

Monroe A. Miller Jr.
19 Big Spruce Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
March 1, 2016

Subject: Two Press Releases from: Haywood County Schools & Presnell defends statements.

Haywood County Schools (Bill Nolte) issued a Press Release today, prompted by my Requests for Public Information relating the Central Elementary School closure, entitled **Debunking False Political Accusation**.

On the heels of that Press Release, the Office of Representative Michele Presnell issued a Press Release, entitled **Presnell defends statements**.

Vicki Hyatt, of the Mountaineer, in record time, posted an article on the Mountaineer website entitled **School asks critics to cease spreading falsehoods**, By Vicki Hyatt, Mar 01, 2016.

<http://themountaineer.villagesoup.com/p/school-asks-critics-to-cess-spreading-falsehoods/1488825>

Since the Mountaineer did not post the two Press Releases, both are included in their entirety on the next two pages.

Don't forget to look at the raw graphical data posted on www.haywoodtp.net on the green graph paper.

Monroe Miller
Haywood County Taxpayer.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Haywood County Schools – Debunking False Political Accusation
Haywood County, North Carolina – Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

On Friday, February 19, 2016 a column was published in the local media by a current political candidate. The candidate said, “For example, 45% of what was budgeted in local Haywood County funds for teachers went to administration in 2013-14.” The column was followed by multiple public records requests by a local political activist who was attempting to document the accusation.

“We followed up promptly on the public records request. We actually provided a stack of documents that was about an inch and a half high,” said Dr. Bill Nolte, associate superintendent. “We sent every budget approved since 2008, the number of positions lost in the school system since 2008 and the decrease in enrollment since 2008. In addition to the documents we provided, we told the political activist, that “money was not moved from teachers to administration.”

“We have always been very cautious when responding to false accusations by political candidates, especially during campaign periods,” said Dr. Anne Garrett, superintendent. “We are trying to focus on teaching and learning, not political activities. In this instance, we must refute the false accusation and defend the honor and integrity of our outstanding school system.”

In one of the records requests, the political activist indicated the basis of the false accusation was the 2014-15 Haywood County Schools Budget Proposal located on the system website. The operative said, “A bit of calculation shows us that \$871,562.14 is 45% of \$1,907,583.52 (it actually rounds to 46%, but 45% is a safe, conservative tabulation).”

We have attached the document as evidence that the accusation is false. First, the political candidate and the political activist failed to note that the budget proposal increased teacher support by 18% while administrative support was a small decrease. Second, no funds were moved from teacher lines to administrative lines. Third, they failed to disclose that much of the administrative budget has nothing to do with employing administrators. Rather it includes costs for printing, liability insurance, repair parts, public utilities, property insurance and other non-employee expenses that are essential for operating a 7,000 student school system.

We respectfully request that false political accusations stop. We have no desire to be part of the political campaign debate. We prefer to focus on continuing our longstanding tradition of outstanding academic performance, extra-curricular performance and opportunities for our students.

**Haywood County Schools
1230 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786**

www.haywood.k12.nc.us

Contact: Dr. Anne Garrett, Superintendent
Dr. Bill Nolte, Associate Superintendent

END
(386)

Office of Representative Michele Presnell
District 118 – Yancey, Madison and Haywood Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Wall
919-733-5732

Presnell defends statements
March 1, 2016

Raleigh, N.C. – In 2013-14, Haywood County Schools budgeted \$1,907,583.52 in local funds for Classroom Teachers. In the same year, Haywood County Schools budgeted \$871,562.14 in local funds for administration.

\$871,562.14 is 45% of \$1,907,583.52. To illustrate, one may type the following into a calculator: 871,562.14 / 1,907,583.52. When the answer of 0.4568933 is obtained, one may multiply that number by 100 to translate it into a percentage. The final percentage is 45.68933%.

“It is a fact that 45% of what was spent on teachers went to administration in 2013-14,” Rep. Presnell said. “I have never said money was diverted from teachers to go to administration. However, if the Haywood County School Board had not budgeted 45% on administration as compared to what it budgeted for teachers in 2013-14, they might not be in their current mess.”

While some in the community may have misunderstood the fact that 45% of teacher spending went to administration as a diversion – such as Haywood County Schools administrators – Rep. Presnell has never represented the data as such.

“I stand by my accurate statements, and I resent attacks on accurate analysis of Haywood County Schools budgets,” Rep. Presnell said. “Haywood County Schools administrators and Board members stepped into politics many weeks ago when they blamed legislators for their own failures.”

Haywood County Schools asked County Commissioners for an 18% increase to teacher support in 2014-15, but it is not necessarily what they received from County Commissioners. Haywood County Schools did not release a document that outlines funding sources as they relate to spending as part of their recent release. Therefore, because money is fungible, it cannot be determined whether Haywood County Schools actually received an 18% increase in teacher support from the county in 2014-15 without further document disclosure.

“I will continue to stand up for the taxpayers of Haywood County,” Rep. Presnell said. “Taxpayers who are funding our schools at the greatest level in state history deserve no less.”

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