about what it takes to do a good job in today's classroom.

Research of late shows that students who have ineffective teachers suffer long-term consequences in their achievement. What that says to me is that effective teachers are incredibly important and valuable to our society and to our state. If it were up to me, we would live in a world where paychecks were commensurate with the true value of our work. That would put teachers at the top of the list rather than celebrities whose actions don't teach a single child to

read, solve problems or reach their potential. Thank you for what you do! I hope you have a rejuvenating summer break.

In this Biweekly Teachers' Message:

1. Biweekly Message to Begin Summer Distribution Schedule
2. State Board Meets Next Week
3. Message from the 2010-11 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year
4. May 31 is Deadline to Comment on CTE Curriculum Revisions
5. NC FALCON Goes Live
6. Hurricane Preparedness Week
7. LEARN NC Offerings
8. First Freedom Student Competition for High School Students

1. Biweekly Message to Begin Summer Distribution Schedule - The Teachers' Biweekly Email Message will begin its summer distribution schedule in June but will resume its regular biweekly distribution schedule in September. Messages will be sent on the second Thursday of June, July and August to provide summer updates. In the meantime, please remember that if your email address changes over the summer, you will need to email this information to us so that we can update our file (send your old and new email address). Out-of-date and undeliverable email addresses are automatically deleted from the email list.

2. State Board Meets Next Week - At next week's State Board of Education meeting (June 2-3), members will take action on policies governing services for children with disabilities, proposed standards for the evaluation of speech-language pathologists, proposed qualifying scores for the regenerated Praxis II exam, and revision of Board policy to reflect changes in the provisional licensing requirements for Career and Technical Education teachers. Discussion items include Common Core Standards, the state's proposed new accountability model, an update on writing instruction and removal of barriers to lateral entry teaching. The complete agenda and executive materials are posted online at www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings/. Also, the State Board's committee meetings and full Board meeting are audio streamed for those who cannot attend. To listen to the sessions, please go online to www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings/ and scroll to the Live Audio Stream links.

3. Message from 2010-11 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year - I am so honored by my selection as the 2010-11 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year and I am very proud to represent the many wonderful educators across our state. I am looking forward to this exciting journey and I am ready to meet many inspiring teachers along the way.

This creates so many opportunities for me to grow in the profession, to gain a greater understanding of the "big picture" of education, and to be a voice for teachers. Not only will I share things that are important to me, but I want to be a representative for all of us. As I work with the State Board of Education, the North Carolina Education Policy Fellowship Program and other important groups in education, I invite you to share your concerns and reflections as an educator. As I have the opportunity to speak to education majors and beginning teachers, I would love your input to enrich those conversations.

Socrates aptly said, "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." The eight other members of the 2010-11 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year team define this

statement. I am so fortunate to have met these dedicated, passionate educators during our time in May and I am looking forward to our work as a team throughout the year.

I wish you all a successful close to the school year and I look forward to meeting a number of you over the coming year. – Jennifer Facciolini, 2010-11 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

4. May 31 is Deadline to Comment on CTE Curriculum Revisions - The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Standard Course of Study that was released in 2003 is being revised. The proposed revision is designed to align the CTE program with changes in the workplace, national standards for curriculum, Career Clusters and recent federal legislation. Please visit www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/revision/ to review the revision timeline, changes to specific program areas and an overview of the draft documents for Career Clusters. Feedback is encouraged and can be submitted through feedback forms available for each area. May 31 is the deadline to submit comments.

5. NC FALCON Goes Live - The North Carolina Formative Assessment Learning Community's Online Network (NC FALCON) is now available at <http://center.ncsu.edu/falcon/>. A part of the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE), NC FALCON contains online modules focused on helping teachers learn how to effectively implement formative assessment to enhance student learning. Formative assessment provides the base or foundation for instruction and learning and should occur more often than any other type of assessment. LEAs and Charter Schools will be putting together an implementation team consisting of instructional and assessment staff. These individuals will attend a NC FALCON Orientation and will be responsible for developing and executing a NC FALCON district implementation plan. This fall, your principal will provide information regarding your district and school implementation plans.

