

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Covington, GA

February 8, 2011

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair Mr. Eddie Johnson, Ms. Abigail Coggin, Mr. Jeff Meadors and Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker. At 6:00 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Johnson, and second by Mr. Meadors, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Coggin and second by Mr. Meadors, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

### WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Mr. Turner, Ms. Coggin was in charge of the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Coggin's daughter, Kathleen, gave the invocation and her son, Cub Scout Shaw Coggin, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Turner welcomed members of Newton County Youth Leadership to the meeting.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

### SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

**Operations Reports** Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2011. With 58.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 82.22% and total expenditures are at 57.58%.

Newton County School System's December SPLOST III distribution is \$935,301 an increase of \$215,627 from our November collection and the most collected in a month for SPLOST III. Total SPLOST III received for the first twelve months is approximately \$10,052,678 averaging \$837,723 per month.

Maintenance has assessed all portables and approximately 65 portables will be available for surplus in the coming months. Three portables have been slated for use by local agencies; Emergency Management, Newton County Fire and Washington Street Community Center.

A project meeting for Elementary School #15 was held on January 20, 2011. Representatives from Ricks Contractors, Inc. reported that the project is progressing adequately to the completion deadline. The big box and little box main level sections of the building are on schedule, with paint work continuing from the east side westward. The project is approximately 72% complete. The next project meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

A project meeting for the Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA) was held on January 20, 2011. MEJA Construction, Inc. reported that the structural steel support installation continues and wall footings are nearing completion. Once finished, this will complete the forms for the foundation and concrete should be poured and completed within the next 30 days. Shop drawings for the project have been reviewed and approved. The next project meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011.

Michael Barr, Director of Support Services, and Cory Craver, Procurement Specialist, attended a Facilities and Capital Outlay Institute seminar hosted by the Georgia School Superintendents' Association on January 16-27, 2011. The seminar consisted of an overview of the development of a five-year construction plan, including facility planning processes, project delivery, and funding procurement.

## PRESENTATION

Dr. Hayden introduced Mr. Tom Smith, Principal at Union Grove High school, and Ms. Dawn Jordan, Graduation Coach at Union Grove High School. They presented, via PowerPoint presentation, information on the 7-Period Day schedule, which is being used at Union Grove High School. Their presentation provided information as to how a possible change in high school schedules in Newton County could portend an annual savings to the NCSS budget of approximately \$2,820,000 for the school year 2011-2012. This would move the high schools from a 4 x 4 block schedule now being utilized to a 7-period block, which is inclusive of a "focus" period. Moreover, this move holds prospect for greater student achievement.

**Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report** Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

Math Exemplars consultant, Mrs. Deb Armitage, is currently working in all Title I schools modeling lessons for teachers who work with the various grade levels. In kindergarten, lessons are modeled on sorting, comparing, and ordering numbers. In first grade, the students are asked to solve problems involving money and making exchanges with money. In grades three and five, Mrs. Armitage is working with teachers modeling lessons on fractions, decimals, and geometry (solid and plane figures). Students are being taught a systematic method for problem solving.

Instructional strategist, Dr. Dan Mulligan, worked with the NCSS Special Education teachers on January 24, 2011 and with a group of elementary and secondary teachers on January 25, 2011. Dr. Mulligan's work, in support of the system's strategic plan for *teaching-for-learning-for-all*, is an intricate part of capacity building aimed at delivering a high quality of instruction in our classrooms. More specifically, Dr. Mulligan explained, modeled and debriefed with participants as to the delivery of various research-based "structures".

College Board representative, Mr. Bill Heron, visited Newton on January 28, 2011 and presented available reports. He gave instructions on how to utilize the data from each report for the SAT, PSAT, and Advanced Placement assessments. Principals, assistant principals for curriculum, counselors, and AP Coordinators from each high school, as well as members of the District Leadership Team were in attendance.

The Georgia ACT fourth Annual Forum was held on January 28, 2011 in Atlanta. The forum provided an opportunity to learn more about the ACT, research related to college and career readiness, and new services offered by the ACT. The following counselors/administrators attended the conference: Dr. Tina Daniel – Eastside High; Ms. Stacy Kitchens – Alcovy High School; Ms. Francene Breakfield – Newton High School; Ms. Rita Bocavaz – Alcovy High School; Ms. Kathy Lee – Indian Creek Middle School and Mr. James Woodard – CTAE Director.

Ms. Andria Bunner and Mr. Adam Phyll worked with the third grade teachers on how to create flip charts for Math. Ms. Bunner has continued her book study with Middle Ridge Elementary. The focus of the book study has been how to use "Number Talks" in math lessons. Other Title I elementary schools have been provided professional development using technology as a center for Reading and Math.

Technicians Mike Howard and Steven Smith attended three days of training on Ghost Solution Suite 2.5 in preparation for our migration to Windows 7 on all our computers in the next eighteen months. Ghost Solution Suite 2.5 will be used to image over 8,000 computers.

Gary Shattuck, Scott Thomas, Brandon Edge and Adam Phyll attended a one day seminar in January on utilizing Apple products in a school system in preparation for the opening of the Newton College and Career Academy. As new products become available, the Technology Department works hard to remain current.

All principals worked with Mr. Phillip Mellor, a consultant in special education, on February 3, 2011 to assist in developing more effective scheduling/instruction for all special education students. Changes in scheduling have the potential to positively impact student achievement and help the district become more fiscally responsible.

School nurses were extremely busy during the month of December. Many schools experienced unusually high absenteeism due to various illnesses. Collectively, approximately 4,550 students were referred to the clinic due to illness and 895 students were seen due to injury. Approximately 275 employees were also seen during this month. These statistics do not cover other daily procedures; such as administering medicine, phone calls, meetings, conferences and health checks.

Representatives from the Governor's Office of Workforce Development visited Newton County last week to proclaim the county a certified Georgia Work Ready Community. Melvin Everson, director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, presented the proclamation to the NCSS, the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, and other county and city entities. Newton County was one of five counties in the state to be named as a new Certified Work Ready Community of Excellence, a designation communicating that a county has the skilled work force needed to meet business demands and drive economic growth, as well as the educational foundation to build a pipeline of workers ready to create ongoing success.

Newton County held its third annual Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl competition on January 29, 2011 at Eastside High. All eight secondary schools and Live Oak Elementary sent teams. There were 65 competitors. In addition to the Media Specialists who served as their schools' coach, there were many teachers and paraprofessionals who volunteered their time to make this year's competition successful. Six Newton Service Guild members also volunteered to act as competition officials. Scores of spectators participated in cheering their team onward, making the competition even more exciting and fun. In the high school division, Alcovy High took first place and Newton High won second place honors. In the middle school division, Veterans Memorial Middle won first place, and Indian Creek Middle won second place honors. These four teams, along with Live Oak Elementary, will advance to the district competition, which will be held at Clayton State University on February 5, 2011.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on February 3, 2011, was 19,200. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following items, Item A – Item C, of New Business were presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Diesel Fuel Contract Renewal**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Three Tiered Pupil Transportation**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

The following items, Item D and Item E, were presented by Dr. Hayden:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Telecommunication Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval for Promethean Products through Logical Choice Technologies**

The following item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Mathews:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2011 NCSS BOE Legislative Positions**

**Executive Session** Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Meadors and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Meadors, and all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education