Lee County High School is requesting permission to send 4 students to Greensboro, N. C. on an overnight field trip for 3 days, March 22-24, 2018 (Thursday-Saturday). The students will participate in the HOSA conference/competition on the 22nd-23rd and attend the awards ceremony on the 24th. No Cost to Student. Trip #9019

Lee County High School is requesting permission to send 25 students to Ocracoke, N. C. on an overnight field trip for 3 days, May 11-13, 2018 (Friday-Sunday). The students will participate in the JROTC Best Raider Competition. Estimated Cost to Student is $160. Trip #9038

Southern Lee High School is requesting permission to send 8 students to Greensboro, N. C. on an overnight field trip for 3 days, April 18-20, 2018 (Wednesday-Friday). The SkillsUSA students will participate in the State Conference and Competition at the Greensboro Coliseum. No Cost to Student. Trip #9029

Southern Lee High School is requesting permission to send 15 students to Oak Ridge, N. C. on an overnight field trip for 5 days, June 11-15, 2018 (Monday-Friday). The students will participate in the JROTC Leadership Camp. No Cost to Student. Trip #8961

(Dr. Bryan approved these overnight field trips and will advise the Board of his decision at the April 2018 Board Meeting.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Registrations/Misc.</th>
<th>LCBOE Sanctioned Expenditures</th>
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<td>Patrick Kelly-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lynn Smith-71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Stephen B. Coble-75</td>
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<td>Mark Akinosho-76</td>
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<td>Sandra Bowen-77</td>
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**Supplies & Materials/Misc.**

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**Misc. Expenses**

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Subtotal: 7,537.30

**Total Supplies & Materials/Misc.**

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**Total Budget**

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**Registration/Misc.**

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**Attorney Expenses for Training & Supplies**

| 2/16/2018 | NCSBA - School Board Chair Conference | 318.00 |

Subtotal: 318.00

**Amount Remaining**

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* Total per Board member for staff development, travel, etc. in the performance of Board of Education duties. Each approved on 4/27/17.
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### Dr. Stephen B. Coble-75

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### Mark Akinosho-76

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**Total**

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Elementary
Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting
March 14, 2018

Attendance: Dr. Stephen Coble, Dr. Ophelia Livingston, Patrick Kelly, Dr. Andy Bryan, Ricky Secor, Wendy Bryant-Motley, Lora Currin, Joy Scott, Stefanie Clarke, Amy Lundy, Gwen Babcock, Natalie Kelly, Jayme Edwards, Aimee Petrarca, Lisa Duffey, Valorie Chesney, George Beasley, Silvia Huffer, Vickie Isley, Dr. Carol Chappell, Gail Smith, Sharon Spence, Susan Britt.

I. Chairman Dr. Ophelia Livingston called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of 3/14/2018 Agenda-The 3/14/2018 agenda was approved.

III. Approval of 1/10/2018 Minutes-The 1/10/2018 minutes were approved.

IV. Superintendent’s Remarks/Instructional Update-Dr. Andy Bryan reported on the National School Walkout-March 14, 2018.

V. Discussion/Adding Time to the School Day-Patrick Kelly is proposing to add 10 minutes to the school day for the 2018-2019 school year. This would accrue 4.88 days. The intent is to secure workdays in February, March, and May, 2019.

VI. MTSS Update-Gail Smith, AIG Coordinator, provided a MTSS update:

- Deep River Elementary School, East Lee Middle School, and Lee County High School are pilot schools this year; other schools will begin the 2018-2019 school year; and Deep River, East Lee, and Lee County will move into the implementation the 2018-2019 school year.
VII. Best Practice Presentation-Wendy Bryant Motley and Lora Currin presented the best practice from Broadway Elementary School-Standards-Plus Visual Literacy First Grade English Language Arts Intervention Curriculum.

VIII. Comments from the administrators:

Lisa Duffey, Principal, JR Ingram, Jr. Elementary School:
--Book Fair with over 11,000 dollars in sales and our JRFH campaign with total donations over $4300.
--Last week Mr. Miller led our 3rd grade music program with a literacy theme.
--Students in 4th and 5th grade students worked in collaborative research groups to create displays of various colleges for our AVID Family night that was last night.
--5th graders visited West and SanLee this week for middle school tours.
--Schoolwide research projects on Women's History and Black History Months.
--Recently had our third We Choose Kindness Day where students and staff wear blue once a month and participate in a variety of kindness/anti bullying activities.
--AIG students selected a variety of famous individuals in history to research and do a wax museum for classes and parents last Thursday.
--We have adjusted third blocks in upper grades to review math and reading concepts based on student data and are using the additional 15 minutes to extend intervention sessions or AR reading time in all grades K-5.
--Coach, NCReady, and Reading Focus workbooks to support gaps in grade level content. 5th grade students received materials to build a science EOG ring of vocabulary flashcards.
--We begin quarterly testing next week.