6. Hurricane Preparedness Week - Gov. Bev Perdue along with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and National Hurricane Center have declared the week of May 23 as "Hurricane Preparedness Week." Hurricanes that have hit North Carolina have shown that it's not just a "beach thing." Hurricane education and preparedness is a community effort involving everyone. Following are some websites for teachers and students to learn more about tropical weather, hurricanes and safety.

- School: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/tropics/tropics_intro.htm
- Scijinks Weather for Students and Teachers: <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/hurricanes-and-storms>
- Students: <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>
- FEMA for Kids: <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>
- Get Ready NC: <http://readync.org/>
- National Hurricane Center...<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- National Weather Service...<http://weather.gov>

7. LEARN NC Offerings -

New Technology Integration Articles from LEARN NC - It's easy to say teachers need to incorporate technology into their instruction. But there's a big difference between gawking at a lot of nifty web tools and actually building lessons plans around them. LEARN NC and

Instructify.com have developed several feature articles about integrating technology into the classroom. For a sampling, please visit <http://blogs.learnnc.org/blog/2010/04/26/new-technology-integration-articles/>.

Webinars for Digital History Textbook - Heard about LEARN NC's "digital textbook" for North Carolina and U.S. history but don't know where to begin? These webinars will introduce you to the textbook, show you the kinds of resources available, and give some suggestions for using it. Three one-hour long webinars have been scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 3–4pm; Tuesday, June 22, 11am–noon; and Monday, Aug. 9, 11am–noon. For full details or to register, please visit <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/6661>.

8. First Freedom Student Competition for High School Students - Social Studies and English teachers may want to inform their students next fall about The First Freedom Student Competition. This national essay contest offers high school students an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$750 award, as they examine the First Amendment and address topics that delve into the history and current relevance of religious liberty. The 2010-11 topic asks students to select a minority religion from any time period in U.S. history, research and analyze its history in their local community, state or region, evaluate how this religious group's local history compares to its place in the broader narrative of U.S. history and First Amendment law, and address where it stands today. The deadline to register online to participate in the competition is Nov. 22. Nov. 27 is the deadline to submit copies of the essay. The complete topic, guidelines, student flyer and classroom poster can be found online at www.firstfreedom.org (click on the red button under First Freedom Center News).

MESSAGE TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. JUNE ATKINSON – JUNE 3, 2010

The main message that I have for this year's budget deliberations is that students can't be put on hold. You know better than anyone that for every child that your school graduated this year – either to the next level of schooling or to adulthood – another child is waiting to begin that journey. Our mission is to do everything we can to be ready when that child appears at the school door in the fall of 2010. That is why it is critical that we fund schools first and that we thank lawmakers who make that their priority. Thank you for your hard work this year to serve the students in your care to ensure that they have the academic tools they will need to succeed at the next grade level or the next step in life.

In this Biweekly Principals' Message:

1. State Board Meeting Highlights
2. North Carolina Adopts Common Core State Standards
3. House Budget Comparison Available Online
4. Essential Standards Implementation Calendar Updated
5. NC FALCON Goes Live
6. State Superintendent Launches "READ NC" Literacy Campaign
7. Recognizing Outstanding 6-12 Mathematics Teachers
8. Exceptional Children Conference Scheduled for November
9. USDLC Offers Free Professional Development for the Summer
10. LEARN NC Offerings

1. State Board Meeting Highlights - At today's Board meeting, members approved testing issues related to the Occupational Course of Study and No Child Left Behind, policies governing services for children with disabilities, restructuring state pre-kindergarten rates and IMPACT Grant awards. Members discussed the state's proposed new accountability model and writing instruction, and received an update on what has occurred to remove barriers to lateral entry teaching. As a reminder, the Board's Agenda and Executive Materials are available online at www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings.

