

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

December 14, 2010

The Newton County Board of Education held the combined December work session and regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, in the Board Room of the Central Office Administrative Building. The following Board members were present: Board Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Vice Chairman Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Johnny Smith; Mr. Greg Proffitt; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and potential litigation. With a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 4-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Robert Stansfield, representative of the Newton Foundation for Excellence, presented monetary grants to Newton County teachers, which were awarded based on grant application submissions to the Foundation. Grants were awarded to Newton High School – Justin Bennett; Eastside High School – Kerry Stevens; Indian Creek Middle School – (group) Renee Mallard, Lori McGovern and Eric Hasty; Clements Middle School (group) Michelle Campbell, Denise Walker, and Jenea Williams; Palmer Stone – (group) Whitney Strickland and Holly Smith-Foot; Ficquett – Donna Harris; Live Oak Elementary – (group) Etha Addison and Elizabeth Cooke; and West Newton Elementary – Keisha Sampson/First Grade Team. Awards totaled over \$5,700.00.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three requests for public participation. Mr. David Eady Stone expressed his concerns in regards to the possibility of transferring the name Palmer Stone Elementary to the New Elementary School #15. Mr. Jimmy Tanner and Ms. Dawn Moon expressed their concerns in regards to the rezoning of the middle schools for 2011-2012.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Mr. Johnson. All voted in favor.

Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the November 2010 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Reports Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2010. With 41.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 49.07% and total expenditures are at 41.42%.

Newton County Schools System's September SPLOST III distribution is \$770,828 a decrease of \$35,297 from our August collection. Total SPLOST III received for the first nine months is approximately \$8,397,703 averaging \$839,770 per month.

Per O.C.G.A. 48-8-122 local boards of education must post a report of SPLOST expenditures in the county's legal organ by December 31 of each year. The report reflects expenditures thru June 30, 2010. The final page of the Operations Report provides a copy of this document for your records. We will submit this report for inclusions in the December 19, 2010 issue of the *Covington News*.

A project meeting was held on November 17, 2010. Representatives from Ricks Contractors, Inc. reported that progress had been made to recover the two weeks lost due to the inclement weather reported last month. The big box and little box main level section of the building are on schedule with preliminary paint work beginning on the east side. The project is approximately 49% complete. The next project meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

The average cost of diesel fuel purchased during November was \$2.43 per gallon. Fuel was last purchased in October for an average cost of \$2.35 per gallon. In November 2009, the average cost of fuel was \$2.22.

The procurement and transportation departments are researching the efficiency and cost savings potential of implementing a fleet card system as a supplement to the current fueling process.

The Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program Area Consultants will conduct three reviews of the School Nutrition Program in January and February of 2011. In January, a coordinated review (CRE) will look at all aspects of how free and reduced price meals are provided to the students. This includes an application processing, communication of student meal status to school cafeterias and counting and claiming of the meals served. Also in January, the team will conduct a School Meals Initiative Review (SMI) which is a review of the nutritional make-up of the meals served. In February, a second team will document a Procurement Review of purchasing practices for the School Nutrition Program. A total of four schools will be reviewed.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report
CIT Report.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the

The second meeting of the Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA) Board of Directors was conducted on December 1, 2010. The meeting focused on creating a continuous improvement cycle and student work ethic grading rubric. An attempt was made to define the terms "College and Career Readiness" and "21st Century Learning Skills". The Board approved the NCCA Marketing plan, programs for 2010-2011, and the exploration of becoming a Next Generation Learning Community through a Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies grant.

Ms. Shundreia Neely, Federal Programs Instructional Specialist, worked with the secondary teachers to integrate literature and English (STILE) on November 15, 2010 to discuss and develop additional differentiated instruction strategies for middle school and high school students. Teachers received and shared several activities to use as learning centers, such as: Question-Answer Relationship, Word Ladder, Cubing, Thinking Inside the Box and Insert. Each strategy was modeled to ensure understanding. Teachers were presented with information regarding ways to build background knowledge. Important highlights were virtual experiences teacher can create in the classroom to build background knowledge; such as reading (sustained silent reading), language interaction, and educational television. Lastly, interactive grammar flip charts were shared to help teachers integrate technology. The flip charts were modeled and teachers were allowed to demonstrate usage.

