

## Cistern and Rain Garden Project reviewed at BOE meet

By LISA DiFILIPPO

The Dare County Board of Education held its first regularly scheduled meeting of the 2009-2010 school year Tuesday, September 9 at Manteo High School.

The meeting started out with congratulations going out to Manteo High School for the previous school year because the school's test scores were up, drop out rates were down, and the school had tremendous

accomplishments all around.

Following that, Manteo Principal John Luciano handed out specific recognitions to some of his staff and students for various achievements. Then some other Dare County School employees were recognized.

A Cistern and Rain Garden Project presentation followed with introduction by Nancy Griffin.

Griffin told that the project began last year and is being continued this year and is a partnership between local and non-governmental organizations. A small group of MHS students took turns telling portions of the story of the project.

The cistern collects rain from

the run-off of a 2100 square foot section of roof, and collects about 1300 gallons of water for every inch of rainfall. The water is then used to nourish the rain garden and other vegetation around the school.

Various students discussed that the project is co-curricular, involving AP Biology, Construction Technology class, Environmental Science, 21st Century Technologies, etc.

It also encourages green building practices, was in conjunction with the green building courses offered now at College of the Albemarle, employs a solar panel and pump for the cistern and has a very low carbon foot-

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print.

All of the organizations involved in the project are the Coastal Federation, NC Aquarium, Dare County Soil and Water Conservation, Earth Savers LLC Construction Co., Elizabethan Gardens, COA, and the Coastal Studies Institute.

Superintendent Dr. Sue Burgess gave her school opening report. She showed pictures of all of the marquees for each of the schools in Dare County; and told that she also personally visited, in four days time, each classroom in Dare and saw each teacher. Dr. Burgess then went on to continue her report and the board held the rest of its regular business.