2. North Carolina Adopts Common Core State Standards - The North Carolina State Board of Education has adopted the Common Core State Standards, released earlier this week by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. With the adoption of these state-led education standards, North Carolina is in the first group of states to embrace clear and consistent goals for learning to prepare children for success in college and work. North Carolina State Superintendent June Atkinson said, "North Carolina's own essential standards are well aligned with the math and English Common Core, and we look forward to the benefits these new standards will bring for our students." To read more, please visit the NCDPI Web site at www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under "News."

3. House Budget Comparison Available Online - A link to a comparison of the FY 2010-11 State Board of Education, Governor, Senate and House budgets is available online at www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs under What's New.

4. Essential Standards Implementation Calendar Updated - The Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) is moving along briskly. Work is progressing on improved standards, a comprehensive assessment system and a next-generation accountability model. Additionally, much is occurring at the national level to ensure that all students are career and college ready. Many competitive federal grants (including the Race to the Top) are available to states and we anticipate a move to update ESEA (the No Child Left Behind law) this year. This work is both exciting and complicated, particularly around developing common state standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. We expect to have new and improved essential standards adopted for most subjects (including Common Core standards in ELA and Math) this summer and for all subjects by the end of 2010. The current roll-out plan for the next three years for all subjects is available online at www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/timeline/. Please check back here regularly to ensure you have the most updated calendar. If you have any questions or feedback about the rollout of the new standards, please contact NCDPI Deputy Chief Academic Officer Angela Quick at aquick@dpi.state.nc.us.

5. NC FALCON Goes Live - The North Carolina Formative Assessment Learning Community's Online Network (NC FALCON) is now available at <http://center.ncsu.edu/falcon/>. A part of the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE), NC FALCON contains online modules focused on helping teachers learn how to effectively implement formative assessment to enhance student learning. Formative assessment provides the base or foundation for instruction and learning and should occur more often than any other type of assessment. LEAs and Charter Schools will be putting together an implementation team consisting of instructional and assessment staff. These individuals will attend a NC FALCON Orientation and will be responsible for developing and executing a NC FALCON district implementation plan. This fall, principals will be provided with information regarding your district's and school's implementation plans.

6. State Superintendent Launches “READ NC” Literacy Campaign - State Superintendent June Atkinson this week visited Turner Creek Elementary School in Cary to launch the “READ NC” literacy campaign. During her visit, she showed teachers and students the new “READ NC” Web page (www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles). This page features a reading map, book search tool and other free resources that teachers, parents and students can access to help them use Lexile® measures to find challenging and engaging books for summer reading and throughout the year. To read more, please visit the NCDPI website at www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under “News.”

7. Recognizing Outstanding 6-12 Mathematics Teachers - The North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) and the NCDPI will recognize outstanding 6-12 mathematics teachers who succeed in motivating students to excel in mathematics. The outstanding teacher selected from each LEA will receive a one-year membership in the NCCTM, a personalized award and recognition at the NCCTM State Conference in Greensboro. The nomination form, which principals must complete and submit to your central offices, is available online at <http://math.ncwiseowl.org>. Your district will select its nominee and submit the name to the NCDPI by June 30. Please check with your district’s mathematics coordinator for your local submission deadline.

8. Exceptional Children Conference Scheduled for November - The 60th Annual Conference on Exceptional Children will be held Nov. 1-3 at the Koury Convention Center, Sheraton Greensboro Hotel, Greensboro. Conference details will be shared as they become available and also will be posted online at www.ncpublicschools.org/ec/conference.

9. USDLC Offers Free Professional Development for the Summer – Principals are asked to please share the following information with teachers before they leave for the summer. Due to continued popular demand, United Star Distance Learning (USDLC) is extending its online professional development to all North Carolina educators through fall 2010. Visit <http://usdlc.org> for program details. Email info@usdlc.org with your school and county if you do not know your United Star SiteID.

