GENERAL NEWS

Nicholas County School Board holds marathon session

By Hank Bond
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

A marathon school board meeting was highlighted by personnel actions, letters from parents, and a review of two robberies at Nicholas County High School.

Monday night, school board members worked until 1 a.m., covering a varied agenda.

The board approved a 2 percent payroll increase for all classified personnel effective July 1.

In addition, the board granted an additional $50 per month increase to Kathy Hilander, who approached the board about an increase in duties. Herbert Duncan abstained on the payroll increase votes.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Upon returning, the board voted to hire Barbara Hopkins as an instructor at the high school; to employ Mrs. Betty Ballard, as guidance counselor at the high school; and to allow a request by Bobby Story to be assigned to a teaching position at the high school from his junior high position.

Supt. of Schools Donald Elder told the board he would have interviews to fill the vacancy created by Story's transfer.

In addition, NCHS Assistant Principal Rob Lane will teach one less class next year, and Bill Guthrie, a part-time instructor at the high school and an employee of the central office last school year, will return to the office full-time for the next school year.

Prior to approving Ballard as the new high school counselor, the board heard from Mrs. Brenda Anderson, NCES counselor, requesting she be moved back to the high school position.

Also appearing before the board was Carl Mattox, who said he would not resign as the kindergarten bus driver. He has been hired as a regular driver for the next school year. The board voted not to assign Mattox the kindergarten route.

In other business, the board;

- tabled a decision on twice a week payroll until at least January;
- accepted the bid of First National Bank of Carlisle as school depository for the next two years;
- hired Jeanette Ritchie as high school lunchroom monitor for next school year;
- voted to advertise for bids for several school items;
- heard a request from Elder on the school buses;
- approved a request for funds from the NCHS band, and agreed to use a bus for transporting band students, removing seats in the back of the bus for instrument storage;
- accepted the resignations of Sandra Sweeny as junior high academic coach, Debbie Vice as high school counselor, Elizabeth Denton Cannon as high school instructor and W.J. Flora as elementary custodian;
- approved the annual textbook report;
- voted to advertise for additional applicants for an elementary custodial position;
- voted to amend the special education due process and procedure manual to comply with state requests;
- voted to buy five new sewing machines and have five repaired at the high school;
- discussed a potential lease of school property;
- approved a trip June 15 for school cafeteria personnel and administrator Bill Guthrie in Frankfort;
- heard letters read from parents concerning the kindergarten program;
- heard a request from Faye Robinson requesting an increase in pay, should the board vote to go to two payrolls per month - the board tabled action on the request until it is determined if the system will switch;
- voted to enter into a contract with KEDC to provide pupil accounting, census services, career information and to provide staff development monies;
- voted to approve Scholastic Insurers to provide sports coverage and school insurance for the 1988-89 school year;
- voted to increase insurance coverage amounts on buildings and contents;
- and; heard a report from Elder on the two breakins at the high school. The board agreed Elder should investigate the prices of security systems for all system buildings.

Former judge John P. Lair passes May 31

Judge John Prentiss Lair, 81, of Cynthiana, passed away May 31, in the emergency room at Harrison Memorial Hospital.

He was a retired circuit court judge of the 18th Judicial District, serving for 21 years from 1961 to 1982.

Judge Lair was a trustee, deacon and former chairman of the board of the Cynthiana Christian Church. He was a graduate of Cynthiana High School, University of Kentucky College of Law and attended Ohio University.

He served with the FBI in World War II. He was a member of Elks Lodge No. 438, Harrison County Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega Social Fraternity.

Survivors include: his wife, Hazel S. Lair; one son, John Lair, Cynthiana, one daughter, Linda Roberts, Sparr, Fla.; one grandson, Trevor Hamilton Lair, Cynthiana; two first cousins, Mary Louise Robinson, Lexington and Mrs. Ronald A. Moss, Cynthiana.

