A2 DECEMBER 11, 2014

tomed to dealing with

board changes. She said

this change on the board is

a big one for the entire

been a very stable board

for a very long time, so this

is a very big deal in our

community to have this

number of new people,"

the board will work on the

district's major goals of

increasing graduation rates

and the number of third

graders reading at grade

level and closing the

achievement gap between

high and low performing

cation meeting will be 6:30

p.m. on Jan. 13 at the

Education Building, 4801

Bethania Station Rd. It will

be televised live on Cable

The next board of edu-

Emory said she hopes

"In our district this has

school system.

she said.

students.

Board

from page Al

board holds its meetings. The newcomers outnumber the veterans on the ninemember board. This is the greatest amount of new blood the board has seen in years. New members like Deanna Taylor are hoping to make an impact. "I know I'm

here for the right reasons," she said. "I'm here not only for our students, but our teachers and the rest of our staff. I'm excited for what the future is going to hold for all of us."

Democrat

Taylor and her husband -City Council Member James Taylor - have three children in the school system. Taylor said she hopes to bring her perspective to the board, as both a parent active in the PTA and a long-term substitute teacher. She said school equity and making sure every student has what he or she needs to learn will be her key focuses.

Taylor, who was elect-

ed to serve District 1, is the only Democrat among the new batch. She and Republican Robert Barr are the only African-Americans among the new members. Longtime District '1 member Vic Johnson is also black.

Barr, who won an At-Large seat, said he ran because he cares for students and wants

to be an advocate for the "socalled disadvantaged child that comes from a single parent home." "I came from a single-

parent home where my Motsinger mother emphasized education," he said. "I want to be

able to help kids like myself." Barr, who grew up on

Patterson Avenue and in Happy Hill Gardens before earning his education degree from Winston-Salem State University, said he brings to the board his 14 years of experience teaching in the school system. He plans to visit every school in the district to get a feel for their needs.



Assistant Superintendent Carol Montague-Davis introduces herself to the new members.

Mark Johnson, a former teacher and current attorney, also won an At-Large seat, narrowly edging out Democrat Katherine Fansler, who requested and received a recount.

The other new members come from the heavily Republican District 2, where longtime incumbents Jane Goins, Jill Tackabery, A.L. "Buddy" Collins and Marilyn Parker decided not to seek reelection. They were replaced by fellow Republicans Dana Caudill Jones, a former member of the Town Kernersville Council; Lori Goins Clark,

an IT professional and daughter of immediate past board chair Jane Goins; and David Singletary, an insurance agent.

Incumbents returning the board are Republican Jeannie Metcalf, a former At-Large member who ran this year District 2, and in Democrats Johnson and Elisabeth Motsinger, who sat in on last week's orientation.

With Taylor's election, the heavily Republican board now has three Democrats. But Montsinger said most issues the board tackles are non-partisan.

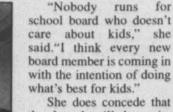
She does concede that

During the orientation the new members learned about procedures, regulaschool system and its various departments. Top administrators introduced themselves to the new by Superintendent Dr. Beverly

Emory, who was hired last year by the previous school board, has worked as superintendent in various districts for 20 years. She has become accus-

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the board will have its share of challenges, dealing with hot-button issues like school equity and Common Core standards.

tions and structure of the members, led Emory.



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