



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – March 10, 2023**  
*HCS March Board Meeting Recognitions*

Halifax County Schools March Board Meeting Recognitions



Halifax County Schools (HCS) February Employee of the Month is Ms. Nellie Jones. Ms. Jones serves as an Academic Tutor at Scotland Neck Elementary Leadership Academy. Principal Ms. Angela Battle states, “Ms. Nellie Jones is a retired educator of Halifax County Schools who continues to be invested in the well-being of the students at Scotland Neck Elementary Leadership Academy. Ms. Jones works diligently with the third grade on strategies to support Read-to-Achieve. She supports new teachers and readily steps in wherever there is a need. Ms. Jones is highly respected and appreciated by students, staff,

and the community”. Ms. Jones states, “Thank you for choosing me to be the Employee of the Month. This recognition by my peers and coworkers is humbling and gratifying. My dream was to retire and return to serve my community’s students. Though the daily grind isn't always easy, it is rewarding to know that I have made a meaningful impact and that my school sees and acknowledges it. Again, thank you.” Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “Congratulations to Ms. Jones on this well-deserved recognition. We are thankful that you choose to spend your time as a retired educator bettering students’ lives in Halifax County Schools”.



HCS February Student of the Month is Caleb Richardson. Caleb is a 4th-grade student and attends Hollister Elementary Leadership Academy. Caleb is the son of Crystal Lynch and Mitchell Richardson. Caleb’s favorite subject is math because he likes learning how to use numbers. His hobbies are playing with friends and on his PlayStation, football, and basketball. Caleb advises other students to “always do your best, study, be nice, and treat people well.” His thoughts about school and being selected student of the month is, “I like coming to school, and it helps me to become smarter. I’m happy to be student of the month”. Caleb was selected student of the month because he works hard on schoolwork and homework. He strives all the time to make sure he studies and strives to get good grades. Superintendent Dr.

Cunningham states, “Awesome job, Caleb! Continue to keep up the great work and strive for five!”



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – March 10, 2023**  
*HCS March Board Meeting Recognitions*



March 5-11, 2023, is National School Social Work Week, an opportunity for schools, communities, and partners to acknowledge and recognize their impactful work in supporting students, families, and communities.

Under the leadership of the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA), the only national organization exclusively dedicated to the profession of school social work, this celebration will emphasize School Social Work contributions of focusing on the “whole-child,” linking families to community resources, a valuable voice as part of the school’s multidisciplinary team, and advocating

for the profession of School Social Work.



The theme for National School Social Work Week 2023 is “**We Rise.**”

School Social Workers are confronted with challenges, heightened anxieties, and anticipated difficulties during the school year. However, School Social Workers face these challenges with strength and resilience. School Social Workers rise up - supporting their students, families, and school communities. School Social Workers rise to share hope. They rise to listen and understand. They rise to challenge inequities. They rise to support all students.



Halifax County Schools recognized the following School Social Workers: Shaquana Byrd-Graham, Lydia Kearney, Joyce Whitehead, and Jessica Woodson. Dr. Cunningham states, “Thank you, School Social Workers, for your tremendous impact on helping students achieve school success. You are greatly appreciated!”





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – March 10, 2023**  
*HCS March Board Meeting Recognitions*



March 4th was maintenance worker appreciation day. HCS recognized the following individuals for all they do behind the scenes to keep schools and facilities running safely and smoothly. (L-R): Tony Alston, Lenner Garner, Ulises Lubiano, Douglas Gary, Charles Richardson, Billy Alston, Will Price, Briana Hardy. Dr. Cunningham states,

“Our maintenance team is hardworking individuals who deserve this recognition. We are thankful for their contributions in keeping our district operating effectively and efficiently”.



March is women’s history month, and Halifax County Schools had the pleasure of recognizing a native of Halifax County. Mrs. Lois M. Alston-Belle was reared in Enfield, NC. Mrs. Belle, born in 1938, nearly 85 years ago, wasn’t afforded the opportunities that many female scholars have been afforded since 1938.

Mrs. Lois M. Alston-Belle signifies the embodiments of the pillars upon which these commemorative days were initially established at their cores, celebrating courageous actions fueled by the determination of ordinary women and black people.

Mrs. Lois M. Alston-Belle graduated Valedictorian from historic Eastman High School in 1955 at sixteen. She remained in the local Enfield area after high school graduation before deciding to enter business school, where she once again graduated at the top tier of her classes. Mrs. Belle finished her business school program in approximately six months, 1.5 years earlier than the outlined coursework was designed for prospective students.

Dr. Cunningham states, “Halifax County Schools was honored to recognize Mrs. Lois M. Alston Belle for her prestigious achievements”.





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – March 10, 2023**  
*HCS March Board Meeting Recognitions*



Halifax County Schools recognized educators who the state has identified as an employee to receive a Legislated Performance Bonus. As measured by EVAAS at the state and district levels, these individuals were in the top twenty-five percent of teachers in 3rd-5th grade reading or 4th-8th grade math. Dr. Cunningham states, “Awesome job to these fantastic educators for their efforts to drive student achievement in Halifax

County Schools. We are grateful to have them and all of our teachers a part of our team as we chart this new course to student achievement”. The following individuals were recognized for outstanding achievement. (L-R) Pamela Jones- Richardson, Jennifer Williams, Haitham Alraghaifeh, Dwayne Johnson, Lossie Hunter, Sanchia Palmer-Dewar, Kevia Lynch. Not Pictured: Kevin Walker.