

Board recognizes eight employees, three students

SPECIAL TO THE R-H

The Green County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, September 8. The meeting started with employee and student recognitions.

Eight employees were recognized as recipients of the board's Golden Apple "Above and Beyond" award.

Trent Pyles, assistant principal at Green County Primary School, was nominated by a colleague. The nomination letter recognized that Pyles has a unique gift for working with students needing extra attention for behavioral issues. The letter highlights Pyles' efforts in calming and being a positive mentor for the students. The letter continues "He truly cares about these kids and wants what is best for them."

Cara Knifley, media librarian at Green County Primary School and Green County Middle School, was nominated by a colleague. The nomination letter noted that Knifley gives 110% for anything she commits to doing. It continued by noting her "true passion" and "genuine love for the kids and those who work here." The letter cited specific examples such as her ability to engage students during lessons, implementing the summer school program, and her overall attention to detail and organizational skills.

Kim Allen, 5th grade teacher at Green County Intermediate School, was nominated by a colleague. The nomination letter started with the following, "There is no other way to start this nomination than to say that Ms. Kim never stops." The letter continued in stating that Allen devotes countless hours above and beyond the normal school day in her passion for teaching and love of and commitment to the success of her students. The letter specifically mentioned Allen's dedication through a recent major medical surgery that took her out of the classroom for several weeks. "During that time she videoed lessons for the substitute to be shown to her students, continued to communicate with parents and planned instruction daily." The letter concluded, "GCIS is very fortunate to have exceptional teachers like Ms. Kim."

Allison Griffiths and Karen Creason, secretaries at Green County Intermediate School, were jointly nominated. The nomination letter called Griffiths and Creason the "dynamic duo" that keeps the whole school on track. The letter noted that Griffiths is the calm in the wild and frequently reminds those around her to "just take a breath" and reiterating that "it will all be alright." The letter also noted that Creason, who also serves as the school bookkeeper, is the, "glue that holds us together and keeps us upbeat, on time, and under budget."

Brian Ervin, maintenance technician at Green County Intermediate School, was nominated by colleagues. The letter highlighted his positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond in maintaining the school building and campus grounds. The letter acknowledged the difficult job Ervin is tasked with, "working on broken things can definitely be frustrating, but he always has a smile on his face and is always so kind to the students."

Becca Hedgespeth, 7th grade math teacher at Green County Middle School, was nominated by a colleague. The nomination letter noted her outstanding efforts both in the classroom and in building relationships with the students. The nomination letter added, "She sets high expectations for all students and works hard to make sure her students are successful." In addition the letter noted that Hedgespeth goes above and beyond by being a team player and never hesitating to volunteer for extra duties.

Samantha Gaddie, Agriscience and Biology teacher at Green County High School, was nominated by a student. The student noted that Gaddie has "been a beacon of support for me and others" and went above and beyond by pushing the student to her highest potential.



Trent Pyles, assistant principal at Green County Primary School, was nominated for a Gold Apple Award.



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Kim Allen, 5th grade teacher at Green County Intermediate School, was nominated for a Gold Apple Award.



Becca Hedgespeth, 7th grade math teacher at Green County Middle School, was nominated for a Gold Apple Award.



Samantha Gaddie, Agriscience and Biology teacher at Green County High School, was nominated for a Gold Apple Award.



Allison Griffiths and Karen Creason, secretaries at Green County Intermediate School, were jointly nominated for a Gold Apple Award.



Reagan Phelps was recognized for being selected to the Rogers Explorer program representing Green County Middle School.



Reed Phelps and Kameron Jackson (not pictured) were both recognized for being selected to attend the prestigious Governor's Scholar program.

Photo submitted

The letter continued by noting that Gaddie helped the student find her passion which the student plans to turn into her future career. The student complimented Gaddie as a great mentor and FFA advisor. The student concluded by stating, "I could never thank her enough for all she has done for me, but a golden apple would be a good start."

Three students were also recognized as recipients of the board's Student Excellence award. All three students were nominated by teachers in the district.

Reagan Phelps was recognized for being selected to the Rogers Explorer program representing Green County Middle School. The letter recognized Reagan as being an outstanding student with an exceptional GPA and interest in science, math, leadership, and community service.

Reed Phelps and Kameron Jackson were both recognized for being selected to attend the prestigious Governor's Scholar program. The Governor's Scholar program has a very rigorous application and selection

process. The nomination letter added that, "Green County High School is very honored to have Reed and Kameron representing our school and district."

In items of business the board took action on a number of items related to construction projects occurring throughout the district.

Construction continues on the new high school. Redlee is close to finishing footers and pouring concrete slabs on the new classroom and administrative wings. The board approved two payment applications related to the high school construction project. The first to G. Scott and Associates for architectural services in the amount of \$312,251. The invoice represented professional services rendered through 25% of construction administration. The second approved was payment application #11 to Redlee Construction in the amount of \$99,623. The invoice primarily represented continued work on footers. The application also included \$32,467 in direct purchase order vouchers con-

sisting mostly of concrete and masonry materials.

The board also approved adding replacement of the volleyball standards to the scope of the high school project. The new volleyball net would be suspended from the gym ceiling and would be lowered for practice and games. The project will also include replacing the gymnasium floor and basketball goals.

Construction is finished on the turf field at Dragon Stadium. The district recently hosted a celebration to give the public an opportunity to walk on the field and see the other improvements made throughout Dragon Stadium. The board approved the final payment applications to Hellas Construction in the amounts of \$546,791 and \$137,782. In addition to the turf field the district has also installed new fencing around the stadium, replaced the audio/visual equipment, and upgraded lighting. The district is also in the process of updating the bathroom facilities.

In other items of business the board approved an out

of state trip request for the 2023 senior trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn., amended procedure 03.11 AP 2521 to allow employees to request a copy of their background check, and adopted the 2022-2023 working budget. The board also approved Bluegrass Counseling as an authorized counseling agency, approved a shortened school day waiver for a student with exceptional needs, and declared several pieces of recently replaced furniture as surplus to be disposed of.

Superintendent Hodges presented his superintendent leadership plan, which is part of the annual evaluation process of the superintendent. Mr. Hodges' 2023 leadership plan focused on Instructional Leadership and Human Resource Leadership. A few of the items covered in the plan is a new focus on project-based learning and continuing to develop district and school leaders through a grow-your-own mentoring program.

The next regularly scheduled monthly board meeting is scheduled for October 13.

Jessica Mitchell named to Dean's List

Jessica Mitchell named to Summer 2022 Dean's List at Cumberland

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced the students

named to the Dean's List for the Summer 2022 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50, and be in

good academic standing.

Congratulations to Jessica Mitchell of Greensburg, on making the Dean's List this summer.

University of the Cumberlands is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in

Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs.

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