

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

January 18, 2011

At 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, the first order of business was the administration of the Oath of Office by the Honorable Judge Henry Baker to three incoming board members; Mr. Jeff Meadors, who was elected in November to represent District 1 (replacing Mr. Johnny Smith), Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker, who was elected in November to represent District 3 (replacing Ms. Cathy Dobbs) ,and Ms. Abigail Coggin, who was elected in November to represent District 5 (replacing Mr. Greg Proffitt). A group of family and friends was present to witness the official swearing-in ceremony.

Following the brief ceremony, the Newton County Board of Education held the combined January work session and regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, in the Board Room of the Central Office Administrative Building. The original work session of January 11, 2011 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The following Board members were present: Presiding Chair Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Jeff Meadors, Mr. Eddie Johnson, Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker and Ms. Abigail Coggin.

On a motion by Mr. Eddie Johnson and second by Mr. Jeff Meadors, 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. Johnson and second by Ms. Henderson-Baker, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Mr. Turner, he also gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

There was no special recognition.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the December 2010 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Henderson-Baker 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 December 31, 2010. With 50% of the year complete, total revenues are at 62.39% and total expenditures are at 49.56%.

Newton County Schools System's October SPLOST III distribution is \$719,674 - a decrease of \$51,154 from our September collection. Total SPLOST III received for the first eleven months is approximately \$9,117,377 - averaging \$828,852 per month.

As part of the official record and notification to the public, the BOE approved the purchase of 117.77 acres located on Land Lots 164 and 165 of the 10th Land District, Newton County, Georgia (Crowell Road North). The closing on the property was December 21, 2010. The price per acre was \$19,331 per acre for a total purchase price of \$2,276,600. A new high school, to replace Newton High School, is planned for the site. It is anticipated that the District will be ready to let a contract on this school in the spring of 2011, with the school opening for the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

NCSS facilities were put on holiday scheduling for energy conservation during the semester break, as well as the week the school system was closed due to inclement weather.

Project meetings were held for Elementary School #15 and the Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA) on December 16, 2010.

The Procurement Department, in conjunction with representatives of the City of Covington, Newton Board of Commissioners, Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority and staff from the Center for Community Preservation and Planning, are meeting together as part of the Newton County Center's Infrastructure Siting Committee. The focus of this committee is to coordinate future school locations with other county projects to provide for proper growth and expansion according to the 2050 Plan for Newton County.

The average cost for diesel fuel purchased during December was \$2.52. Fuel was last purchased in November for an average cost of \$2.43. In December 2009, the average cost of fuel was \$2.04.

Dr. Carpenter introduced Mr. Danny Reed, who presented information to the BOE members on Tiered Routing for Transportation. This proposal is being reviewed as a possibility for the upcoming school year as a way of reducing transportation costs for the NCSS.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report

Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the

CIT Report.

Newton County College and Career Academy will be receiving a \$10,000 grant to support their efforts to become a Ford PAS Next Generation Learning Community. This announcement follows the unanimous decision by the Board of the NCCA to pursue this nationally recognized designation. Currently, fourteen communities from across the nation are designed as a Ford PAS Next General Learning Communities. Next Generation Learning Communities work to create meaningful learning experiences that enable students to apply academic knowledge to real world learning experiences. The research-based program has been a success in other career academies. They also create and maintain career-and interest-based programs and the collaborative culture, structures, and practices necessary to transform teaching and learning. Additionally, they engage employers, educators, civic and community leaders to collaborate in promoting and sustaining educational programs that prepare the future workforce.

The Newton County Spelling Bee will be held on February 4, 2011 at 10 p.m. at Eastside High School in the auditorium. Winners of the school-level Spelling Bees from all elementary and middle schools will be competing.

Mr. Adam Phyll, Federal Programs Technical Data Facilitator, worked with teachers in utilizing MediaCast as a repository for instructional resources, such as flipcharts, lesson plans, and educational websites. Mrs. Andria Bunner and Mr. Phyll will be working with third grade teachers to create flipcharts for instruction that match our GPS in Math and ELA. The flipchart lessons will be used with the ActivBoards.

A team of central office administrators visited the Promethean headquarters in Alpharetta and the headquarters of Logical Choice Technologies in Lawrenceville on January 4, 2011. The team was given a "heads up" on future technologies so that the team could be better informed to make responsible decisions regarding technology implementation.

In November, Ross Hendricks and Brandon Edge completed a Computer Forensic Investigation Training program. Ross Hendricks is now a Certified Hacking Forensic Investigator. Brandon Edge is also in the process of receiving the same certification. Both technicians are also scheduled to take the Ethical Computer Hacking course. These courses are allowing the school system to develop the human capital necessary to protect the system's valuable data.

