

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2011 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

October 11, 2011

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. The following Board members were present: Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; Mr. Jeff Meadors, Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker and Ms. Abigail Coggin. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Meadors and second by Ms. Coggin, with all voting in favor, 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, the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Ms. Coggin.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no request for public participation.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report

Dr. Carpenter reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2011. The Newton County School System's net August SPLOST III distribution is \$910,438 – a decrease of \$249.33 from our net for July, but it is the second month in a row that collections have topped \$900,000. Total SPLOST III received for the first twenty months is approximately \$16,848,568 – averaging \$842,428 per month. In comparison, SPLOST II averaged \$830,490 per month of the sixty months of those collections.

With 25% of the year complete, total revenues are at 25.07% and total expenditures area at 26.08%.

The Maintenance Department has implemented the use of Utility Direct, a program to help track monthly usage and cost of all utilities.

A project meeting for the Newton College and Career Academy was held on September 28, 2011. MEJA Construction, Inc. reported that metal framing is nearing completion on the main and continues to be installed on the upper floors. Plumbing and electrical work continues on the main and upper floors. Fireproofing has been completed on the majority of all floors with a few localized areas remaining. Masonry continues on the lower and main floor forming walls and doorways for future classrooms and is being erected around the exterior of the building. Brick masons are laying brick along the east side of the building and will continue around its perimeter. Curb and gutter for the parking lots are nearing completion with final paving scheduled to take place during the school system's Fall Break. Roofing continues to be installed over the majority of the building. Wood trusses for the cafeteria and main entrance are scheduled to arrive on October 12th and will be installed the following week. Snapping Shoals has relocated power supply lines and the transformer has been delivered. Power feeder lines are being installed from the transformer to the main mechanical room to allow for power to be utilized throughout the building. The project is 62% complete. The project schedule has been modified and changes made in planning to ensure that the project will be completed by the January completion date. The next monthly project meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Representatives from A. L. Grading Contractors, Inc. have completed site work and have turned the project over to the General Contractor. Representatives from McKnight Construction have staked the building location, curb, gutter

locations and parking lots. McKnight Construction will focus on establishing parking lots and roads with rock and binders to allow for travel and storage for the project over the next few weeks. Footings for the building are being formed and are scheduled to be poured this week. Grading and formation of the entrance road bed has been initiated and will continue for the next few weeks. A project meeting date is being finalized for the end of October.

The average cost of diesel fuel purchased during September was \$3.08. Fuel was last purchased in August for an average cost of \$3.16. In September 2010, the average cost of fuel was \$2.21.

MealpayPlus revenue for September 2011 was \$146,456.90. This is a \$30,540.02 increase above the same period in 2010. September 2010 revenue increased 26% from September 2010.

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Report Dr. Ken Proctor, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, presented the CIT report.

Teacher Leaders, at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting on September 13, 2011, provided an excellent presentation on Wide Reading and Silent Sustained Reading. This resource can be utilized by Teacher Leaders and school administrators in all schools to provide professional learning to help build the background knowledge of all students.

Scott Thomas and Craig Dinn attended an *Apple* training class on security issues with *Apple* products. This training will be helpful for the Technology Department's efforts to support the Newton College and Career Academy. This additional training will be helping teachers have functioning technology to integrate into instruction.

Students from Flint Hill Elementary and Newton High School have art displayed on the second floor of the Central Office building for the month of October 2011.

Information was provided from the Office of Federal Program – Title I – as to how each school is providing workshop opportunities to meet the needs of their parents and information on three websites that offer parent resources they can use at home to support their child's learning.

The Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department was very successful in receiving grants to assist in purchasing equipment for the Newton College and Career Academy. The grants total \$1,345,000. The grant, funded through the GaDOE, is to be utilized in purchasing major equipment to be used in various programs areas at NCCA.

Mr. James Woodward provided the Board members with an update on the construction of the Newton College and Career Academy.

Ms. Fuhrey introduced Mr. John Wocha and other representatives from the Ombudsman Program. They explained the difficulties their program had incurred in trying to locate and open the program in Newton County. Due to the late notice of not being allowed to open in previously approved sites, the two sites currently being used are at one location, the old Sharp Learning Center site. If approved, the new site is one location, but will have two divisions, which will provide counseling and special education services at this site.

Ms. Fuhrey introduced high school principals, assistant principals and graduation coaches from the three high schools. They provided a powerpoint presentation on the job responsibilities of the graduation coaches at the high schools. A question/answer session followed this presentation.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on October 6, 2011 was 19,212. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business was presented by Dr. Proctor. This item will remain on the table until action is requested at the Board's regular meeting on October 25, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Board Policy IHA – Student Grading System of the NCSS Policy Manual**

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A - Item D, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on October 25, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contracts for Grounds Care and Maintenance of School System Grounds**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of New School Buses**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Waiver of Fees for Use of Newton County Theme School Cafeteria for Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner**

The following items, Item E – Item G, were presented by Dr. Proctor. The items were discussed and will remain on the table for one month for review and action will be requested on November 15, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of NCSS Policy – JAA – Equal Educational Opportunity**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Adoption of NCSS Policy JCAC – Harassment**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Rescinding of NCSS Policy JCDA and Adoption of NCSS Policy JCDA – both related to Bullying**

The following item, Item H, was presented by Dr. Gary Shattuck. The item was discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular monthly meeting on October 25, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Waiver Request from GaDOE for O.C.G.A. §20-2-1183 Possession of Electronic Communication Devices**

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Meadors made a motion to approve the list of recommendations regarding personnel, Ms. Coggin seconded, and all voted 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. Meadors; a second by Ms. Henderson-Baker, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education