10. LEARN NC Offerings -

New Technology Integration Articles from LEARN NC - It’s easy to say teachers need to incorporate technology into their instruction. But there’s a big difference between gawking at a lot of nifty web tools and actually building lessons plans around them. LEARN NC and Instructify.com have developed several feature articles about integrating technology into the classroom. For a sampling, please visit <http://blogs.learnnc.org/blog/2010/04/26/new-technology-integration-articles/>.

Webinars for Digital History Textbook - Heard about LEARN NC’s “digital textbook” for North Carolina and U.S. history but don't know where to begin? These webinars will introduce you to the textbook, show you the kinds of resources available, and give some suggestions for using it. Three one-hour long webinars have been scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 3–4pm; Tuesday, June 22, 11am–noon; and Monday, Aug. 9, 11am–noon. For full details or to register please visit <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/6661>.

Interactive Whiteboards in Classrooms - This article helps educators “think outside of the box” when using Interactive Whiteboards in their classrooms and provides innovative strategies

that engage students and make them equal partners in the instructional process. Read all about it at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/6458> .

K-12 Education Leaders Schedule Press Conference to Discuss Senate Budget Impact

State Superintendent June Atkinson will be joined by NC School Boards Association Executive Director Ed Dunlap, NC Association of School Administrators Executive Director Bill McNeal, NCAE President Sheri Strickland and NCPTA Executive Director Debra Horton at a new conference on Monday, May 24, at 1:30 p.m., to discuss the implications of the state's current proposed budget on public schools.

The press conference will be held in the 7th Floor State Board Lounge, Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh. As of today, the Senate's proposed budget calls for an additional \$219 million in spending cuts. These cuts are on top of the \$180.5 million in cuts already approved for 2010-11 and the \$790.4 million reduction taken in 2009-10 as part of the State's two-year budget. Since 1970, the public schools' share of the General Fund has decreased from 52.5% in 1969-70 to 35% in 2009-10.

For more information, please contact the NCDPI Communications division at 919.807.3450.

NC Committee on Dropout Prevention's Budget Review Subcommittee to Meet

The North Carolina General Assembly's Committee on Dropout Prevention's Budget Review Subcommittee will meet via Webinar on Monday, May 24, from 2-3 p.m. The purpose of the subcommittee meeting is to approve or deny any program or budget revisions that may have been submitted that month for dropout prevention grants. To participate in the meeting, go online to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/537820688> . Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended. Or, call in using your telephone to 630.869.1012. The Access Code is 537-820-688. The Audio PIN is shown after you join the meeting. For more information, please contact Angela Ward at award@dpi.state.nc.us or 919.807.3606.

Department of Education Grant Opportunity for Schools

The U.S. Department of Education just announced the availability of \$437 million in Teacher Incentive Fund Grants. As you may know, the goal of this large grant investment is to support local projects that reward teachers, principals, and other school personnel who are successful in their efforts to improve student achievement. The notice inviting applications and the application package can be found on the Department's website, via the following link: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/applicant.html>

State Superintendent Launches "READ NC" Literacy Campaign

State Superintendent June Atkinson this morning visited Turner Creek Elementary School in Cary to launch the "READ NC" literacy campaign. During her visit, she showed teachers and students the new "READ NC" Web page (www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles). This page features a reading map, book search tool and other free resources that teachers, parents and

students can access to help them use Lexile® measures to find challenging and engaging books for summer reading and throughout the year. To read more, please visit the NCDPI website at www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under “News.”

Legislative News from Jones Street / June 4, 2010

The House passed their version of the 2010 budget early Friday morning (June 4). The House and Senate passed similar finance packages to support the budget bill and the House and Senate full Appropriation Chairs have begun joint meetings. The General Assembly appears to be on target to begin conferences and to pass a final budget bill prior to the beginning of the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Both chambers expressed concern this week regarding Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). FMAP is normally funded with a 2:1 match, two federal dollars for every one dollar of state money. However, the federal stimulus package provided enhanced funding with a 3:1 match.