Amy Lundy, Principal, Deep River Elementary School:
--Working on AR by recognizing classes that are "movin' on up" on our Friday announcements; also had a school-wide popcorn party for making our school AR goal.
--Hired extra tutors for K-5 for intervention.
--Student council doing a fundraiser for buddy bench for K-1 playground.
--Completing the third round of observations.
--International Festival coming in April, each class studies a different country, tries different foods, etc.
--AIG students creating a school-wide newsletter about topics like bullies, recycling.
--Fifth grade created and presented bottle heads on revolutionary war people.-----
--5th grade also transformed their classroom into different biomes to help students have hands-on experience with learning.

Natalie Kelly, Principal, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School:
--Career Day coming up at end of March.
--Science Family Night coming up at beginning of April.
--"Going for Gold" Olympic Theme Final Push for April and May.
--Planning a mClass Parade.

George Beasley, teacher, Tramway Elementary School:
--I spoke about our "Shark Night" event that happened last night. We had bingo for books, a fun walk, a collaborative art project, and food trucks.
--Grades 1-5 has just finished up with quarterly assessments and check-ins.
--Middle School visits this week.
--Two school days left until intersession.

Ricky Secor, Principal, Broadway Elementary School:
--Fifth grade students recently went to East Lee for their tour and also attended the UNC-NC State game at the ACC Women's Tournament as part of an AVID college experience.
--Pre-K students are nearing kindergarten and we are so excited for them and the pre-K receiving a 5 star rated license.
--I mentioned various things students are doing during their intervention periods with the extra 15 minutes due to weather.

Silvia Bayer, Principal, Warren Williams Elementary Alternative School:
--Kindergarten visited Marbles Museum and the zoo.
--Elementary getting use to the day light savings schedule.
--Elementary going to the Temple Theatre tomorrow.
Aimee Petrarca, Principal, Greenwood Elementary School:
--Greenwood was on the website for a years’ worth of learning related to an Olympic theme.
--Pi Day event that resulted in a fifth grade winner that correctly memorized 67 digits
--Had a session on Internet safety on Family Movie Night.
--Will be hosting pre-K parent information sessions.

Stefanie Clarke, Principal, BT Bullock Elementary School:
--I shared that we are using Ron Clark inspiration to bring excitement to events at our school.
--We have launched a school wide Math Madness. Students are really excited. We are doing math drills in the lunchroom and practicing math facts as we stand in line. The event will culminate with a Math Championship complete with a victory parade and ice cream off campus.
--We had a Career Fair recently which was the biggest and best career fair yet. One of our board members, Dr. Smith was there. It was a great experience for our students.
--We recently finished the Live Museum in 3rd grade. Students researched and wrote reports about famous people from history and dressed like the famous people they researched for the Live Museum.
--Our students continue to work hard trying to meet their AR goals. Data is shared weekly to keep students on track.
--Our teachers are doing Pineapple observations getting out to observe in peer classrooms. It took a while to get going, but it is going well now.
--We are preparing for Leadership Day on March 29th. It will be a great showcase of the learning that is happening every day at Bullock.

Dr. Carol Chappell, Executive Director of Instruction for Performance:
--Funding available for after school program and transportation through the McKinney-Vento Act. In order to participate you need to have at least one child that has been identified through the McKinney-Vento Act participating. You may include other children not identified as long as you have at least one child participating who is.
--Elementary principals’ meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 9am. The revised points schedule for the Head of Class Award will be shared at that time.
Gail Smith, AIG Coordinator:
--AIG training completed for this year; for the 2018-2019 school year three days in
the summer will be scheduled for AIG training.
--Updated information was provided on the Kaleidoscope camp.

Ophelia Livingston's praise for the day, “Feeding on each other.”

