

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Called Planning Meeting**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday, October 10, 2011**

The Newton County Board of Education met for a special called planning meeting on October 10, 2011 in the Clamp Board Room of the Administrative Offices of the Newton County Board of Education. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner. Board members in attendance included Mr. Eddie Johnson, Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker, Ms. Abigail Coggin and Mr. Jeff Meadors. Also present, Superintendent Dr. Gary Mathews, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Public Relations Director Ms. Sherri Davis-Viniard, Business Manager Peggy Bullard, Elementary Director Dr. Ken Proctor, Secondary Director Ms. Samantha Fuhrey, Human Resources Director Ms. Nyree Sanders, Director of Technology Dr. Gary Shattuck, representatives from the local newspapers, *The Covington News and The Newton Citizen*.

At 9:00 a.m., Mr. Turner opened the meeting.

Items discussed:

Future plans for the Newton County Theme School at Ficquett

Newton College and Career Academy

Business Manager Peggy Bullard reviewed the previously approved budget reductions for 2011- 2012; multi-year projections, including 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 of the NCSS budgets. Ms. Bullard provided several handouts indicating revenue projections with various budget adjustments; adding one school day to the school calendar; step increases for employees and BOE payment toward employee health insurance. Also indicated were future positive and negative unknown variables that could affect the ending fund balance.

Director of Technology Dr. Gary Shattuck reviewed the E Rate process and plans for applied-for funding and uses for those monies if and when received. Mr. Turner call for a motion to use approved ERate allotment funds as first priority spending for school renovations, minus the data room at the NCBOE, as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Coggin, with a second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Turner called for a motion to approve first and second priority spending, as presented, with approved and received ERate funding; minus the proposed data room revisions at the NCBOE. The motion was made by Ms. Coggin, second by Mr. Johnson, the motion was approved with all voting in favor.

With the recent knowledge of an increased yearend fund balance, the Board reviewed many options as how these funds could be used. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Turner called for a motion on two options: Option #1 – to increase the BOE 403B retirement dividend by additional .5% for employees, \$10.00 BOE payment toward employee insurance premiums; and \$100.00 gift card to teachers for classroom supplies; or Option #2 – reimburse two days daily rate pay back to employees for two previously furloughed days beginning with the October payroll period; not adjusting the work/school calendar. This option would be reviewed annually.

In regards to Option #1; on a motion by Mr. Johnson, the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

In regards to Option #2; on a motion by Ms. Coggin, second by Ms. Henderson-Baker; option #2 was approved on a 4-1 vote; with Mr. Johnson voting against.

Other items discussed:

Centralized registration

Textbook shortages in the schools

Ombudsman facility, program and rental fees

At 1:10 p.m., Mr. Turner called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Ms. Coggin, with a second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education