Services were June 2 at Whaley - McCarthy Funeral Home, Cynthiana by Dr. Larry W. Bishop. Burial was in Battle Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Sam Arnold III, Jack Arnold, Jack Keith, Wayne McGee, Stanley Fiser, Dr. Frank McKemie, Charles Switzer and Burr Travis.

Honorary pallbearers were: 18th Judicial Bar Association and Men's Bible Class of the Cynthiana Christian Church.

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PERSONALITY PROFILE

Williams reaching for the top of the academic ladder

By Heather Mathes
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Twelve years of high school may seem to be a lifetime of education to many.

However, one Nicholas County Administrator dedicated much of her life-time to proving small rural communities such as this county can achieve as high as educational goals as those children in larger urban areas and, in doing so, reached her goals as an educator.

Marium Williams, vice-principal at Nicholas County Elementary School, obtained a Doctorate in Instruction and Administration from the University of Kentucky.

Williams graduated from Transylvania University in Lexington with a BA in English, Speech, Drama and Education.

Only later did Williams graduate from Paris High School with honors.

She explained, "I was basically a high school dropout and when I proved I wanted my degree, I got my high school diploma."

She added, "One of the main reasons I chose Transylvania is that I wanted a supportive environment to encourage achieveing goals, and I believe it was exactly what I wanted because it took three years to get through."

Williams continued her educational career at Memphis State University to gain an MA in English and as of 1988, reached and overcame a final milestone as she achieved her Doctorate Degree.

She said, "I believe education is all about keeping up with new philosophys of learning, teaching methods and changes in curriculum and change is not only refreshing, but beneficial to instructors as well as students.

"I think our whole staff follows this belief and I am proud to say I am a part of that thinking."

At Nicholas County, aids are attending night school to receive extra certification and teachers are receiving masters degrees quicker than ever before.

She added, "Education is a way to recharge your batteries.

"In the field of administration there is often so much negative feedback that going back and getting a positive outlook is really needed."

Teaching has always been a great source of satisfaction for Williams.

"I have been everything from an archery instructor, taught grades kindgarten through the third year of college at Maysville Community College, Midway Junior College and Kentucky State and even taught drama and designed a set.

"I think you find a lot about yourself when you teach- it is exciting with endless new demands and you get a lot of love from the kids," said Williams.

Great strides must be taken to acheive a doctorate degree and the pathway to furthering education can prove to by an emotional struggle as well as an intellectual one.

First, Williams had to receive 40-60 more hours, all decided upon by a personally assigned committee.

Receiving a doctorate depends upon the acceptance of a dissertation by the committee.

"A dissertation is around a 250 page book showing research, book reviews and a bibliography," she said.

Williams' dissertation was essentially a social science project researching the effects of preschool on the Nicholas County population.

"The committee, made of five people, have differing points of interest and many times one will have you rearrange your work and then the others on the committee shoot it down.

"This does test the qualities of perseverence, discipline and accepting authority and this can be painful.

"You are working toward a goal and know it and it becomes a lot like life, just when you get your feet on the ground, something trips you up," she said.

Williams researched many aspects of early childhood, particularly the head start program with the deepest group being the graduating class of 1988.

"I found the dropout rate of pre-school intervention porgram children one third the number of those children without it.

"Headstart also needed only one third the amount of special services.

"My conclusions are that if these children are helped early enough, that tax payers are paid back," said Williams.

A similar study was done at the University of Maryland by David Weikant but Williams wanted to complete a study with rural southern children to show that research did not just fit larger city or urban children but could be applied to children everywhere.

The study's real world situation made a great difference in the studys outcome.

"Lisa Barkley, nationally known for her early childhood publications thought that the program was grass roots as it was not a special study group but a real situation," said Williams.

In her opinion, the study did not make a real contribution to research but hit the area that is needed.

"I was very glad to see that small towns do make a big difference in children's lives while they are still children and when they become adults," she said.

Williams' doctorate is also a great benefit to her future.

"After retirement, I plan to teach in higher education including colleges because I do not think I could ever get away from education for a very long while without feeling the need to return," she concluded.

Marium Williams

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