The next Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 3:30pm, Greenwood Elementary School.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.
Minutes submitted by: Susan P. Britt
Approved by: Dr. Andy Bryan
Lee County Schools
Policy Committee
February 20, 2018
Heins Education Building
5:00 pm

Present:  Sandra Bowen, Board of Education member and Chairman of Policy Committee
          Sherry Womack, Board of Education Member and Policy Committee Member
          Dr. Andy Bryan, Superintendent
          Dr. Jim Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent of Auxililary Services
          Sharon Spence, Public Information Officer
          John Conway, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Curriculum/Instruction
          Dr. Johnnya Waller, Director of Student Services
          Jessica Blackmon, High School Representative-Southern Lee High School
          Andrea Sloan, Principal of Tramway Elementary School
          Amber Angell, School Representative- East Lee Middle School
          Jimmy Love, School Board Attorney
          Belinda Tillman, Administrative Assistant to Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services

I. Chairman Sandra Bowen called the meeting to order.

II. Approved of 2/20/2018 Agenda- A motion to accept the agenda for February 20, 2018, Policy Committee meeting was made by Mrs. Sherry Womack.

III. Approval of 12/14/2017 Minutes- A motion to accept the minutes for the December 14, 2017, Policy Committee meeting was made by Mrs. Sherry Womack. The motion was seconded and approved by Mrs. Sandra Bowen.

IV. Review of Polices:

Review of Policy 2010- Board and Superintendent Relations: Sherry Womack, Board member and committee member, reviewed the policy and discussed points for clarification. Jimmy Love, Board of Education attorney, discussed the difference in the North Carolina State Board Association policy and the policy for Lee County Schools which reflects local issues and concerns. According to Mrs. Womack Policy 2010 will be included in the March updates from the North Carolina School Board Association.

Review of Policy 5005/7350- Public Information Program: Sherry Womack, Board member and committee member, reviewed the importance of notifying the Board of Education when a public records request is submitted. Sharon Spence, Chief Information Officer, explained the district’s procedure for logging and responding to all public record requests. Sandra Bowen Board of Education member and committee chair, and Sherry Womack are requesting the Board of Education be notified within 72 hours (3 working days) when a public record request is submitted. In addition, Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Womack suggested they would work together, with input from Janine Murphy with the North Carolina State Board Association to clarify Policy 5005/7350. The policy will be reviewed at the March 27, 2018 committee meeting. Following further discussion the committee approved the recommendation for the policy to be reviewed at a later date.

Review of Policy 5070- Public Records- Retention, Release and Disposition: Sherry Womack, Board member and committee member, reviewed the policy. She is requesting the Board of Education be notified immediately of a public record request. After further discussion it was agreed Policy 5070 will be brought back to the committee at a later date for further discussion.
Review of Policy 8310- Annual Independent Audit: Sherry Womack, Board member and committee member, reviewed the policy. She expressed her concern that immediately upon receipt of an audit report by the Chief Finance Officer of Lee County Schools it should be forwarded to the Board of Education members. Mrs. Bowen concurred that Board members should receive a copy of the audit report immediately upon receipt by the district. Attorney Jimmy Love and Mrs. Womack will review Policy 8310 and bring it back to the committee for the March 27, 2018 meeting. Following discussion the policy committee approved for Attorney Love and Mrs. Womack to review the policy and bring it back to the committee for further input.

Adjourn.................................................................................................................. Sandra Bowen

April 17, 2018
May 15, 2018
June 19, 2018
2018 Lee County QUIZ BOWL

At roughly this time last year, we reported that the Lee County Yellow Jacket Quiz Bowl team was "building something of a dynasty" locally after winning the 2016 and 2017 district competitions back-to-back.

And if "dynasty" is defined as "a sequence of rulers from the same family, stock, or group," (hey – that could be a Quiz Bowl question) well, then the team cemented that status on a recent Saturday at the county's annual Quiz Bowl contest, held at the First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Lee County Library.

"It was a double elimination competition, and they'd already lost once, so they had to beat Lee Early College, and then Southern Lee twice to win," said Stephen Roman, Lee County High's Quiz Bowl coach.

But let's back up. Quiz Bowl, a competitive tournament that tests students on their knowledge in a variety of categories, has a team at each of Lee County's public high schools. The teams are more like clubs in that they
meet regularly to compete internally and practice toward the annual district competition, which also regularly features teams from the county's private schools. The winner of the county or "district" contest - again, Lee County for three years running - advances to a regional competition against other district winners.

"Last year we got last place (at regionals), so we plan on going for first," said Joey DeCerbo, one of the Yellow Jacket team's seniors.

Each school's team takes its own approach. The Yellow Jacket and Southern Lee teams are looking forward to integrating Quiz Bowl with SkillsUSA, a program which prepares students for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. Southern Lee and Lee Early College have both participated in WRAL's televised "Brain Game" in recent years. The Cavalier team does online competitions like 3-2-1, and even attended a recent National Association of Quiz Teams-sanctioned competition at N.C. State University.

