

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2010 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION

Covington, GA

August 17, 2010

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2010. The following board members were present: Chairman Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; Mr. Johnny Smith and Mr. Greg Proffitt. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Johnson to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Ms. Dobbs, Mr. Proffitt gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Academy of Liberal Arts at Newton High School 10th grader Aaron Cole was recognized for his pencil portrait of Aristotle, which won the Eighth District Congressional Art Show. Aaron also received a \$5,000 scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design. His artwork will hang, along with the other winning entries from around the country, in the Cannon Tunnel of the U. S. Capital Building in Washington, D.C. for one year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Kathleen Clayton expressed her concern to the Board for approval of an out of zone request for her son, Brandon Simmons.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion on the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Smith made a motion for approval, Mr. Turner seconded, and all voted in favor.

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes in the August 2010 meeting as presented. Mr. Proffitt seconded the motion 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 August 10, 2010 work session. Copies of the report are attached.

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Report No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Report as presented at the August 10, 2010, work session.

On a motion by Mr. Turner and a second by Mr. Smith, the Superintendent's Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following item of New Business, Item A, was approved on a motion by Mr. Proffitt, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Class Size Resolution** Approval recommended for the submission of a class size resolution to the State DOE, which reflects the instructional program class sizes, the NCSS may utilize during the 2010-2011 school year that are above the State BOE requirements. The resolution authorizes the Superintendent to increase the class size maximums to exceed the current requirements by:
1 to 5 students in grades K-12 regular education; 1 to 5 students in English Language Learners (ELL); 1 to 7 students in Gifted; 1 to 5 students in Early Intervention Program (EIP); 1 to 5 students in Remedial Education Program (REP); and 1 to 5 students in the K-12 Physical Ed Program.

The following item, Item B, was approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract with Disbursement Review, LLC** Approval recommended for the District to engage Disbursement Review, LLC to provide disbursement review services on a contingency-fee basis initially for the period ending June 30, 2010 and prior. This company provides accounts payable disbursement review services for K-12 school districts. This company will review the District's historical data to identify any overpayments and/or under-deductions which may have occurred. Their fee will be 50% of the actual gross recovered dollars which may be forthcoming from this review. NCSS will not incur any upfront costs.

The following item, Item C, was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Smith, 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.

The following items, Item D – Item F, were approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, a second by Mr. Proffit, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Agreement with Providastaff, LLC** Approval recommended for the agreement between the NCSS and Providastaff, LLC for providing speech therapy services to students with disabilities, in accordance with their Individual Education Program (IEPs). Due to having speech vacancies that are difficult to fill, these contracted services are needed. The contract rate of \$59.00 per hour for Clinical Fellowship Year and \$65.00 per hour Speech Language Pathologist with Certificate of Clinical Competence was set by the company. Funding for this activity is from the FY11 General funds.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Signs of Joy, LLC** Approval recommended for the agreement between the NCSSystem and Signs of Joy, LLC, for providing substitute educational interpreting services to students with disabilities, in accordance with their Individual Education Programs, (IEPs). A copy of the contract is attached. Funding for this activity is from the FY11 IDEA Flowthrough funds.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Internet Content Filter Software** Approval recommended for the renewal of the contract awarded to Diversified Computer Solutions, Inc. for Lightspeed Web Access manager software. The effective date of the contract will be August 1, 2010 and the expiration date will be August 17, 2011. During this contract term, the school system will renew and purchase a total of 7,800 licenses with support for \$31,200. This cost reflects a continuation of the 2009 pricing agreement and thus represents a zero net increase in the cost per license.

The following item, Item G, was amended and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Proffitt, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Transition from Disciplinary Tribunal Hearings to Single Officer Model** Approval recommended, after discussion and revision of the Single Officer Model, to transition from disciplinary tribunal hearings to a two-member officer model. BOE Policy JCDAE (Weapons), JD (Discipline)

and JDD(1)/JDE(1) (Student Suspension and Expulsion) will each be amended to reflect the use of the two – member officer model. Implementation of the revised policy’s and student handbook could take effect as early as September 22, 2010. This change would result in a financial savings for the system and also the school-based administrative staff would be able to spend many hours more in their respective building allowing them to concentrate on teaching and learning and school decorum or discipline on location.

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. Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the list of recommendations, Mr. Turner seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Ms. Dobbs reminded those in attendance of the upcoming football games: August 27, 2010 - Alcovy High (home) vs. Eastside High; and August 28, 2010, between Newton High vs. Shiloh High.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Proffitt, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education