

# **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2010 WORK SESSION**

**Covington, GA**

**April 13, 2010**

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. The following Board members were present; Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs, Vice Chair Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson, Dr. C. C. Bates and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Dr. Bates and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

### **WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Several high school students and teachers were recognized; 2010 STAR Students and STAR Teachers; along with Governor's Honors finalists.

To be eligible for nomination for STAR student, high school seniors must have the highest score in one sitting on the three-part SAT taken through the December test date of their senior year. They must also be in the top ten students of their class based on grade point average. Each STAR student is asked to select his/her STAR teacher. Students and teachers are as follows: from Alcovy High: Eric Ritenour; with STAR Teacher Charles Ardis; Eastside High: Beth Godfrey; with STAR Teacher Carla Temple; and Newton High: Brooke Wilson; with STAR Teacher Lisa Oswald.

Three Eastside High students have been named to the Governor's Honors finalists program and have been invited to participate in the six-week instructional program at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia. The students and their content area are: Wesley Chambers – Music/Brass (Tuba); Melissa Greer – Latin; and Christopher Waters – Physics.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no request for public participation.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS**

#### **Operations Report**

Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending March 31, 2010. With 75% of the year complete, total revenues are at 78.40% and total expenditures are at 73.04%. The Newton County School System's net February SPLOST III distribution is \$906,035 – an increase of \$52,562 from our January collection. Total SPLOST III received for the first two months is approximately \$1,755,508; averaging \$877,754 per month.

The financial audit for FY 2009 is complete and there are no findings. This is an annual audit of the school district's financials conducted by the Georgia Department of Audits.

The tree relocation project is complete. Ms. Connie Waller, with Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful spearheaded the project of relocating 55 trees from a Highway 278 roadway project to Sharp Stadium, Sharp Learning Center and

Eastside High School. Other partners included in the project were the Georgia Forestry Commission, the City of Covington, Covington Arborist Kevin Sorrow, Pittman Construction Company, Satsuki Garden Club, Trees Covington, Kevin Cruikshank, Tommy Ballard and the NCSS Maintenance Department.

A pre-bid conference was held on March 25, 2010, with 20 general contractors in attendance. A bid approval recommendation will come before the Board at the April 27, 2010 regular Board meeting.

The electrical bid will be ready for the May meeting. The current electrical contractor agreed to extend pricing until a new contract is established.

Meal Pay Plus revenues for March 2010 were \$59,656.17, which is 5.8% higher than the revenues for March 2009. YTD revenues through March 2010 were \$378,922.92. This is an increase of 16.8% over YTD revenues through March 2009.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Report** Associate Superintendent, Dr. Linda Hayden, presented the CIT report.

The NCBOE, DeKalb Technical College and the Covington/Newton Chamber of Commerce partnered to offer the Work Ready Credential to Newton County high school seniors. Four hundred, sixty-eight students participated in the assessments on February 23 – 25, 2010. More than 30 industry representatives participated in this activity by sharing with the students about potential career opportunities in industry sectors such as Healthcare, Engineering, Agriculture, and Manufacturing. Of the 468 students participating, 89.1% will receive a Work Ready Credential from the Governor's Office. This is an increase of 4.9% over last year. A Silver or Gold Credential will be awarded to 70.73 % of students tested. Bronze Certificates will be issued to 18.38% of the students. Approximately 10.9% of the students did not pass one or more tests. These students will have an opportunity to receive training through the Key Train program. Student will then be able to retest in areas they did not pass.

The Georgia State BOE approved, at the March 11, 2010 state board meeting ,the charter school application of Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA). The mission of NCCA is “to enhance academic achievement and provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce.” To achieve its mission, NCCA will partner with DeKalb Technical College and local and regional employers and to develop additional partnerships with post-secondary institutions over the course of the charter term. Five thematic areas of study are proposed for the charter school to offer experience for students: healthcare, public safety, engineering/manufacturing, business/computer science and agriculture.