"We are in the process of working to combine forces with Science Olympiad and Skills USA to give students additional opportunities to compete," said Robin Showalter, who coaches the Southern Lee Team along with Dillon Crockett.

Going into the recent competition, the Yellow Jacket team didn't know what to expect. Yellow Jacket Junior Joshua Randolph and DeCerbo are two of its longer tenured members, which lost several seniors after 2017, and the two of them recognized a need to recruit new members. The team featured seven new players for the 2017-18 school year.
In addition, the team stepped up its dedication, meeting weekly instead of bi-weekly and putting more of a focus on practicing for competition. The result paid off – Randolph points out that the team was more active and confident in challenging answers they thought might not be right (“cryptology” in place of “cryptography,” for example) and coming out on top of questions like “which William Golding novel was about a group of boys who had crashed on an island?” (Lord of the Flies is the correct answer). That didn’t mean there still weren’t rough patches.

“The most memorable thing for me was the challenges I made that didn’t go through,” Randolph said. “One of the questions was something like ‘what is a flat, table-like surface surrounded by lower land on all sides,’ and they said mesa – I thought it was plateau. I sat down and was steaming about it.”

But for Randolph and the rest of the team – especially the ones who’ll be back next year – the focus is already on continuing the dynasty.

“Before the win in 2016, the last time we’d won Quiz Bowl was like 10 years ago,” Randolph said. “I’m 3-0, so hopefully I can graduate with four wins.”

Students from the county’s high schools competed in the annual Lee County Quiz Bowl. The Quiz Bowl is sponsored by Lee County Library.

Lee County High School:
Joey DeCerbo
Brandon Figon-Castillo
Brett George
Jacob Kelly
Mya Kovascitz
Lilly Kovascitz
Andy Hesket
Joshua Randolph
Nicolette Rojas
Ally Thelmann
Aysa Earle
Jose Estrella
Alex Everhart
Addie Mejia
Faith Richmond
Sara Salvador
Angel Uy
Coach, Sherry Grello

Southern Lee High:
Maddie Buchanan
Neida Figon
J.T. Owons
Madison Villacourta
Coaches, Dillon
Crockett and Robin
Showalter

2013-2014 Digital Digest

2014-2015 Digital Digest

2015-2016 Digital Digest

2016-2017 Digital Digest

2017-2018 Digital Digest:

145. Seeing Through a New Lens Full Story

146. NAF Advisory Board Champion Jerry Pedley Full Story

147. MORE THAN A DIPLOMA...More Than Half Our Students Graduate with College Credit. Full Story

148. 2017 HEAD of CLASS Full Story

149. PRINCIPAL of the YEAR- Aimee Petrarca, Greenwood

http://inspired.lee.k12.nc.us/17_18/168quiz.htm
150. Rising Star Full Story
151. SanLee Middle Named AVID National Demo School Full Story
152. New STEM Club Kicks off for 5th Graders Full Story
153. Former LCHS Student Named ARTIST of the Year Full Story
154. INNOVATION at FULL SAIL Full Story
155. Angela Colvin named Assistant Principal of the Year Full Story
156. Thankful Full Story
157. Tramway Elementary Hosts Living Wax Museum Full Story
158. LEC's Transformation Tuesdays Full Story
159. Art from the Heart Full Story
160. 'Tis the Season for Giving Full Story
161. Building Skills Full Story
162. Breaking News with Caroline West Full Story
164. 2018 Spelling Bee Champion
Full Story

165. Ready, Set, Retire Full Story

166. Think Outside - No Box Required. Full Story

167. Art Teacher Honored as Best in State Full Story
On Board with Our Students

Debra Jackson drove a Lee County school bus for the first time when she was 16 years old, having taken on the responsibility as a part-time job to help pay for her then-upcoming high school graduation.

Being a relatively new driver behind the wheel of a large vehicle that most people never have to drive was intimidating back then.

"I told people back then 'look how long that bus is,'" she said. "But I got used to it. You use your mirrors a lot more, and you're a more..."
But it was also a tough job for other reasons – not least among them being that the students on her bus at the time were the same peers she spent the day in class with.

“Driving students your own age around was difficult,” she explained. “There was a lot of ‘you don’t get to tell me what to do,’ that sort of thing. It was intimidating.”