Approximately 1,600 fourth grade students and teachers attended the Newton County Arts Association production of the *Nutcracker* on December 3, 2010. Prior to the performances, the teachers were provided with curriculum guides to assist in preparing students to attend the production. Field experiences, such as attendance at cultural events, are critical in building students' background knowledge.

Career, technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) teachers from all high schools and middle schools are finalizing a curriculum project to develop district-based course syllabi and pacing guides. The project will create alignment in content taught by each teacher within a specified content area. In addition, teachers identified vocabulary to support the research based strategy of "Building Background Knowledge". These vocabulary words were cross-referenced with core academic courses through collaboration with academic teachers.

The Work-Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship Program conducted the Aspiring Young Professionals Banquet on December 9, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Turner Lake Complex. For the past several months, the Work-Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship students have participated in business etiquette and “soft skill” lessons in preparing for this event. Business and education leaders provided networking for students in a business dinner environment. Business leaders had to complete a short evaluation of the student’s performance in the business environment. The evaluation will provide feedback to the student and help the student to improve communication and social skills.

Student results for the Georgia High School Writing Test, including domains, have been entered into Infinite Campus. End of Course tests are scheduled for December 3 – December 4, 2010, with make-ups scheduled for December 15 – 17, 2010.

Fifth grade teacher representatives from several elementary schools met on December 3, 2010 to develop with the assistance of Adam Phyll and Andria Bunner, electronic flip-charts for the ActivBoards using the math content from the Georgia Performance Standards. These flip charts will be used with students to teach math lessons. Third grade teachers will meet on January 26, 2011 for a similar workshop.

The CTAE Department received a grant for \$14,516 to fund the cost of administering 265 industry assessments for students at all system high schools and Sharp Learning Center. The funding will be used to purchase national assessments for students who are career pathway completers.

In mid-October, Middle Ridge Elementary experienced electrical power surges that were caused by severe thunderstorms. The school reported by 8 a.m. that many technology problems were occurring. A team of four technicians and one network engineer were dispatched as an Emergency Response Team to conduct an assessment of the situation and mitigate any damage. This team assessed all 247 computers and scores of other network connected devices as well as dozens of network switches. The final result of the assessment was fifteen computers needed their power supplies replaced and four Universal Power Supplies were damaged beyond repair. The fifteen computers were repaired and the four damaged UPSs were bypassed until replacements were purchased. All of these problems were resolved within four hours of the first report of the problem.

Ten school technicians attended a network assessment training class in November as Phase One of a three-part plan to develop and implement a Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan. Phase Two training will take place in the summer when a limited mock technology disaster will be staged to evaluate the Technology Department’s effectiveness and efficiency in assessing and responding to technology-related disasters.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on December 7, 2010, was 19,356. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was only one item, Item A, of Old Business:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Naming of New Elementary School #15** Approval recommended by the administration for the naming of the new elementary school currently under construction at 1300 Airport Road, Oxford, Georgia to be named Palmer Stone Elementary School.

After discussion, Chair Dobbs called for a motion of this item. The motion was made by Mr. Turner to not transfer the name Palmer Stone Elementary to the New Elementary School #15 and to follow Newton County Board Policy FDC, that was set in place previously, in naming the new school. With a second by Mr. Smith, the item passed with a 3-2 vote; with Mr. Smith, Mr. Turner and Mr. Proffitt voting for; and Ms. Dobbs and Mr. Johnson voting against.

NEW BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter;

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Elementary School Attendance Zones and Middle School Zones/Feeder Patterns** Approval recommended for the presented elementary school attendance zones and middle school zones/feeder patterns. Mr. Johnson made the motion to accept the item, with a second by Mr. Turner, the item failed with a 2-3 vote; with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Turner for and Mr. Smith, Ms. Dobbs and Mr. Proffitt voting against.

After discussion, Mr. Smith made the motion to amend the item into two parts: to accept the elementary rezoning as reviewed and to table the middle school rezoning until the newly elected Board members for 2011 could discuss and review the presented plan. Mr. Proffitt seconded the motion, and the elementary rezoning was approved with a 3-2 vote; with Ms. Dobbs, Mr. Turner and Mr. Proffitt voting for; and Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnson voting against. Mr. Proffitt made the motion to table the middle school rezoning, with a second by Mr. Smith; approved with a 3-2 vote; with Ms. Dobbs, Mr. Smith and Mr. Proffitt voting for; and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Turner voting against.

