

County recognizes Parents of Year

by ALICE ORTIZ

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AMORY – At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Monroe County School Board on April 3, the school district recognized the Parents of the Year. Hamilton Parent of the Year was Sonya Cockerham; Hatley's was Scarlett Thompson; and Smithville's was Miranda Seales.

Superintendent of Education Scott Cantrell gave an update on Smithville schools. He said the slab

was poured at the agriculture shop. Anchor bolt drawings were due quickly for the P.E. gym/field house, which will allow for the slab to be poured for that building.

"We still have no approval to proceed from FEMA 404 concerning the dome gym facility. Project manager Leo has been in contact with them concerning various aspects of the dome design," said Cantrell. "We cannot advertise for bids on this facility until 404 approves the design due to the possibility of a needed change in design to meet 404 wind load standards for approved tornado shelters. They have had the plans for approximately one month, though. Hopefully, we will receive word from them soon."

Cantrell said they have a conference call with FEMA, EHP, ACHP, SHPO, MDAH and the district set for 2 p.m. on April 10 concerning the next steps of the section 106 process for the old buildings.

"We have cleared a major hurdle toward demolition when MDAH chose not to consider the buildings for Mississippi Landmark status, but that does not mean we have permission to demo the buildings yet," he said. "We must still complete the 106 Federal process with all of the above-named government entities and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for all concerned parties before we can proceed with demolition. We have been given no timetable on the length of the remainder of the 106 process, though."

Advertisements for bids on the technology building repair have been placed in the Daily Journal. Bids should open on May 1 for this project. The original insurance estimate for the renovation is \$750,000.

In other business, the following were approved:

- Resignations - Carlos Walls, Hatley maintenance; Kemi Ford, Hatley

counselor; Amy White, Smithville elementary teacher.

- Recommendations - Katy Renfro, transfer to Hatley; Marty Warren, Hatley head football coach; Nick Hathcock, Hatley assistant football coach; Catherine Regan, Hamilton assistant teacher; Stephanie Ritter, district teacher substitute.
- Contract with Stennis Institute for redistricting.
- Cancellation of leasehold agreement for Section 16-13-18 on Kate Mae Road due to non-payment.
- Adoption of an abstinence only sex education policy. HB 999 Sex Education Bill requires the adoption of abstinence policy for all school districts. Sav-A-Life will conduct this program in all seventh grade classes in the district in 2012-2013. Sav-A-Life will be providing the materials "Choosing the Best." This is a non-mandatory class, and parents an opt out for their child.
- Contract with CIG Construction for interior renovations on the high school and 44-5-6 buildings. Work is anticipated to begin soon.

The board went into executive session to discuss a student matter. No action was taken.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, at 5 p.m. at the Monroe County Government Complex Building.