34 years later, Jackson is still with Lee County Schools as a bus driver and teaching assistant at Broadway Elementary. Those three decades of experience, combined with the fact that her students today are younger than the ones she drove as a teenager, have made her better at the job.

So much better, in fact, that she was recently named the district’s bus driver of the year by a vote of her peers. Asked about her reaction upon learning the news at a banquet for bus driving personnel, Jackson quietly mouthed the words “oh my!”

“I don’t have the words for it,” she said. “It’s amazing to me that (the district’s other drivers) could think that much of me.”

Broadway Elementary Principal Ricky Secor said Jackson’s humility at receiving the award is “no surprise,” but explained that Jackson is loved by so many she deals with.

“When we posted on our Facebook page that Debra had won the Bus Driver of the Year Award, several parents of her current students and some of her former students – including a current Broadway staff member – commented that they knew she deserved this a long time ago,” he said. “She looks at it as her responsibility to keep her students safe, and to Debra, she’s just doing her job. The staff and students could not be more proud of Debra. She is the first person from Broadway her students see each day and she is the last person from Broadway her students see each evening. She is a fantastic representative of Broadway Elementary School.”

Every day, Jackson rises between 4:15 and 4:30 in the morning – “I set my alarm just in case, but my body doesn’t need it. I automatically wake up,” she explained – to pick her bus up from East Lee Middle School.
“I have a little bit different rules than some of the other drivers,” Jackson said of her approach to the job. “When it rains, (the students) are on silence. If they’re talking, it tends to fog up the windows in that kind of weather. And they don’t talk when I pull up to a stop sign or at a passenger stop. I don’t need 15 hands up in the air asking questions when I’m looking for other cars or watching the kids cross the street.”

Jackson said she has these rules because her most important priority is student safety.

“It’s a very big responsibility,” she said. "My whole objective is to keep them safe at all costs."

Once Jackson has the students safely to school, she switches gears and begins her day as a teaching assistant, helping a room full of first grade students with math, reading – whatever they need assistance with. And with the school day over at 2:45 p.m., she gears back up to get everyone home. By 4:30 p.m., a good 12 hours after waking, her bus is back at East Lee, her day is done. She’s never in bed later than 9, she said. She also said she wouldn’t change a thing.

“I really enjoy my job,” she said. “I love being able to work with the children and with the bus.”

Reid Cagle, the district’s transportation director, said Jackson exemplifies just how important bus drivers are to everyone involved with education on a daily basis.

“The students know Mrs. Jackson truly cares about them. Mrs. Jackson is patient, caring, loving, responsible and has and creates a positive attitude. She keeps one of the cleanest buses – if not the cleanest – in the fleet,” he said. “Mrs. Jackson rarely misses driving the bus and is consistent in many aspects. This is a driver who parents, students, school administrators and myself respect and can depend on.”
2014-2015 Digital Digest

2015-2016 Digital Digest

2016-2017 Digital Digest

2017-2018 Digital Digest:

145. Seeing Through a New Lens Full Story

146. NAF Advisory Board Champion Jerry Pedley Full Story

147. MORE THAN A DIPLOMA...More Than Half Our Students Graduate with College Credit. Full Story

148. 2017 HEAD of CLASS Full Story

149. PRINCIPAL of the YEAR- Aimee Petrarca, Greenwood Elementary Full Story

150. Rising Star Full Story

151. SanLee Middle Named AVID National Demo School Full Story

152. New STEM Club Kicks off for 5th Graders Full Story

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 27, 2018

Present: Mark Akinosho, Patrick Kelly, Dr. Jim Atkinson, John Conway, Kelly Jones, Heather Perry, Dr. Andy Bryan,

Patrick Kelly called the meeting to order and Mark Akinosho approved the agenda.

Mark Akinosho approved the minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting.

Audit Contract 2018-2019

Kelly Jones proposed that Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC provide our auditing services. The contract is for a maximum fee of $34,250.00 plus reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The auditors noted that all school districts will have to implement GASB 75 “Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions” this year. This will require prior period adjustments to be recorded, along with deferred inflows/outflows, a liability for future OPEB retirement benefits and extensive new footnote disclosures. There may be an additional charge related to time incurred for this assistance. Mark Akinosho made a motion to approve the contract and be submitted to the Board meeting March 12, 2018 under consent agenda.

2018-2019 Budget Presentation – FYI

Finished all the individual presentations and working to compile into a final presentation. Class size changes and new events are shaping and changing the original thoughts. Superintendent will recommend then turn over on 3/15 to board.