The Newton County Parent Resource Center will be hosting a workshop for parents on "Bully Prevention and How to Recognize the Signs of Bullying" at the Parent Resource Center located at Clements Middle School on January 20, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Phyllis Lucia, from Ombudsman – An Alternative Route, gave a powerpoint presentation to those in attendance. This program provides school districts with an alternative route to a high school diploma for students with attendance, credits or academic skills, or adult responsibilities that keep them from being successful in a traditional classroom. This proposal is being reviewed as a possibility for the upcoming school year as a way of reducing alternative school costs for the NCSS.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on January 6, 2011, was 19,273. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

On a motion by Ms. Henderson-Baker and a second by Mr. Johnson, the Superintendent's Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to FY 2012 Budget Calendar** Approval recommended to adopt the FY 12 tentative budget calendar. The budget calendar is set to coincide with the adoption of the final budget prior to the adjournment of the final Board meeting in June. Once the enrollments have been finalized, schools will receive an allotment that will project student enrollments and staffing for the 2011-2012 school year. Staffing will be based on an increase in maximum class size as approved by the State BOE. Guaranteed budgets will be based on the same amount per projected student as applied to 2010-2011 initial allotments; those amounts are indicated on the attached calendar. The calendar provides time for principals to discuss budgets and receive input from their staff prior to submitting their guaranteed budget. Time is set aside for the Board to hold budget work sessions and public hearings as may be needed or required.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contract for Comprehensive Custodial Program** Approval recommended for the annual renewal contract to be awarded to Associated Paper, Inc., of Conyers, Georgia for the comprehensive custodial program. The effective date of the renewal will be January 19, 2011

and the expiration date will be January 18, 2012. The contractor has performed satisfactorily and data gathered show that the program has been successful. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$520,000. This figure represents a 7% decrease in the price of the total program contracted in the previous year. The current pricing includes a 1% reduction in the core program, as well as the elimination of the quarterly preventative - maintenance component for corded and battery powered equipment, providing an additional \$31,200 in savings. This contracted price includes coverage for all schools and facilities.

The following item, Item D, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Ms. Coggin, second by Mr. Johnso; the motion passed with a 4-0 vote; with Mr. Turner abstaining from the vote;

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities by Springfield Baptist Church** Approval recommended for the use of facilities by Springfield Baptist Church. The church is requesting continued use of the Porter Memorial Auditorium at Newton High School on Sunday mornings; 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; beginning February 6, 2011. A school employee has agreed to continue contracting with the church for services required in Board policy. In lieu of paying rent and utilities for the second year, the church will be donating \$18,121.00 to the school system for capital improvements to the Porter Auditorium; as such projects are approved and supported by the NCSS. Last year's donations for capital improvements totaled \$24,919.00 When the donations are combined for year one and year two of this request, the church will have paid the same amount in capital improvements as required in rental and utility fees.

The following item, Item E, was presented by Dr. Linda Hayden, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Meadors, second by Ms. Henderson-Baker, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Marcus Autism Center, Inc.** Approval recommended to continue the agreement between the NCSS and Marcus Autism Center, Inc. to provide intensive day treatment services for a NCSS student. The district is responsible for obtaining, providing, or arranging for the provision of special education services by the student's IEP, as well as the funding for such services for students residing in the District. A daily tuition fee of \$464.00 is charged, based on one staff to one student level of supervision.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Cobblestone Therapy for Speech/Language Services** Approval recommended of the agreement between the NCSS and Cobblestone Therapy to provide speech/language therapy services to a student with disabilities in accordance with their IEP's. These services are provided through system-hired positions and contractual agreements. At this time, the District needs speech/language services for a student attending the Marcus Institute; Cobblestone Therapy is able to provide these services. The contracted rate is \$180.00 per 60 minutes. Services will be provided by a qualified Speech/Language Pathologist, CCC-SLP, who is licensed by the Georgia Board of Examiners.

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Mathews, discussed, and approved on a motion by Mr. Meadors; a second by Ms. Coggin, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2011-2012 Board Meeting Dates** Dr. Mathews reviewed with the Board members the setting of the Board meeting dates. Members were reminded that once the calendar is set, only one meeting date can be changed.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Administrative Recommendation to Make-Up Three Missed School Days due to Winter Storm** Approval recommended for three make up days to be Wednesday, February 16, 2011; Thursday, February 17, 2011 and Monday, March 14, 2011. Three days were missed in January 2011 due to the winter storm. On the original 2010-2011 school calendar, March 14, 2011 was a student holiday/teacher

workday; with the change to a student day, teachers will be asked to log their makeup time to be reported to their Principal. Winter break will now be just two days; Friday, February 18, 2011 and Monday, February 21, 2011.

Election of 2011 Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

At the end of the regular monthly meeting in January of each year, it is standard procedure for the Board to elect a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, who will assume those positions immediately and will serve through the Board's regularly scheduled meeting in January of the following year. As such, Dr. Mathews called for nominations for the two offices, with a reminder that the nominations do not require a second. Requesting a point of personal privilege, Mr. Johnson then nominated Mr. Almond Turner of District 4 to assume the position of Chairperson. All voted in favor. Mr. Turner then asked for a nomination for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Coggin nominated Mr. Eddie Johnson to assume the position as Vice Chairperson. All voted in favor.

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Ms. Henderson-Baker 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 approximately 9:30 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Meadors, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education