The following item, Item B, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Pest Control Services** Approval recommended for the annually renewable contract with Cox's Mid-Georgia Pest Control of Grayson, Georgia for pest control services be renewed for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be December 16, 2010 and the expiration dates will be December 15, 2011. The contractor has performed satisfactorily and did not request on increase. The estimated value of this contract is \$27,000.

The following item, Item C, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Proffitt, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal Contract of Maintenance and Repair of Kitchen Equipment** Approval recommended for the annual renewable contract with Beam Enterprise LLC of Covington, Georgia for maintenance and repair of kitchen equipment be renewed for an additional contact period. The effective date of the renewal will be December 16, 2010 and the expiration date will be December 15, 2011. The contract has performed satisfactorily and did not request a price increase. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$150,000.

The following item, Item D, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract with Utility Analyses, Inc.** Approval recommended for entering into a one year contract with Utilities Analyses, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia for services related to the following: review utility building variances and exceptions to identify potential refunds and credits; and to make recommendations to negotiate lower rates for utility services. UAI will provide an extensive review of school system expenditures for utilities (e.g. electricity, natural gas, water, sewage and waste disposal). UAI provides these services based on a contingency fee-based agreement in which UAI and the school system will retain an agreed upon percentage of refunds/credits and savings. The terms of this contract provide that UAI will retain forty percent of all savings and the school system will retain sixty percent. The contract was deemed acceptable by the Board attorney.

The following item, Item E, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Proffitt, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Property** 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 item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Modular Classrooms** Approval recommended to declare sixty-five modular classrooms as surplus, allowing for the appropriate disposal of the property. Sixty-three of these will be sold to the public using the web-based auction sites; www.govdeals.com and www.publicsurplus.com. With the two remaining modular classrooms, it is recommended that one be transferred to the Newton County Sheriff's Department and one transferred to the Washington Street Community Center.

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Linda Hayden, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Recommendations for Theme School for 2011-2012** Approval recommended for the Newton County Theme Plan be adopted for the 2011-2012 school year. The plan expands the grade span at the theme school and adds additional teachers for sixth grade. In addition, the plan allows for the continuation of academic and discipline requirements for initial entrance, as well as the Continuation Agreement requirements for academics and discipline for those already enrolled. Recommendations for a name change, Newton County Theme School at Ficquett, and transportation are also included.

The following item, Item H, was presented by Dr. Hayden, discussed, and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, a second by Mr. Proffitt, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Soliant Health, Inc. for 2010 - 2011** Approval recommended for the contract between the NCSS and Soliant Health, Inc. to provide speech/language therapy services to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Services are provided with outside agencies when full time system employees cannot meet the needs as required. Hourly rates are based on years of experience and level of degree obtained by the provider. Funding for contracted speech/language pathologists is from FY 11 Federal IDEA Flow-through funds.

The following item, Item I, was presented by Dr. Mathews, discussed and approved, on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Provisions per Georgia Senate Bill 84** Approval recommended for the presented Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest provisions per Georgia Senate Bill 84 signed into law by Governor Sonny Perdue in May 2010 to replace the current NCBOE Policy BH – Board Member Ethics.

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Proffitt and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

The following items, Item K – Item M, were presented by Dr. Mathews:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution Honoring Ms. Cathy Dobbs** Approval recommended for the resolution honoring Ms. Cathy Dobbs for her service and dedication to the students and school system during her eight-year tenure as a representative of District 3 of the Newton County Board of Education.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution Honoring Mr. Johnny Smith** Approval recommended for the resolution honoring Mr. Johnny Smith for his service and dedication to the students and school system during his six-year tenure as a representative of District 1 of the Newton County Board of Education.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution Honoring Mr. Greg Proffitt** Approval recommended for the resolution honoring Mr. Greg Proffitt for his service and dedication to the students and school system during his tenure as representative of District 5 of the Newton County Board of Education. Mr. Proffitt volunteered to serve to fill the unexpired term of a departing Board member.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education