Lee County Schools Lease Agreement Ending 12/31/17 – FYI

Kelly Jones presented the committee with semi-annual report of lease agreements. This report will be submitted to the Board as FYI.

Board Expenses – FYI

The Board Expense Report was shared with the committee. This report will be submitted to the Board as an FYI.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly G. Jones
Finance Officer
Facilities and Technology Committee  
March 8, 2018

Present: Kelly, Smith, Akinosho, Britt, Bryan, McNeill, Spence, Conway, Jones, Love, Waller, Carlyle, Noah Grant-The Sanford Herald; Jimmy Hite-architect

1. Chairman Lynn Smith called the meeting to order.


3. WB Wicker PK-5 STEAM School Bid-The WB Wicker PK-5 STEAM School bids were opened on March 7, 2018. American South General Contractors, Inc. is the low bidder with a total base bid plus alternates totaling $22,468,500. The bid is approximately $500,000 over budget. It was consensus of the committee to authorize the architect, Jimmy Hite, to negotiate with the low bidder to make reasonable modifications to the scope of the WB Wicker project to bring the price within the amount of funds budgeted. This item will be placed on the 3/12/2018, BOE agenda under New Business. Jimmy Hite, architect, will be present at the BOE meeting on 3/12/2018, to discuss the project and answer any questions of the Board.

The next Facilities and Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/24/2018, 4pm, second floor conference room, Heins Education Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.
"I've just written a curriculum where students have to tell a story using just pictures, and no words," she explained. "It's an interdisciplinary thing – the walls are down, and you're not just teaching art, or literacy, you're teaching both. It's applicable for all grade levels."

That kind of cross-curricular learning is another area of interest for Bryant-Motley – she talks about using portraits of presidents to help with history lessons about President’s Day, or using models of cakes and pies to help math students learn about fractions – and is an example of how important she believes the arts are to a complete education.

"Look at your phone," she said. "People communicate through emojis now. They don’t always need words. I love encouraging my fellow teachers to find ways to somehow implement visual arts into their discipline."

For Secor, in his first year as principal at Broadway, having such a teacher on staff is a blessing.

"She thinks up so many ideas and is excited to help bring all of them to reality," he said. "Broadway is very fortunate to have such a talented art teacher and we are so proud of her for being named the 2018 North Carolina Art Educator. The honor is well-earned."
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Art Teacher Honored As Best In State

In the words of her boss, Wendy Bryant-Motley “understands that art isn’t extra – it’s essential.”

“She sees how art isn’t an end in itself but also a means to help understand the other concepts students learn about in reading, math, and other subjects,” says Broadway Elementary Principal Ricky Secor. “She is committed to helping her students grow not only in art but also in the community.”

In the words of one colleague, Bryant-Motley’s weaving together of art education and community service is a model for anyone interested in making Lee County a better place.

“She embodies what an art educator should be and promotes the arts not only in her school but in her community as well,” said Jody Stouffer, an art instructor at Lee County High School.
Ambassadors program, which brings young artists into assisted living facilities in the community. She was central in 2016 to a multi-school, multi-grade level and multi-media collaborative fashion show in which students designed, created and modeled original clothing. The year before, she was named the district’s teacher of the year.

Well, add another accolade to the list. Bryant-Motley was recently named the North Carolina Art Educators Association’s statewide teacher of the year.

“It’s humbling,” Bryant-Motley said recently. “I have been to our conferences and sat in the workshops and presentations, and so I know we have some phenomenal art educators in this state. It’s a true honor.”

Bryant-Motley came to Lee County Schools in 1998 as a recent college graduate. She spent her first five years as an art instructor at Lee County High School before coming to Broadway, where she’s been ever since.

She’s become known in the intervening years as someone who understands the value of art in the classroom – particularly its ability to help students in other disciplines (more on that in a bit) – but also in the community at large. In addition to the Art Ambassadors program (which has grown beyond just Bryant-Motley’s classes and has been implemented in several district schools) and the fashion show, she’s had a hand in the Brick City Bees Initiative, which aims to bring beehives to downtown Sanford. Her students have created clay ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree Downtown Sanford Inc. puts up at Depot Park each year. She helped with “Art in the Alley,” a program at 2017’s Downtown Sanford Street Festival. She’s formed partnerships with corporate citizens like Coty to help pay for student art supplies. Much of this has come through involvement with the Sanford Leadership Academy.

“If I had to guess (why I received the award) I would say it’s because of the relationships I’ve built in the community and the partnerships that have formed from those relationships,” she said.