

## Monroe County Schools

# News Release

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GEAR UP, the program that promotes improved college going rates in eight counties in West Virginia, is entering its fifth and final year in the counties that had won the grant in 1999, however, additional funding may provide services for another group of seventh graders next year, according to Bruce Hollis, the state coordinator for the program, and Paulette Kirby, Monroe County's coordinator for the grant program. Both individuals spoke at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Board of Education meeting held 7:00 p.m. September 21, 2004, at the Board Office in Union.

Hollis described the challenges those in charge of the grant have dealt with as the Promise Scholarship came along during the grant implementation, siphoning off money that had previously been dedicated as West Virginia's share of the federal program. While 22 students in Monroe County were awarded the Promise Scholarships last year, the funding for that program kept additional students in each of the grant counties from receiving dollars for scholarships as they met the guidelines of the program. Hollis and Kirby noted the successes of Monroe County students, reporting that over \$350,000 in scholarship money had been earned by students currently in grades 8-11.

Terry Utterback, also a delegation to the Board meeting, requested funds to support drug/alcohol and abstinence education programs at the middle schools and the high school. The Board appropriated \$2,000 for the first semester's programs with the hope that they could provide additional funds once the financial close-out for Fiscal Year 2004 had been completed and

allowed additional funding.

Under Policy Development, the Board approved the Medication Administration Policy and an Exam Exemption Policy that had both been on comment for thirty days. The exam exemption policy will require every student at James Monroe to take exams the first semester, with exemptions for the second semester based on attendance and academic achievement.

Under New Business, the Board approved budget supplements, transfers, and paying the bills as recommended. They also approved the high school's copier contracts.

Under Personnel, the Board approved hiring Sean Sowers as half-time special education at Mountain View, approved supervisory aide pay for Lisa Woods, hired Mike Allen as a writing coach for JMHS, recognized school volunteer Aimee Williams for Mountain View, and approved Julee Cole's resignation, effective 9/24/04.

Under Discussion, Information and the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Lyn Guy noted that plans were beginning for a celebration of student achievement on a date in October, and that plans were also underway for a re-dedication of the vocational school following this summer's renovations. Guy also reviewed the latest enrollment figures, provided board members with an update on accreditation, and discussed incentives for the energy education program.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, for the purpose of making personnel decisions. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be October 5, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at the Board office in Union.