



JCAFT ACTION

**SPECIAL
EDITION**
10/18/07

1900 – 20th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35209 (205 933-1124 (FAX 205 933-1124
Website: www.jcaft.com Email: www.jcaft2143@aol.com

EXTREME CLASSROOM MAKEOVER WINNER 2007 ANNOUNCED!



First Grade Pinson Elementary teacher, Sarah Holloway, received quite a surprise at the school faculty meeting on Monday, October 15. Chosen as the winner of the 3rd Annual Extreme Classroom Makeover Competition, the “Prize Patrol” outfitted with a huge check for “One Classroom Makeover”, balloons and flowers joined the faculty meeting to make the surprise



announcement.. Joining her on stage was her husband, Jarod, and her baby, Kate, whose presence was also a big surprise. “I looked over and saw my family and thought, what are they doing here?” laughed Mrs. Holloway.

Following the announcement, Dr. Phil Hammonds, Superintendent, spoke on behalf of the Jefferson County Board of Education to congratulate Mrs. Holloway. Vi Parramore, President of JCAFT, thanked all of the special guests for attending the announcement as well the Board of Education and the Central Alabama Labor Federation for partnering with the JCAFT in the makeover project. Among other special guests attending the announcement were President of Jefferson County Board of Education Karen Nix; Board of Education member, Ronald Rhodes; Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Yancy Morris; Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Mitchell; School Group Director, Kay Lindsey; Director of New Construction, Dr. Rafael McDaniel; Director of Public Relations Nez Calhoun; Director of Support Operations, Eddie Brown; Alabama State Representative, Allen Treadaway; Special Project Coordinator for US Representative Artur Davis; Sissy Hembry; President of The Central Alabama Labor Federation, Kirk Patrick; Vice President of the Central Alabama Labor Federation, Bill Blackman; Alabama AFL-CIO, DeWayne Parker, and Asbestos Workers Local 78, Sean O’Donnell.

needed renovations take place this summer at Pinson Elementary. Another teacher commented, “The classroom is a haven for many students and all teachers want their environment to be as nice as possible. I am glad that AFT is helping teachers in this way.” Thanks to the faculty and staff at Pinson Elementary for their support of this project!

FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PLANNING

JCAFT Health and Safety Director and Project Coordinator Tracee Binion says, “The next phases of the project are planning the design and ordering all of the materials, equipment and supplies”. The dream design team, Denise Glenn and Ann Underwood, from *Design It Studios* will work with the teacher, school principal and a few students from the class to design the new classroom. Glenn who started her company, *Design It Studios*, after graduating from the School of Design at Jefferson State Jr. College says “We love this project and are happy to donate our services to it”. Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. Underwood have worked to design the three previous classrooms for the makeover. The JCAFT appreciates this dream team duo.

THE REAL MUSCLE BEHIND THE PROJECT

The actual construction work on the classroom is not slated to begin until January. The JCAFT is very excited to be working once again with members of the Central Alabama Labor Federation as well as the Central Alabama Building Trades Group. Donnie Stanley, President of the Central Alabama Building Trades, and Sean O’Donnell with Asbestos Workers Local 78, will head up the construction

PRINCIPALS, CO-WORKERS EXCITED FOR HOLLOWAY



Principal, Rosalie Ritchie and Assistant

Principal, Karen Jones as well as the teachers at Pinson Elementary are excited that Mrs. Holloway was chosen as the winner. JCAFT Building Representative, Judy Phillips, said, “Mrs. Holloway is a deserving winner”. Mrs. Phillips went on to say that she will be glad to see other

efforts. "We are delighted to help with this project", says Stanley.

Last year's makeover of the Lipscomb Art Classroom featured the expertise of Lloyd Hicks and his carpenter apprentices. Tearing out walls and floors and rebuilding them were among the many feats accomplished in last year's room by Hicks and his able apprentices. "Though this year's classroom will not be as construction heavy, we will be plenty busy", remarked DeWayne Parker of the Alabama AFL-CIO. Parker, who has been involved with all three of the past projects, goes on to say, "This project is perfect for labor groups because it allows us to use our skills to give something back to the communities we live in". Kirk Patrick, President and Bill Blackman, Vice President of the Central Alabama Labor Federation agree with Parker. Blackman says, "Labor groups are often portrayed as fighting for themselves and this project allows people to see that labor cares about others." The JCAFT thanks our brother and sisters in labor that make this project possible each year.

BOARD MEMBERS CONSIDERING PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT

The Jefferson County Board of Education, led by Board President, Karen Nix listened intently as Tracee Binion explained the selection process for the Extreme Classroom Makeover winner at Board Committee meetings on October 16.

Binion provided each Board member with a copy of each of the 44 application packets, including essays and pictures that were submitted for the Extreme Classroom Makeover Competition. Board members were also given a packet of information explaining the selection criterion and score sheets provided to the judges. The 10-member Selection Committee is made up of professionals who have no ties with the Jefferson County School District. "We ask people to serve on the Selection Committee based on the unique perspective that they can provide the committee," Binion stated. "For instance, we have doctors from the UAB Lung Health Center who have knowledge of the importance of a healthy environment for children with allergies and asthma. We have designers who can give input on the design possibilities for the classrooms, and people who work in construction related fields to give input on the possibilities from a construction point of view. There is also a teacher and a paraprofessional to give input from an educator's perspective."

Binion explained the process that the Selection Committee uses to determine the winner. She

said that each application is first looked over carefully and that any reference to the name of the teacher, school, principal or other identifying factors are marked out of the essay and pictures. Each applicant is then assigned a number, which is written on the demographic sheet, the essay and the pictures that accompany the essay. The judges do not have access to the demographic sheets at any time. The judges are given a rubric which explains to them how to assign point values to the essay and the pictures. The judging takes place in two rounds. Round One: Each judge selects randomly a given number of essays (this year it was 4). They are asked to read and score the 4 essays and determine which out of their four they will put forward for Round Two judging. They are instructed that if they have more than one applicant that they want to move on to Round Two, they may put forward more than one. Round Two: Each judge reads and scores each application that was put forward from Round One. The winner is then determined by the highest average score of all of the judges. During the judging process the judges sit in a room alone and are not disturbed until the winner has been selected. Binion provided the Board members with a list of all the judges, along with their contact information, that served on the Selection Committee for 2007. The Board members were pleased with the selection process.

Following the presentation, Board President Karen Nix made the statement that since the Board of Education was a partner in this project and had put money into the project each year, she felt that the Extreme Classroom Makeover Project needed to be put into the school system's budget. The other Board members agreed. Discussion took place as to how much money needed to be placed in the budget. However, since the needs for each project are so different it was hard to determine an exact amount. Mrs. Nix suggested a maximum amount and the Board members agreed to think about the amount and discuss it at a future meeting. In the meantime, Dr. Hammonds instructed Tracee Binion to let him know as soon as all of the donations are secured how much funding was needed to complete this year's project.

The Board members stated that they are very pleased to be a partner in the Extreme Classroom Makeover project and that they wanted to make sure that it continued as an annual event. The JCAFT wishes to thank the Board, Dr. Hammonds, Dr. Morris and Eddie Brown for their tremendous support of the Extreme Classroom Makeover Project.



The Extreme Classroom Makeover Project:
Improving The Learning Environment One Classroom At A Time