

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2011 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION

Covington, GA

April 19, 2011

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The following board members were present: Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; Mr. Jeff Meadors, Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker and Ms. Abigail Coggin. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Ms. Coggin to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation of employees and meet with legal counsel to pertaining to pending or potential litigation. On a motion by Mr. Meadors and second by Ms. Coggin, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Mr. Turner, Ms. Coggin gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Several high school students and teachers received special recognition. Bryant Johnson of Eastside High School was recognized for being selected to participate in the Georgia School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. The participants of this council advise the Superintendent and the GaDOE on how state policies are impacting the classroom. Courtney Reid of Eastside High School was recently awarded with a President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their community and their country. The award was presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The following students and teachers were recognized as the STAR Students and STAR Teachers for this school year. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) sponsors the STAR program each year at the state level. Alcovy High's STAR student was Heather Steckenrider; with her selection for STAR Teacher being Mrs. Anita Anderson, Advanced World History teacher. Newton High's STAR student was Brian Carpenter; with his selection for STAR Teacher being Ms. Diana Brown, his Calculus teacher. Eastside High's STAR Student was Patrick Ford; with his selection for STAR Teacher being Mr. Eric Adams, his Latin teacher.

The following students were recognized as the 2011 Governor's Honors students: Conner Bryan, Eastside High will major in Latin this summer at Governor's Honors; and Ian Bachiller, Newton High, will major in Social Studies; and Aaron Cole, Newton High, will major in visual arts.

Eastside High School Academic Team recently won the State Championship in the AAA Classification of the Georgia Academic Team Association State Championship Tournament. The following students were recognized for this accomplishment: Julianna Laseter, Nic Walter, Adhitaya Rajasekaran, Cole Rogers, Patrick Ford and Conner Bryan. The Academic Team was coached by Mr. Eric Adams.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Mr. Turner called for a motion on the agenda as presented by the Superintendent of the April 2011 meetings as presented. Ms. Coggin made a motion for approval, Ms. Henderson-Baker seconded, and all voted in favor.

Board Chair Mr. Turner called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2011 meetings as presented. Mr. Meadors made a motion for approval, Ms. Coggin seconded, and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report No additional information was added by Dr. Dennis Carpenter to the Operations Report, which was presented at the April 12, 2011 work session. Copies of the report are attached.

On a motion by Mr. Meadors, a second by Ms. Henderson-Baker, and all voting in favor, the Operations Report was approved.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report Dr. Mathews presented no additional information to the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Reports as presented at the April 12, 2011 work session. Dr. Hayden was absent due to illness.

On a motion by Mr. Meadors, a second by Ms. Coggin, and all voting in favor, the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of New Business, Item A – Item G, were approved on a motion by Mr. Meadors, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items** Approval recommended for declaring items as presented as surplus as they are no longer serviceable to the school system. The motion also authorized the appropriate disposal of these items through a salvage company or other proper disposal method.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contract for Ice Cream for School Nutrition Program** Approval recommended for the annual renewable contract be awarded to Blue Bell Creameries, L. P. of Jonesboro, Georgia for the purchase of ice cream and related products for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be April 26, 2011 and the expiration date will be April 25, 2012. The vendor has performed satisfactorily, met all contractual requirements, and submitted fair pricing for all items. The estimated annual contract value is \$85,000.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to the Purchase of New School Buses** Approval recommended for the school system to purchase three, forty-eight passenger buses and three, seventy-two passenger buses for a total of six new school buses from Rush Truck Centers of Georgia, located in Atlanta, Georgia. The GaDOE and the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFC) developed a bond program to provide reimbursements for local school systems for the purchase of new buses. These resources were provided in lieu of school bus replacement funds for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. Based on the state's allocation, the school system has been allotted a maximum reimbursement of \$457,752.00 for six new school buses, \$76,292.20 per bus. The net cost to the school system will be \$116,994.00 and will be paid using capital funds. Pricing is based on the current State of Georgia purchasing contract for school buses. The decision to purchase from Rush Truck Centers is based on a price comparison and also supports an overall effort to standardize the school bus fleet.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to PD 360** Approval recommended for Title IIA (federal) funds to renew PD 360 for the school year 2011-2012 school year. The purchase is a continuation of the contract approved during the 2010-2011 school year. The total purchase, using federal dollars, is \$39,995, which includes a district license and one day of the on-site training. PD 360 is utilized in all schools to enhance school improvement plans, required Professional Development Plans, and job-embedded professional learning. Through its online, interactive learning community, PD 360 offers teachers the opportunity to collaborate with their colleagues across the nation to seek out best practices and effective solutions.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal Contract for Computers** Approval recommended

of the annual renewable contract awarded to ByteSpeed, LLC of Moorhead, Minnesota for the purchase of computers and associated peripherals, be renewed for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be April 26, 2011 and the expiration date will be April 25, 2012. The cost of this technology is \$1,690.90 per classroom, a savings of \$1,530.00 per classroom over the cost of the traditional model (one computer workstation per student). The estimated contract value is \$600,000.00. This price includes outfitting the newly built Flint Hill Elementary School, as well as all planned projects and anticipated needs throughout the rest of the school system.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to STAR Assessments – Grades K-8; Accelerated Reader- Grades 1-8** Approval recommended to enter into a contract with *Renaissance Learning* for STAR student assessments in the areas of Early Literacy, Reading and Math. In addition, this contract will include *Accelerated Reader*, a software program to engage students in reading and to assess their reading comprehension skills. For FY11 and projected costs for FY12, there will be a 51% reduction in the expenditure of software utilized to measure student achievement with universal screening instruments.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbook Systems Portion** Approval recommended of the changes for the system portion of the 2011-2012 Elementary Student Handbook.

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Ms. Coggin made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, Mr. Meadors seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Meadors, second by Ms. Coggin, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education