



Dana Wheeler and Karen Slade organize the books in Kimberley Park Elementary's library.



NCAE members help with landscaping around the outdoor water garden at Kimberley Park Elementary School, which is home to a variety of marine life and lets students study ecosystems in the school yard.

Leader

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Preparatory Academy before taking his current position.

NCAE is the largest education organization in the state. The convention is a chance for its members, which can include any employee of a public school, to plan out NCAE's educational advocacy activities.

Ellis said it is a challenging time for education in North Carolina. School systems all over the state are having difficulty

filling their positions and the teacher shortage is expected to get even more severe in the coming year. Schools of education aren't producing enough new teachers to meet the demands of public schools, said Ellis.

"That's a clear sign that something's not right with public education if you don't have people interested in the profession," he said.

He said educators are frustrated that they have relatively low salaries and resources while state funds go to vouchers for private schools.

Ellis said the local situation with Cook

Elementary school reopening with new staff after being labeled as low performing has happened to schools all over the state. He said he didn't feel replacing the staff was the right approach and what schools like that really need is greater parental involvement.

"I think that too often we point to teachers and staff as the reason that schools aren't performing at the level of expectation, instead of what a lot of the real issues are, and that's poverty," he said.

During the convention, educators heard from N.C. Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Roy Cooper, N.C.

Public Education Superintendent June Atkinson and National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia.

During the primary, NCAE endorsed Cooper, who Ellis said would be a "true champion of education" as governor. They also endorsed Atkinson, who Ellis said has been open and responsive to NCAE, meeting with members of the group before each of the N.C. State Board of Education's monthly meetings.

"We have a seat at the table with June and we're very appreciative of it," he said.



Forsyth County Board Elections Members Fleming El-Amin, Ken Raymond and Stuart Russell check over ballots on Tuesday.



Candidate Carolyn Highsmith was among the attendees at the BOE canvas meeting.



Candidate John Larson listens during the BOE canvas meeting.

Vote

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board involved voters who've moved and were transferred to the correct precinct. Tsujii said voters who transfer should've been given regular ballots but signed provisional ballots count, too. However, the 20 provisional ballots presented to the board on Tuesday lacked signatures, a matter the BOE continued until today.

There was a voter who lacked the proper ID and cast a provisional ballot cast with a reasonable impediment form that was unsigned, which violates statute, due to poll worker error. The BOE rejected the ballot 2-1, with Democrat Fleming El-Amin dissenting. There were also 101

absentee ballots that arrived by mail at the BOE the day after Election Day without a postmark that were rejected, also in accordance to statute in a 2-1 decision with El-Amin dissenting. There were also four instances of voters voting twice, which the board ruled to allow one vote to count for each voter and referred the matter to the state board to see if legal action should be taken.

U.S. House June 7 primary

The upcoming June 7 primary came about because of court rulings. One ruling said that the 1st and 12th congressional districts were racially gerrymandered by adding black voters into a district with a

large black population in order to dilute their voting power statewide and ordered the districts to be redrawn. The newly redrawn congressional districts mean that there's a new filing period for candidates, which ends Friday at noon, and a new primary. The redrawn 12th District no longer includes the Triad, and now all of Forsyth County is in the Fifth District.

Tsujii said that all voters will be receiving new voter registration cards, regardless of if their district changed.

"My plan is to send cards to everybody, not just the ones that were affected, otherwise there's going to be a lot of confusion," he said.

As of press time, Democrat Jim Roberts and

Republican Pattie Curran had filled for the Fifth District. Incumbent Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx has been campaigning for re-election and is expected to file.

Rep. Alma Adams is running for re-election in the 12th district, which is now entirely in Mecklenburg County. So far Democrats Rodney Moore and Tricia Cotham, who are both state lawmakers, have filed to challenge her in the primary. Democrats Gardenia Henley and Juan Antonio Marin Jr., who were running before the districts were redrawn, have indicated they will continue running in the 12th but had not filed again as of press time. So far Leon Threatt is the only Republican to file for the seat.

N.C. Supreme Court June 7 primary

A court also struck down a new up or down vote for N.C. Supreme Court seats that was supposed to go into effect this year, so once again there's an open election for the seat currently occupied by Justice Robert Edmunds. As of press time, Mike R. Morgan and Sabra Jean Faires have filed to challenge Edmunds in the non-partisan primary. Filing for that seat also ends Friday.

Voter registration is currently open for the June 7 primary and will run until 25 days prior to the election. Any voters needing to register or change their registration can do so during that time. There will be an early voting period for the

June primary. The amount of early voting hours will be entirely at the discretion of local BOEs.

There were no judicial races on the local ballot in the March primary, because there weren't enough challengers in other judicial races to warrant a primary. All four incumbent judges on the N.C. Court of Appeals will face one challenger in the General Election. In the N.C. 21st Judicial District Court, all incumbent judges are running unchallenged except William Graham Jr., who is retiring. Attorneys Carrie Vickery and Aaron Berlin are both vying for Graham's seat. Though judicial races are non-partisan, the party of each candidate will now be labeled on the ballot.

WSSU

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compared to 1,968 accepted during the 2015 fall semester.

Allen mentioned the increase in acceptance may be because the university has decided to pursue more students who have maintained a high grade point average (GPA) instead of putting emphasis on standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT.

She said GPA shows students have learned study habits that are beneficial at the college level.

"We have really looked closely at the data and we are trying to go after students who are showing great potential through their work in high school," said Allen. "The thing we know about GPA is that it is the best predictor of success in college."

According to university records, the average GPA of students accepted for the fall 2016 term is 3.43 compared to 3.41 during the same time last year.

Last year, WSSU had a freshman enrollment of 887, the most in the schools' 124-year history.

Allen said this fall the university is set to enroll 900 first-year students. Allen noted anything beyond 900 is more than they can provide for, considering the number of students already enrolled at the university.

WSSU currently has an

undergraduate enrollment of about 5,150.

"Going into the fall, we are in really good shape," said Allen. "Our freshman enrollment will come in at or about our target, and that is always a plus."

The Chronicle will

have more information on an upcoming issue of the RaVonda Dalton-Rann in paper.

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