A teacher committee is continuing to work diligently to transition the current third grade report cards to a standards-based format. The report cards will be ready for implementation for August 2010. In addition, administrators along with first and second grade teachers are working to revise the standards-based grading scale to more accurately reflect student work that exceeds standards.

To date, there have been over 342,000 logins to the Infinite Campus Student/Parent Portal. Parents continue to find this information helpful.

Required testing was recently completed. The GHSGT retake was administered the week of March 22-25, 2010 and 1,303 students were tested. The Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA) for students with disabilities has been completed and approximately 194 students were assessed. Fifth grade writing was administered March 3, 2010 and approximately 1,151 students were assessed. Third grade writing was administered March 15-26, 2010 and schools have submitted their compiled information.

Federal Programs Coach, Ms. Lynn House, worked with the middle schools to launch the “Math Homework Hotline” effective March 22, 2010. This is a live online site where students are able to logon and receive math help from certified Newton County math teachers. The hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m. The NCSS hosted the Algebra Boot Camp on April 5-7, 2010 at Liberty Middle and Cousins Middle schools. All middle school students were invited to attend either the morning session or the evening session. The certified math teachers provided math instruction specifically for the algebra domain which is a large portion of the CRCT.

Attached is a listing of winners for the Governor's Honors Program, the Young Georgia Author's Competition, and the Regional Science Fair. Congratulations to all these students!

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on April 1, 2010 was 19,406. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The following item, Item A, was discussed and action requested. On a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor; the item was approved:

- **Preliminary Budget Information** Background information is provided regarding preliminary figures for the 2010-2011 budget. Reductions in personnel related expenditures will be needed to help offset the revenue shortfalls that are anticipated by June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012. The Superintendent is authorized to make related personnel cuts in the teaching, classified, support and administrative staff as well as to the benefits program.

The following item, Item B, was discussed and action requested. On motion by Mr. Smith, second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor; the item was approved:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution to Withdraw Application for Renovation of Newton High School** Approval recommended of a resolution requesting that the Facilities Section of the State Department of Education withdraw application number 09/08S-707-054 and that any funds not yet expended be returned to Newton County's entitlement to be used on future projects. The NCSS has been working with the Facilities Section of the SDOE to develop a new five year facilities plan. This plan is being updated one year early to address the district's facilities needs in light of recent decreases in the rate of student enrollment growth and decreases in ad valorem tax collections, sale tax collections, and state funding. One part of the updated facilities plan will call for the phase out of Newton High School, a school for which the district has an approved State capital outlay application from which the district has begun utilizing funds for facility renovations. Given that documentation has been submitted to the state, in recognition of the fact that renovation work will not significantly improve the quality or structural integrity of the facility, this resolution will be submitted to the State requesting that the current capital outlay application for NHS be withdrawn and any funds not yet expended be returned to Newton County's entitlement for future projects.

The following item, Item C, was discussed and action requested. On a motion by Mr. Turner; second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor; the item was approved:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy GBN– Separation and Policy GBP – Re-employment of the NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended of the revisions of Policy GBN and Policy GBP in Policy Section G, based on the changes noted to align our local Board policies with current state law. The policies have been reviewed in light of the recent changes by the legislature and the adoption of HB 996, which extends the date from April 15 to May 15, by which professional educators must be notified if a contract will be offered by the school district. The extension is effective through the 2012-2013 school year.

The following items, Items D – Item F, were presented by Dr. Carpenter and action requested at the Board's regular meeting on April 27, 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Ice Cream for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Elementary School #15**

The following items, Items G – Items I, were presented by Dr. Hayden and action requested at the Board’s regular meeting on April 27, 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbooks System Portion**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Handbooks System Portion**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to the Contract for Desktop Computers**

The following item, Item J, was presented by Dr. Whatley and action requested at the Board’s regular meeting on April 27, 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2010 – 2011 School Calendar**

**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. Turner made a motion to approve the list of recommendations regarding personnel, Mr. Smith seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Ms. Dobbs reminded everyone of the “Meet and Greet” for the new Superintendent Dr. Gary Mathews, which will be held on April 23, 2010, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Board of Education.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education