There is concern that Congress will not pass legislation needed to continue the funding through the next fiscal year at the 3:1 match level. This would result in the legislature having \$500 million less to work with than is currently appropriated in the budget for 2010-11.

If this funding is not received in a timely manner, the General Assembly has two options: to pass a budget with the enhanced FMAP in place, with a provision that allows the Governor to call a special session to make cuts or increase taxes if Congress does not extend this stimulus money, or pass a budget without the enhanced FMAP, with a provision that provides for how the money will be spent if Congress passes the bill to extend the stimulus money. The House Finance Committee has scheduled a meeting to develop a contingency plan.

The full House Appropriations Committee met all day on Wednesday, June 2. Following the overview of all components of the proposed House budget, Representative Michaux, chair, and the committee members heard over 60 amendments. The Committee completed their work and sent the proposed House budget to the House floor. The bill was read-in on Wednesday and the House held the 2nd Reading on Thursday. The floor debate included 30 amendments. The amendments that impacted K-12 education were:

- removal of the Probationary Teachers provision;
- transfer of funds from Geometry testing to instructional supplies in the public schools;
- elimination of certain state-administered end-of-course tests – U.S. History, Civics and Economics, and Physical Science; and
- addition of \$4,055,245 to Career and Technical Education.

The House passed its version of the budget following the 3rd Reading at 1 a.m. on Friday, June 4. The budget was sent to the Senate for concurrence. The Senate has stated they will not concur with the House budget. Conferees will be appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House early next week with conferences beginning immediately.

A budget comparison of the State Board of Education's, Governor's, the Senate and House recommended budgets prepared by the NCDPI's Financial and Business Services Division is available online at www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs under What's New.

The following bills pertinent to K-12 education were passed in committees this week:

- * HB 589 Ins. And St. Hlth Plan Cover/Hearing Aids/Autism - Presented to the Governor 5/28/2010
- * HB 636 School Calendar Flexibility/Inclement Weather - Passed 2nd and 3rd Reading in the Senate
- * HB 1140 Educ. Assistance for Minimum Wage Workers - Favorable Report, Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget
- * HB 1176 Reorganize Schools with High Dropout Rate - Favorable Report, Referred to Senate Committee Appropriations/Base Budget
- * HB 1669 Require Use of EVAAS in Schools - Favorable Report, Postponed To 6/8/2010
- * HB 1676 Substitute Teacher Unemployment - Favorable Report
- * HB 1683 Amend Sunset/Children w/Disab. - Referred to the Senate Committee On Education/Higher Education
- * HB 1694 Commission On Children with Special Needs-Dentist - Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Care
- * HB 1725 School Support Division Changes - Favorable Report, Referred to House Appropriations
- * HB 1777 Study Child Nutrition Program - Favorable Report, Referred to the House Committee on Health
- * HB 1781 Study/Early Childhood Education and Care - Favorable Report
- * HB 1827 Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity - Favorable Report, Referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
- * HB 1864 No High School Graduation Proj. - Passed 2nd and 3rd Reading in the House
- * SB 66 Require Arts Educ. Credit for Graduation - Favorable Report, Referred to House Appropriations
- * SB 1141 Task Force on Sports Injuries on Schools - Passed 2nd and 3rd Reading
- * SB 1153 Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity - Passed 1st Reading the House, Referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House

- * SB 1246 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate - Passed 2nd and 3rd Reading in the Senate
- * SB 1248 Early Identification and Intervention for At-Risk Students - Passed 2nd Reading in the Senate
- * SB 1264 Cherokee School Board Terms - Placed on Calendar for 6/8/2010
- * SB 1286 Screen and Reduce BMI Levels in Children - Favorable Report, Committee Substitute Adopted
- * SB 1359 Amend Highlands Scholarship Fund - Placed on Calendar for 6/8/2010
- * SB 1022 School Calendar Flexibility/Inclement Weather - Referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate

We will send updates as the Budget conference items are decided. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. JUNE ATKINSON CONCERNING READ NC LITERACY PLAN– MAY 28, 2010

As the end of school year approaches, every teacher begins to dread “summer slide.” This is not a scary theme park ride, but an alarming academic trend in which students who do not read on a regular basis during their summer break from school fall behind in reading achievement. To prevent this “summer slide” and encourage your child to work on building literacy skills during this time away from the classroom, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is launching the “READ NC” campaign.

