

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION

Covington, GA

October 25, 2011

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. The following Board members were present: Chairman Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; Mr. Jeff Meadors, Ms. Abigail Coggin and Ms. Shakila Henderson-Baker. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Ms. Henderson-Baker to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Coggin 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 Mr. Turner, Ms. Henderson-Baker also gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Eastside High senior Seth Kimbrell was recognized for being recently named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Seth was among the top 50,000 highest scorers based on his scores on critical reading, mathematics and writing skill. He was also one of only 16,000 students nationwide to move on as a National Merit semifinalist.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no request for public participation.

### AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Mr. Turner called for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 2011 meetings as presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Meadors made a motion for approval, Ms. Henderson-Baker seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Board Chair Mr. Turner called for a motion to approve the September 2011 minutes as presented by the Superintendent. Ms. Coggin made a motion for approval, Mr. Meadors 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 October 11, 2011 work session. Copies of the report are attached.

On a motion by Mr. Meadors and a second by Ms. Coggin, the Operations Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

**Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report** No additional information was added by Dr. Ken Proctor to the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Reports as presented at the October 11, 2011 work session.

On a motion by Ms. Coggin and a second by Mr. Meadors, the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment 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. Meadors, second by Ms. Coggin, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Board Policy IHA – Student Grading System of the NCSS Policy Manual** Approval recommended for NCSS Board Policy IHA to be adopted as presented. This policy has been on the table for a month for review as required.

### NEW BUSINESS

The following items of New Business, Item A - Item D, were approved on a motion by Mr. Meadors, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contracts for Grounds Care and Maintenance of School System Grounds** Approval recommended for the annual renewable contract awarded to CMC Lawn Maintenance Inc. of Covington, Georgia for the care and maintenance of school system grounds to be renewed for an additional contract period. The effective date of the contract will be October 26, 2011 and the expiration date will be October 25, 2012. This vendor has met all contractual requirements, their performance has been exemplary and they have agreed to continue their service under the current terms and conditions of the contract, with no price increase. There will be an increased yearly cost of \$12,000 due to the addition of Flint Hill Elementary. It is added at the same rate developed for all other schools under the original contract, using a formula which takes into account the total acreage to be mowed, the amount of playground and landscaping mulch, trees and bushes to be maintained, etc. Additionally, the vendor has agreed to take on the care and maintenance of all athletic fields. The athletic component was designed as a separate component, but due to inconsistent vendor performance, this contract will not be renewed. Rather, the scope of work for the grounds care and maintenance contract has been enlarged to incorporate the care of athletic fields. CMC's price for this addition was less than the price paid to the previous vendor under the old contract. The total estimated contract value is \$292,484.96.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of New School Buses** Approval recommended that the school system purchase two eighty-four passenger buses and one seventy-two passenger bus from Rush Truck Centers of Georgia (formerly known as Nalley Motor Trucks), located in Atlanta, Georgia. The net cost to the school system will be \$86,422.50 and will be paid using capital funds. Pricing is based on the current State of Georgia purchasing contract for school buses. The decision to purchase International buses from Rush Truck Centers is based on price comparison and also supports an overall effort to standardize the school bus fleet.
- **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.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Waiver of Fees for Use of Newton County Theme School Cafeteria for Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner** Approval recommended for the use of Newton County Theme School at Ficquett cafeteria for the annual Community Thanksgiving Meal sponsored by the Newton County Ministers Union, with fees waived. This event has been taking place for the last twelve years.

The following item of New Business, Item E, was presented by Dr. Mathews. After discussion; the item was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Ms. Coggin, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Second Amendment to Ombudsman Contract** Approval recommended for the second amendment of the current Ombudsman contract. It includes an alternate site to replace the previously agreed-upon two sites, as well as agreement on Ombudsman's part to pay rental fees for the use of NCSS space, during the 2011-2012 school year.

The following items of New Business, Item F – Item H, will remain on the table for one month for review and will be voted on at the regular session 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 JCDAG – both related to Bullying**

The following item, Item I, is for discussion. This item will be placed on the November 2011 agenda for action:

- **Discussion of Purchase of the NCSS 2012-2013 Student Agendas** Approval recommended for the purchase of student handbooks for students in grades K-12 for the 2012-2013 school year. These funds will be budgeted in the FY13 general budget. Global Datebooks, the company that has produced the agendas for the last two years, has agreed to produce the agendas for the 2012-2013 school year for the same costs and they have offered a \$750 discount if the agreement is executed on or before November 15, 2011. No funds are due until the agendas are received in July, 2012. After school contributions, the total district cost for 2011-2012 was \$23,892.50.

The following item of New Business, Item J, was approved on a motion by Mr. Meadors, second by Ms. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Waiver Request from GaDOE for O.C.G.A. §20-2-1183 Possession of Electronic Communication Devices** Approval recommended of the resolution seeking a waiver from state statute §20-2-1183 Possession of Electronic Communication Devices. This waiver is being requested in order to leverage the personal technologies of students, in conjunction with district-provided devices, to support the use of technology to increase student achievement. A majority of students already have these devices while at school. The NCSS wants to make positive use of these personally-owned devices in order to enhance a teacher’s utilization of technology in an effort to engage these students in their own learning.

**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. Meadors made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, Ms. Henderson-Baker 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 7:25 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Henderson, second by Mr. Meadors, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education