

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

September 13, 2011

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 13, 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 Ms. Henderson-Baker and second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees. Ms. Coggin was not present for Executive Session, but joined the regular public work session.

On a motion by Mr. Meadors 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, the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mr. Jeff Meadors.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Karen Citizen-Wilcox expressed her satisfaction and thanks for the After School Program at Oak Hill Elementary. She also informed the Board of the fundraising activity at Alcovy High School for the group that will participate in the Chick Fil A Bowl on New Year's Eve and asked if the information could be placed on the school and the system website. Ms. Citizen-Wilcox also asked that the high schools consider holding club meetings during the regular school day to provide more opportunities for students to participate, as it was difficult for some students to arrive at school early or stay after the regular school day.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report

Dr. Carpenter reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2011. The Newton County School System's net July SPLOST III distribution is \$910,687.68 – an increase of \$58,084.97 from our net for June. Total net SPLOST III received for the first nineteen months is approximately \$15,938,130 -averaging \$838,849 per month.

With 16.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 3.03% and total expenditures are at 4.59%.

The final ending fund balance for fiscal year 2010-2011 is \$15,737,101. Revenues for the year were \$631,630 more than expected. Expenditures were \$ 3,126,768 less than budgeted with most of the savings coming from the maintenance department. The "Maintenance of Effort" audit was remediated down to \$134,687 from \$719,263.

A project meeting for the Newton College and Career Academy was held on August 31, 2011. MEJA Construction, Inc. reported that metal framing is being installed on the main and upper floors. Plumbing and electrical work is completed on the lower floor and has continued to the main and upper floors. Fireproofing has been completed on the lower floor and practically completed on the main and upper floors. Masonry continues in the lower floor forming walls and doorways for future classrooms and is being erected around the exterior of the building. Curb and gutter for the parking lot has been formed and gravel base and binder is being placed in preparation for future paving. Roofing has been initiated and will continue for the next 30 days. Snapping Shoals has relocated power supply lines and the pad to house the transformer is in the process of being graded, formed and poured. The project is overall about 55% percent 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 project meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Representatives from A. L. Grading Contractors, Inc. are nearing completion of site work for replacement for Newton High School. Members from McKnight Construction are in the process of mobilizing and assuming the site from S. G. Grading Construction, Inc. as the General Contractor for the remainder of the project. McKnight will completely mobilize with the next two weeks and will focus on establishing parking lots and roads with rock and binders to allow for travel and storage for the project. A project meeting will be scheduled in the next two weeks.

The average cost for diesel fuel purchased during August was \$3.16. Fuel was last purchased in May for an average cost of \$3.17. In August 2010, the average cost of fuel was \$2.34.

Training was provided for special needs drivers, monitors, and select field trip drivers on August 18-19, 2011 and August 24-25, 2011. The class included training on proper wheelchair installment and restraints, wheelchair lift operations, shoulder and lap safety belt practices and overall guiding principles for properly securing passengers.

MealpayPlus revenue for August 2011 was \$80,602.91. August 2011 revenue increased 12.6% from August 2010.

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

All elementary special education teachers are receiving three days of training in *Math Exemplars* from the national trainer, Deb Armitage. This training will ensure that our students with disabilities are in sync with and able to transition to the regular classroom setting. *Math Exemplars* consists of research-based strategies that focus on standards-based assessment and instruction for all students.

Elementary and secondary administrators participated in a *Math Exemplars* workshop specifically designed to assist them with the “look-fors” when observing the Math Exemplars program in their buildings. *Math Exemplars* publishes hands-on, research-based assessment and instruction material that focuses on authentic learning in the area of Math. The Exemplar material engages students and includes rubrics and anchor papers.

Elementary and secondary teams participated in a *STAR* assessment workshop on August 8th and August 9th. During the workshops, teams were provided information that enabled them to prepare for the first universal screener in grades K-8 using *STAR* Reading and *STAR* math. Teams will use the data in their professional learning communities to make instructional decisions regarding interventions for struggling students.

Henry County technology and facility employees requested a tour of Flint Hill Elementary to look at the school’s technology infrastructure and their *ActiveBoard* set-up. Working with Dr. Thomas, the Technology Department helped host this event. Teachers were integrating technology throughout the building. A special focus of their visit was to see technology integrated in special education instruction.

The first testing training was held for all schools on August 12, 2011. This training discussed protocol and other pertinent information relative to all testing for the upcoming school year. This year each school is required to have an administrator as the School Testing Coordinator and one certified staff member to serve as Assistant School Testing Coordinator.

Dr. Proctor introduced Ms. Deena Sams, who presented a powerpoint presentation on the After School Program that is provided at several schools in the system. These programs are funded via the 21st Century Grant that has been awarded to Newton County.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on September 8, 2011 was 19,209. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business was presented by Dr. Carpenter. This item was tabled from the August meeting for further information before action will be requested at the Board’s regular meeting on September 20, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Fuelz Fleet Card by McPherson**

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A and Item B, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on September 20, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Facility Use of Theme School by Newton Medical**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

The following item, Item C, was presented by Dr. Proctor in the absence of Ms. Samantha Fuhrey. The item was discussed and Mr. Turner called for a motion to vote on the item. Ms. Coggin made the motion to approve the item, with a second by Ms. Henderson-Baker, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution for Alternative/Non-Traditional Education Program**
Approval recommended of the resolution for a waiver for Rule 160-4-8.12, which applies to instructional time for middle school students in an alternative program. As a result of consultation by staff of the GaDOE, an application for an instructional time waiver for the Ombudsman Program must be made. This is a one-time waiver and will not need to be updated when additional Ombudsman sites are selected. This approved waiver will provide the flexibility necessary to ensure students who attend the Ombudsman program will receive appropriate academic credit. This request impacts the 2011-2012 school year only and must be renewed annually.

The following items, Item D – Item G, were presented by Dr. Proctor. The items were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on September 20, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Acceptance of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Sign Language Interpreter**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Board Policy – IHA – Student Grading System**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Supplemental Educational Services**

The following item, Item H, was presented by Dr. Gary Shattuck, Director of Technology. After discussion, Mr. Turner called for a motion. Mr. Meadors made the motion, with a second by Ms. Coggin, and all voting in favor, the item was approved.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids to Provide Data Cabling for NCCA**
Approval recommended for the low bid of Infinity Network Solutions for data cabling for \$227,957.00 for the Newton College and Career Academy. Due to problems with an earlier approved bid for this item from another company, the Technology Department voided the earlier awarded bid and requested the BOE award this project to Infinity Network Solutions. In an attempt to minimize the funding impact of this situation, a lower price was negotiated than originally bid by Infinity. The price is the same as the earlier accepted bid by the previous company, thus eliminating any price increase for this project.

The following item, Item I, was presented by Dr. Gary Mathews. The item was discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on September 20, 2011:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Required Local Board Training Plan 2011**

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. 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 9:10 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Coggin; a second by Mr. Meadors, and all voting in favor.

Chair, Newton County Board of Education