As part of this campaign, we would like to show you some outstanding new resources that use students’ Lexile® measures, found on end-of-grade and end-of-course score reports, to identify books that will provide them with challenging and engaging summer reading. The Lexile Framework® for Reading assesses both a student’s reading ability and the text difficulty in books, magazines and even newspapers.

In our state, students in grades 3-8, as well as high school students taking the English I assessment, receive a Lexile measure on their end-of-grade or end-of-course test reports. At the bottom of your child’s test results report, you will find a Lexile measure and a link to a page on the NCDPI website: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles. This page features more information about Lexile measures and tools to help your child improve his or her literacy skills this summer.

The first of these tools is the North Carolina version of the Lexile map. This map features a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles organized by Lexile level, including some titles with North Carolina connections. I recommend that you print a copy of this reading map and take it, along with your student's EOC or EOG test score report, when you visit your public library this summer.

The second valuable reading resource is the "Find a Book" search. This tool allows you to search online tens of thousands of book titles by Lexile measure and topic to find books that will tap into your child's personal interests and complement his or her reading comprehension level. The book search is free and allows users to see if book titles are currently available in local public libraries. This is a great tool to use at home or at your nearby library!

Please join me in participating in the "READ NC" campaign and using the Lexile resources now available at www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles to make sure your child gains instead of loses valuable literacy skills this summer.

Sincerely,

MESSAGE TO EDUCATORS FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. JUNE ATKINSON CONCERNING READ NC LITERACY PLAN– MAY 28, 2010

As the end of school year approaches, we all begin to dread "summer slide." This is not a scary theme park ride, but an alarming academic trend in which students who do not read on a regular basis during their summer break from school fall behind in reading achievement. To prevent this "summer slide" and encourage students to build literacy skills during their time away from the classroom, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is launching the "READ NC" campaign. As part of this campaign, we would like to show you some outstanding new resources that use students' Lexile® measures, found on end-of-grade and end-of-course score reports, to identify books that will provide them with challenging and engaging summer reading.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading assesses both students' reading abilities and the text difficulty in books, magazines and even newspapers. In our state, students in grades 3-8, as well as high school students taking the English I assessment, receive a Lexile measure on their end-of-grade or end-of-course test reports. At the bottom of your students' test results report, you will find their Lexile measure and a link to a page on the NCDPI website: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles. This page features more information about Lexile measures and some tools you can use to help students build personalized summer reading lists before they leave school for summer vacation.

The first of these tools is the North Carolina version of the Lexile map. This map features a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles organized by Lexile level, including some titles with North Carolina connections. I recommend that you keep a copy of this reading map in your school's library, in your classrooms, and that you post it on your class website and distribute it to parents along with report cards and other end-of-year materials.

The second valuable reading resource is the "Find a Book" search. This tool allows you to search online tens of thousands of book titles by Lexile measure and topic to find books that will tap into students' personal interests and complement their reading comprehension level. The book

search is free and allows users to see if book titles are currently available in local public libraries. I am looking forward to visiting schools in the coming weeks and showing students how to create their own summer reading lists!

Please join me in participating in the “READ NC” campaign and using and sharing the Lexile resources now available at www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles with your students and their parents.

