

# **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING**

**Covington, GA**

**July 20, 2010**

The combined July work session and regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Cathy Dobbs and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Johnny Smith, Mr. Greg Proffitt and Mr. Eddie Johnson. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Smith, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

### **WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the welcome by Ms. Dobbs, the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were also given by Ms. Dobbs.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

### **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the agenda of the July 2010 meeting as presented. Mr. Smith made a motion for approval, Mr. Turner seconded, and all voted in favor.

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the minutes in the July 2010 meeting as presented. Mr. Turner made a motion for approval, Mr. Proffitt seconded, and all voted in favor.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

**Operations Report** Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the Operations Report. The financial report for June 30, 2010, is not available as data entry is continuing on FY 2010 invoices. Standard operating procedure is to close out all open purchase orders prior to closing out the fiscal year. The financial report as of July 31, 2010, will reflect the ending fund balance of FY 10 as the beginning fund balance of FY 11.

The Newton County School System's net May SPLOST III distribution is \$871,636; an increase of \$50,605 from our April collection. Total net SPLOST III received for the first five months is approximately \$4,316,873 averaging \$863,374 per month.

The gym floor at Newton High School is undergoing repairs due to water damage from a roof leak. These repairs will take ten days.

The flooring in the offices and in the band room at Mansfield Elementary will be replaced prior to the start of the school year. This was not a planned expenditure but necessary.

Work on Sharp Field is complete pending final inspection. It is expected all work will be completed prior to August 6, 2010.

Site work on the NCSS College and Career Academy project is underway and on schedule. Fencing is in place around the site to ensure student safety.

New Elementary School #15 site work is approximately 85% complete and on schedule. Footings for approximately 50% of the building are complete and slabs for the gymnasium and kitchen areas are in place.

A bus driver orientation will occur at 9 a.m. on July 28, 2010. At the meeting, drivers will receive route information and be advised of changes to procedures.

For fiscal year 2011, the Georgia General Assembly provided \$50 million dollars in funding with general obligation bonds. This funding is provided in lieu of school bus replacement funds for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. As a result, the school system will be eligible to receive a reimbursement of \$457,752 for the purchase of six new school buses (\$76,292 per bus). These buses may be purchased once bonds are sold by the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC.) The GADOE will communicate bond sale dates to local school systems soon as that information is made available.

As required by law, the Motor Carrier Compliance Division of the Georgia Department of Public Safety conducted an annual inspection of school system buses during June 2010. All buses in the fleet were deemed safe and acceptable for use in transporting students. The fleet consists of 201 conventional buses and 55 buses used for transporting students with special needs.

The procurement department has begun the implementation of its eProcurement system developed by SciQuest and Ion Wave Technologies. The software is a comprehensive solution that will allow nearly all of the school system's purchasing and supply management functions and practices to be conducted over the internet. The entire project, from solution configuration to final deployment (target date October 4), is estimated to take twelve to fourteen weeks. Greg Goins, procurement coordinator, will serve as the system's project manager.

In July 2010, Human Resources will be implementing SearchSoft ATS (Applicant Tracking System), a new online application and applicant tracking system, offered by SearchSoft Solutions, Inc. This application software package is developed exclusively for K-12 school systems and will replace the current application system. In addition to offering an online application tool for certified, classified, and administrative positions, SearchSoft ATS also includes electronic features for applicant tracking and teacher quality tracking purposes. This product will include additional services, such as an eRecruiting Module, NCLB Module, Reporting Module, Document Module, and eForms for new hire forms and other personnel documents and forms. This product will serve to streamline the application and hiring process which will reduce the time to hire and increase the district's ability to identify highly qualified teachers and attract, recruit, and hire the most qualified candidates available.

MealPay Plus revenues for 2010 School year were \$460,584. This is an increase of 19% for the year.

During the 2010 School Year, 2,676,246 lunch meals were served. This is an increase of 9.8% over School Year 2009. Average daily lunch participation for the year was 77.7%.

A total of 1,104,768 breakfasts were served in School Year 2010. This is an increase of 9.3% over School Year 2009. Average daily breakfast participation was 32.5%.

A total of 59,229 after school snacks were served in School Year 2010. Two middle schools, eight elementary schools and the Washington Street Community Center received snacks through the School Nutrition Program. This is an increase of 34.5% in snacks served during this school year. During 2009, eight elementary schools participated in the program.

The School Nutrition Program was notified on July 8, 2010 that Middle Ridge Elementary School has been awarded a Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant for the 2011 School Year. This is a grant sponsored by USDA and is administered through the School Nutrition Program. The fruits and vegetables will be offered as a snack that is provided directly to the classroom. This is the first year that Newton County will receive this grant.

Over 100 special education teachers and paraprofessionals participated in professional learning classes during the month of June. Training topics included MINDSET De-Escalation Training, Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), Data Collection and Utilization, Transition Planning for Secondary SWD, IEP Development, Assistive Technology, Developing Georgia Alternate Assessments, and Classroom Management. Participants earned professional learning hours and received stipends from IDEA/ARRA Stimulus funds.

Based on preliminary AYP data, Middle Ridge Elementary and Indian Creek Middle School will have to offer the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act (ESEA) Public School Choice, formerly known as No Child Left Behind Act. Public School Choice options for our district are as follows: Middle Ridge Elementary – East Newton Elementary and Heard Mixon Elementary; Indian Creek Middle – Clements Middle and Liberty Middle. There will be Public School Choice informational meetings held at each school; Middle Ridge – Tuesday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m.; Indian Creek Middle – July 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Clements Middle School has been awarded a \$67,500 Construction Related Equipment Grant from the GDOE. The grant will be used to purchase equipment for the Engineering/Technology program as a result of the recent renovation of the facilities. The grant is provided through the Career Technical and Agricultural Education Department to provide essential equipment that is beyond the normal equipment purchased through the renovation project.

