

An Update from Lisa Baldwin  
Your Buncombe County  
Board of Education  
Representative

April 9, 2013



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## Groundbreaking Buncombe School Board Meeting This Thursday!

1. The school board will be approving **41 new policies** (see agenda link below), allowing for more parent input and a grievance procedure for students and parents. These family-friendly policies will allow parents to appeal to the Board, if they not happy with a decision regarding their child's education, discipline, bus, etc.
2. If my motion to have **a comprehensive arts program in our middle and high schools passes, all schools will be able to offer orchestra, art, theater, band, and dance**. For \$800,000 the inequities will be resolved and all students will have an equal opportunity to take these classes. The arts help keep kids in school as they find their niche and also strengthen achievement in all subjects. In the past, students, parents and teachers have petitioned the Board to fix these programs.

This \$800,000 should be freed up in the budget due to bills in the legislature to allow lottery funds and Article 39 sales tax revenues to be used for digital learning and professional development. These bills are a shoe-in according to Rep. Nathan Ramsey.

3. **Broadcasting meetings is on the agenda again** - You deserve to know what actions the Board is taking. Please support 24/7 Internet viewing of meetings. Using the agenda you will be able to view the segments of the meeting you are interested in.
4. If you support these measures or have other suggestions or concerns, you may give a three minute public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Sign up when you

arrive. The meeting begins at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 11th in the Board auditorium at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.

To read the full meeting agenda, and read documentation, visit <http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/page/41>

## State Tests Wells for TCE/PCE Contamination Near Square D/STEM High School Location

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013304080010>

### Focus Dollars on the Classroom?

Cost saving measures that can potentially free up millions of dollars for teaching and learning were not incorporated into the 2013-14 preliminary budget. **Watch the April 5th independent video where Chairman Bob Rhinehart yells at me for expressing my disappointment in the budget:** [Tubeclip where Bob Rhinehart yells at Lisa Baldwin for interrupting him, when he interrupted first.](#) Board members should be able to discuss the hard topics.

### Watch Videos of March Meetings:

[Part 1: BCBOE Budget Workshop](#)

[Part2 BCBOE Budget Workshop](#)

[Tubeclip where Bob Rhinehart yells at Lisa Baldwin for interrupting him, when he interrupted first.](#)

Sign up for Buncombe Politics on You-Tube to watch the meeting livestreamed.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAAvHgWmJSk>



### Shining the Spotlight on Teachers

Last month I recognized Cindy Penland and Angela High of North Buncombe Elementary for their heroic efforts in saving two students from choking. Let me know about the wonderful things our teachers are doing in your schools by replying to this newsletter.

## You Can Make A Difference!

The Center for Public Environmental Oversight's Report on the Buncombe School/Square D Hazardous Waste Site: <http://www.cpeo.org/pubs/BuncombeSchools.pdf>

***AIG Parents Alert - PAGE CHAPTER FORMING*** - Contact [Judy.McGuire@bcsemail.org](mailto:Judy.McGuire@bcsemail.org) to volunteer to be on the AIG Advisory Council or to help us start a PAGE Chapter (Partners for the Advancement of Gifted Education). Time is running out!

***Kahn Academy*** - Parents can access Kahn Academy which has excellent FREE tutorials on math and other subjects that can help your children excel. Salman Khan has accomplished something extraordinary. Check it out: <https://www.khanacademy.org>

**Next School Board Meeting on Thursday, April 11th at 6:30pm - open to the public.**

Please contact Lisa Baldwin with your concerns and suggestions by replying to this email or at [lisa.baldwin@bcsemail.org](mailto:lisa.baldwin@bcsemail.org) or 828-628-9537. Contact other Board members at <http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/page/27>

*This message is the opinion of Lisa Baldwin and is not intended to represent the official position of the Buncombe County Schools or the Buncombe County Board of Education.*

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