Thank you for all you do to nurture a love for reading in our young people so they can be successful in school and in their future careers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Local School Superintendents/Technology Directors First to Participate

Nearly 70 school superintendents and technology directors from across the state will soon learn how to use technology more effectively thanks to a new a certification program offered through a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, MCNC and the UNC School of Government’s Center for Public Technology. For more information, including a list of registrants, please visit the NCDPI Web site at www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under “News.”

PERSONNEL UPDATE:

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010
POSITION: Exceptional Children Teacher 1:1 Assistant
LOCATION: Tipton Hill Elementary School
TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: Full Time
10 Months - No Benefits
QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold an Associate Degree or 48 semester hours.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 23, 2010 or Open until filled.
APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mark Hughes @ 828-688-4853 or mhughes@mcsnc.org)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010
POSITION: High School Science Teacher
LOCATION: Mitchell High School
TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: 10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold or be able to obtain N.C. Science Certification (Grades 9-12)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 21, 2010 or Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mr. Mark Woody @ 828-766-3400 or Dr. Morgen Houchard at 828-766-2232)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010

POSITION: Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant

LOCATION: Gouge Elementary School

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: Full Time
10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold an Associate Degree or 48 semester hours

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 23, 2010 or Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Colby Calhoun @ 828-688-2141 or ccalhoun@mcsnc.org)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010

POSITION: Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant

LOCATION: Mitchell High School

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: Full Time
10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold an Associate Degree or 48 semester hours

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 23, 2010 or Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mark Woody @ 828-688-3400 or mwoody@mcsnc.org.)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010

POSITION: Elementary Teacher
Deyton Elementary School

LOCATION:

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: 10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold or be able to obtain N.C. Elementary (K-6) Teaching License

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 21, 2010 or Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.ncpublicschools.org/employment/application.html and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mr. Gary Moore @ 828-765-2504)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010

POSITION: Speech-Language Pathologist

LOCATION: Mitchell County Schools
Exceptional Children

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: Full Time
10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: NC Teaching License in Exceptional Children Experience Preferred

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mrs. Sherry Bell @ 828-766-2233.)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: 06/07/2010

POSITION: Alternative School Teacher

LOCATION: Mitchell High School

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: 10 Months

QUALIFICATIONS: Must hold or be able to obtain NC Teaching License

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 21, 2010 or Open until filled

APPLICATION ADDRESS: Please submit NC DPI online application available at www.mcsnc.org and indicate Mitchell County as the receiving school system. (Contact Mr. Mark Woody @ 828-766-3400)

Persons presently employed in the Mitchell County Schools who are interested in this position should submit a letter expressing their interest and reasons for being considered for the position, plus any other information they may wish to include.

Selection Process: All applications received for this position will be reviewed. Appropriate staff members will review applications and invite a limited number of applicants for interviews. The selection for interviews will be based upon the need and educational specifications for this position. All applications will be placed in the active file of the personnel department after a position is filled and will be retained in an active status for a period of one school year.

Minister's Council:

Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council:

Media and Technology Advisory Council:

Principal's Meeting:

Media Specialist:

Curriculum Council:

Beginning Teacher's Meeting:

JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

- Roger Richardson, June 1
- Sabra Byrd, June 4
- Tamara Houchard, June 4
- Leslie Sparks, June 4
- Carey Riddle, June 4
- Kathy Hollifield, June 5
- Olga Aguayo, June 7
- Eric Dellinger, June 7
- Terry Lewis, June 7
- Deborah Owings, June 8
- Molly Poore, June 9
- Donna Collis, June 10
- Robyn Street, June 10
- Cynthia Parker, June 11
- Lori Perkins, June 11
- Leslie Hoilman, June 12
- Rachel Jenkins, June 15
- Jennifer Robinson, June 16
- Sharon Barnett, June 18
- Vicki Hoyle, June 19
- Rick Sellers, June 19
- Denise Murphy, June 20
- Jennifer Cook, June 23

- Tina Burleson, June 25
- Karen Johnson, June 26
- Barbara Laws, June 26
- Rick Phillips, June 26
- Theresa Hutchins, June 28