

# ESPLOST ...continued from Page 1A



ESPLOST Advisory Committee Members in the Sept. 18 meeting of the Union County Board of Education. L-R: Chris Crow, Leslie Daniel, Amy Henson, Jason Karnes, Jeremy Adams and Bill Driskell. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

local business leaders and other community stakeholders, and they reviewed all bid information before unanimously deciding to recommend Southern A&E.

Some of the reasons the committee recommended Southern A&E over other bidders included lower fees, a familiarity with the area, and in-house engineering capabilities. Plus, the firm will be putting together a long-term plan for the school system as part of its suite of services.

As previously reported, ESPLOST V passed with 70 percent support in the May 22 General Primary Election.

In other business, board members voted unanimously on Sept. 18 to hire Crown Service Contractors for \$58,775 to fix the ceiling

inside the elementary school gym.

School officials have come to consider the old gym ceiling a hazard to students, as pieces of tile have begun to loosen over time.

Fixing the ceiling will be completed in two phases, the first of which was done over the weekend of Sept. 22, when Crown Service ripped out the ceiling grid and tiles in the middle section of the gym above the basketball court.

Crown Service will return during Fall Break, the week of Oct. 15, to finish the job, which will include the removal of the rest of the ceiling over the bleachers and other public areas of the gym.

Also in the regular meeting, the board decided to purchase two fully-equipped

Dodge Charger police cars instead of two Dodge Durango trucks that will then need to be outfitted for policework.

The board had previously approved the purchase of four Durango trucks at \$24,000 apiece plus outfitting costs, so canceling two of them in favor of the fully outfitted Chargers at \$22,800 each will save the schools more than \$10,000.

Five educators received certificates of recognition in the Sept. 18 board meeting, four by Primary School Principal Millie Owenby and one by Elementary School Principal Jerry Bavero.

Owenby recognized Christy Townsend, Carla Drake, Olivia Graham and Nikki Schuknecht, all of whom teach in the area of special education.

"These ladies work with our most challenging students at the primary school. They serve these students as if they were their own," said Owenby.

Bavero recognized Jeanne Maddaleni, the writing specialist at the elementary school, who not only instructs third, fourth and fifth-graders with regular writing modules, but also helps her fellow educators learn how to better teach writing to kids.

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 Tom has been in the insurance business 36 years since his medical retirement from the US Army as a LTC. He has numerous awards, such as LUTCF, LILL ADA, Lifeleaders of GA & SC, Instructor for new agents. His awards for the Army include Silver Star, Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Combat Infantry Badge, Airborne Wings, Air Crew Wings, Air Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, Reservist National Guard Achievement Medal and National Defense Medal recipient.

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