

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION

Covington, GA

September 21, 2010

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The following Board members were present: Chairman; Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; Mr. Greg Proffitt and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Turner to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 2010 meetings as presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Smith made a motion for approval, Mr. Proffitt seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the September 2010 minutes as presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Turner made a motion for approval, Mr. Johnson 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 September 14, 2010 work session. Copies of the report are attached.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Reports as presented at the September 21, 2010 work session.

Dr. Linda Hayden introduced Ms. Deena Sams; School, Parent, Community Collaboration Coordinator; who presented an informational program on the after school programs in the school system, as well as information about other activities and programs that are provided.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Proffitt, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revisions of Policy JCDAE – Weapons; Policy JD – Discipline; and Policy JDD(1)JDE(1) – Student Suspension and Expulsion due to changes in the Disciplinary Tribunal Process** Approval recommended for the revisions of Policy JCDAE; Policy JD and Policy

JDD(1)JDE(1) in order to be in compliance with the move from Hearing Tribunal Panel to a Hearing Officer(s).

NEW BUSINESS

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Newton College and Career Academy** Approval recommended for the acceptance and awarding of the low bid for the NCCA to MEJA Construction, Inc., who submitted the low bid of \$13,747,000., which includes the base bid and selected alternates. The NCCA is on schedule to be completed in December 2011, with an anticipated opening date of January, 2012.

The following items, Item B and Item C, were approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Outlay Project Application – Replacement High School** Approval recommended of the FY 2012 Capital Outlay Application for the construction of a replacement facility for Newton High School. The FY 2012 application represents a request for funding for the construction of a replacement facility for the NHS as identified in the current five-year facility plan. The funding application is for \$29,169,232.00. All 2012 capital outlay applications will be funded by the State using Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs), which is authorized by the federal government through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The total cost for the construction and equipping of the new school is estimated to be \$43,000,000. Funds from the sale of QSCB's, Special Local Option Sale Tax III (SPLOST), and other local sources of revenue will be required to fully fund the project. The school system anticipates beginning construction of this project by April 1, 2011 and completing it by July 1, 2013. Upon approval of the application by the NCBOE, the application will be submitted to GaDOE for inclusion in the State budget for FY 2012. Once the state legislature appropriates the funding, bonds will be sold. Designated capital outlay funds will be available after bonds are sold; however, school systems may begin projects sooner utilizing local funds. On July 27, 2010, the school system applied for authorization to issue QSCBs for \$11,000,000 to ensure adequate initial funding. The anticipated date of these bonds is December 31, 2010.
- **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 of New Business, Items D – Item J, were approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Accelerated Reader and STAR Licenses** Approval recommended of the renewal of licenses for Accelerated Reader and STAR testing from Renaissance Learning, with the bid of \$63,484.84. Funding for the renewal was included in the Technology Department budget for 2010-2011.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to 3Com VCX Phone System** Approval recommended that the bid of \$36,359.60 from Infinity Network Solutions for a maintenance and service agreement for the 3C VCX phone system and accessory equipment be accepted. This phone system has allowed the school system to maintain the same quality of phone service and approximately the same price over the last five years, even though five new schools were added to the phone system.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of netTrekker Licenses** Approval recommended that the bid of \$31,897.00 from netTrekker for the renewal licenses for netTrekker educational search engine be accepted. netTrekker is a valuable tool for searching for websites and all the results are safe for children to use. Its' many features provide for differentiation of instruction in ways that is impossible with a non-education search engine, such as Google. Of the total cost of the product, the Title IID grant will pay \$26,250.00 and the remainder of

the cost will be paid with technology funds. This funding is approved in the FY11 budget. This renewal is for one year.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids to Provide Data, Video, Voice and Wireless Cabling and Equipment for Elementary School #15** Approval recommended that the bids of Infinity Network Solutions for \$497,179.64 for the technology infrastructure for Elementary School #15 be accepted. Capital projects will be the source of funding. The lowest bidder was selected and submitted to the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) in February, 2010 for consideration for an Erate grant. No determination has been made concerning the awarding of this grant. If this project is approved by Erate, they will reimburse the school system 78% of the cost of this project.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreements with Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Speech/Language Pathologist** Approval recommended that the agreements between the NCSS and the following individuals to provide services for visually impaired and speech/language therapy services to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Funding for this activity is from the FY11 General Fund. The contract rates are: Teacher of the Visually Impaired – Ms. Stacy Bevan, 122 days beginning September 23, 2010; four days per week at \$70.00 per hour; and Speech/Language Pathologist – Ms. Andrea Davidson, 146 days beginning September 27, 2010; five days per week at \$70.00 per hour.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Supplemental Educational Services** Approval recommended that the contract presented for supplemental educational services under Title I be approved. Schools that are in year two or more of Needs Improvement provide opportunities for students to have supplemental educational services. Only four schools qualify for offering the service: Ficquett Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, Indian Creek Middle School and Cousins Middle School. Supplemental Education Service providers must be approved by the GaDOE and from this list, a district may enter into an agreement for the purpose of paying from Title I funds, those costs associated with providing educational service to eligible students in addition to their regular instruction. The contract calls for the district and provider to enter into an agreement delineating the dates of the service period, responsibilities for specific achievement goals, payment rates and other terms as outlined. All providers are required to sign the contract.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Acceptance of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the 21st Century Community Learning Center continuation grant, in the amount of \$372,495.00. The NCSS received a federal grant in 2009 from the GaDOE to provide funds for operating 21st Century Community Learning Center after school programs for a total of 250 students at five sites: Porterdale Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary; Liberty Middle; Charter Challenge and the Washington Street Center. The program, under the grant, would continue the same for 2010.

The following item, Item K, was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Turner; with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Non-Negotiable Goals for NCSS** Approval recommended of Board adoption of two “non-negotiable” goals, which are attached, for the NCSS; (1) increased student achievement and (2) more effective teaching. For the Board to do so conveys an important and powerful message to school professionals as they go about the work of the organization on a day-to-day basis.

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

Ms. Dobbs announced that Dr. Craig Lockhart, from Bibb County, had been employed as of October 18, 2010 as the principal of Newton High School.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education