Alcovy High School and Eastside High School have been awarded three Industry Certification Grants from the GADOE. The grants will focus on certifying the Healthcare Science Program at Alcovy High and the Business Programs at Eastside High and Alcovy High. Each program will receive a total of \$20,000. The grants will assist in purchasing new computer software and technology to allow students the opportunity to prepare and earn industry credentials. The program will be required to undergo the state Industry Certification Evaluation in April 2011.

New teacher orientation will be held August 2, 2010 at Eastside High School from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Approximately 60 new teachers are expected to attend the training.

Open House will be on August 5, 2010 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. for elementary schools and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. for middle and high schools. School begins on August 6, 2010 for students.

Dr. Kathy Garber, Grants Coordinator, has been working with elementary, middle and high school PE teachers since January 2009 to develop a project to enhance instruction in Physical Fitness and Nutrition. Teachers have put in hundreds of hours and personal time researching and piloting curriculum. The project is entitled the Newton County Health Kids Project and is being submitted to the USDOE for funding (approximately \$650,000 over the next three years.) The deadline for application is Monday, July 19, 2010. The Healthy Kids project will be implemented in a partnership among the NCSS, Georgia State University, The Newton County Community Partnership, Covington YMCA, Covington Police Department, Washington Street Community Center, Atlanta East Metro Health District, the Newton County Health Department, the Newton County Board of Commissioners, and the Recreation Department. Funds will be used to purchase nationally recognized research-based PE curriculum programs in grades PreK – 12 and the After School Program; Fitnessgram physical fitness assessment software; Fitnessgram assessments and any new equipment necessary.

The June 2010 Quarterly Report of activities related to the Newton College and Career Academy Grant was provided to the Board.

The NCSS current CRCT scores of preliminary data was provided to the Board. This information does not include the retest data.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Membership in Griffin RESA** Approval of the recommendation to adopt the Contract for Membership in the Griffin Regional Educational Service Agency. The membership contract is for \$150,525.03 which is a total increase of \$1,786.73.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Foam Tray Recycling Contract** Approval of the recommendation to accept the contract with B & W Waste, Inc. for the recycling of foam trays. The effective date of the contract will be July 21, 2010 and the expiration date will be July 20, 2011. B & W Waste, Inc., has agreed to continue to partner with a foam tray manufacturer and provide for the densification and packaging of polystyrene foam products for the school system. The annual value of the contract is \$35,900.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Awarding Contract for HVAC Services** Approval of the recommendation of the annual renewable contract for the HVAC contract services to be awarded to Beam Enterprises, LLC. The contract will provide for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning contractor services. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$370,000.

The following item, Item D, of New Business was presented by Dr. Carpenter and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, with a 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.

The following item, Item E, of New Business was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, with a second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreements with Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech/Language Pathologists** Approval of the recommendation to accept agreements between the NCSS and the following individuals to provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech/language therapy services to students with disabilities in accordance with the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Funding is from FY11 Federal IDEA Flowthrough funds.

### Physical Therapy:

Lynda Reagan	\$57.50 hour	111 days (3 days/wk and 3 workdays)
Carla Duncan	\$55.00 hour	111 days (3 days/wk and 3 workdays)

### Occupational Therapy:

Marcus Bramlett	\$55.50 hour	184 days
Laverne Shelton	\$52.50 hour	184 days
Jennifer Sorrow	\$52.50 hour	111 days (3 days/wk/3workdays)
LaVern Roper-Ramkisson	\$50.00 hour	184 days

Anna Silver	\$50.00 hour	184 days
Jessica Crutchfield	\$50.50 hour	184 days

Speech/Language Therapy:

Tawanna Jackson (Speech Matters)	\$65.00 hour	184 days
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The following item, Item F, of New Business was presented by Dr. Mathews and approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, with a second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Giving Superintendent Authority to Employ/Transfer Staff to Meet Enrollment Demands During First Month of School** Approval of the recommendation that the Superintendent be authorized to employ or transfer staff during the first month of school as enrollment and class size equity within the district demands. Although the State BOE has waived all regular education class size rules for the upcoming school year, the district is committed to maintaining K-12 class sizes as follows; Kindergarten – 22; grades 1-3: 23; grades 4-5: 30; grades 6-8: 30; and grades 9-12: 32. Accommodations have been made to a limited extent. However, the growth in the county school-age population may not always occur within those limits. If class sizes exceed the maximums outlined above, teacher may need to be added. If more teachers are employed than needed at one school, then classes are collapsed and teachers are transferred. Further, professionals may need to be added or transferred as those positions are used in determining class sizes for kindergarten and special education. Daily review of the numbers occurs in order to add or collapse classes. Since the enactment of school choice by No Child Left Behind, there may be a need to add bus drivers and/or monitors based on the number of students who participate in the choice option as those schools required offering choice. The FY budget contains \$200,000 in contingency funds to offset any additions in personnel. The costs for salaries and benefits of additional personnel needed per this memo will also be reported in the mid-term adjustment.

**Executive Session** Dr. Carpenter presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations. Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Ms. Dobbs reminded those in attendance of upcoming school system activities and the first day of school on August 6, 2010.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Proffitt, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education