

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION APRIL 14, 2009

Covington, GA

April 14, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dr. C. C. Bates and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Johnny Smith; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Turner and second by Mr. Johnson to discuss the appointment, employment, and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, Ms. Dobbs gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Several middle schools students will be recognized for their achievements at the Griffin RESA Literacy Days competition. Kimberly Stier, from Cousins Middle school, won first place honors in the seventh grade Poetry Recitation Contest. Imari Daniels, also from Cousins Middle School, won the second place award in the eighth-grade poetry recitation competition. Kymberly Langford, of Veterans Memorial Middle, won the second place award in the eighth grade Ready Writing Contest. The Veterans Memorial Middle School seventh-grade drama team tied for first place in the drama competition. Team participants included: Jenna Mitchell, Milan Mitchell, Megan Ralston, Jerese Rogers, Marissa Todus, Tiana Anthony-Williams and Gaby Collantes. Also recognized was Gaby Collantes for being the Newton County School System's 2009 Spelling Bee Champion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Deborah Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending March 31, 2009.

The Newton County School System's net January SPLOST II distribution is \$726,111; a decrease of \$166,719 from our net for December. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 49 months is approximately \$41,834,591—averaging \$853,767 per month.

Construction on Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is ahead of schedule. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. Carroll Daniel Construction is working on the punch list. The school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST II.

Construction of Live Oak Elementary School by Meja Construction is on schedule. This school is scheduled to open at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and will be funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the new classroom additions at Alcovy High School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The elevated slab will be poured this month. This addition is scheduled to open the 2010-2011 school year is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the Sharp Field House by Hobgood Construction is scheduled to begin the week of April 13, 2009.

The average cost of fuel for March was at \$1.41 per gallon for a total cost of \$32,339. This is a decrease of \$.14 a gallon, over the average amount paid in February. The last fuel purchased in March was \$1.43 per gallon. Buses traveled 533,039 miles for the month of March. The average mile per gallon for the month of March was 9.2.

The Education Foundation Organizing Committee met on March 18, 2009, and Chairperson Hay reported that the application for 501C(3) status will be filed in April. The organizing committee has adopted the Articles of Incorporation and the EIN has been received. Further, the mission and goals have been adopted. The next tasks will be to name permanent Board members and adopt the bylaws.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

Approximately 1,600 kindergarten students and their teachers will attend the Newton County Arts Association's production of *Sleeping Beauty* on May 1, 2009, at Newton High School in the Porter Auditorium.

The NCSS will administer the Georgia Criteria Referenced Competency Test (GRCTC) to students in grades 1-8 during the week of April 20-24, 2009. The test will consist of questions in reading, language arts, and mathematics for students in grades 1 and 2, and reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies in grades 3-8. The GCRCT will yield information on academic achievement at the student, class, school, system and state levels.

PreK registration occurred during the weeks of February 23, 2009 through March 6, 2009. Approximately 800 students registered for 520 slots. Each school has 40 students registered, with additional students on the waiting list. To better meet the needs of parents, each school held its own registration. Parents enjoyed short lines, limited waiting, and an opportunity to see the school where their child will attend this fall.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Student Portfolios were submitted to the DOE on March 26, 2009, for 161 students with disabilities. The Individual Education Program (IEP) team determined these student's participation in the GAA, which is an alternate to the CRCT and GHSGT assessments. Results of the GAA are included in AYP calculations.

The Georgia Work Ready Program, administered through the Governor's Office, provides our students the opportunity for a Work Ready Credential. The NCBOE, DeKalb Technical College, and the Covington/Newton Chamber of Commerce partnered to offer this credential to Newton County high school seniors. One hundred and ninety students participated in the assessments on March 3, 5, and 11, 2009. More than 25 industry representatives had lunch with the students about potential career opportunities, especially in Healthcare and Manufacturing. Of the 190 students participating in the assessment, 84.2% will receive a Work Ready Credential from the Governor's office.

The annual *Career Awareness Expo* was conducted on March 4, 2009, at the Covington campus of DeKalb Technical College. The goal was to raise awareness of the many careers and occupational opportunities available to students and to increase their knowledge of the skills, education, and certification requirements of each. Ms. Cynthia Marvel, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, coordinated the event as a part of the Work Based Learning Program. Forty-eight prospective employers participated in the event, and 720 students participated in the event. The NCSS utilizes a very effective anti-Spam device called Barracuda. On March 14, 2009, over 100,382 emails were received from senders outside the school system. Of those received, 91,907 were classified as SPAM and were not delivered to the recipient.

The District Title I program was monitored by the GDOE on March 1, 2009. The monitoring results will be made available by the GDOE 30 days after the date of the monitoring.

Cousins Middle School Band recently earned state recognition during their Honor Band and All State Band auditions. Twelve students were selected to participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association District IV Honor Band in March. Of the twelve, four band members earned high enough scores that allowed them to audition for the state band.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on April 2, 2009, was 19,114. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, was discussed and will be on the table for review for one month and action requested in May, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of Policy Section J of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

NEW BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, will be presented on April 21, 2009:

- **Preliminary Budget Update** Dr. Whatley will present an update at the next meeting.

The following items, Items B -C, were presented by Ms. Deborah Robertson and will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Plumbing Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Selected Purchases of Furnishings and Equipment for Live Oak Elementary and Liberty Middle School**

The following item, Item D, was presented by Ms. Deborah Robertson and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, with a second by Ms. Dobbs, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Phase II Renovations at Newton High School**

Approval recommended for the acceptance of the low bid of \$906,000 from Samples Construction SE, LLC, for Phase II renovations at Newton High school. The scope of these renovations include painting, replacing ceilings and lighting, rekeying the doors, replacing space lighting in the auditorium and repairing and replacing doors as needed.

The following items, Item E – Item G, were presented by Ms. Robertson and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Ice Cream for School Food Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Video Board of Sharp Stadium**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities (Veterans Memorial) by Mustard Seed Faith Church**

The following items, Item H - Item O, were presented by Dr. Hayden and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Implementation of Uniform Proposal at Sharp Learning Center**
- **Requested Board Action to Approval of Choosing the Best Abstinence Education Grant**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Internet Access**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Elementary Textbooks (Reading, English ,and Math)**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Nova Net Licenses**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHA of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHF of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy JBCC in the NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following item, Item P, was presented by Dr. Whatley and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Modification of Attendance Lines for Live Oak Elementary**

The following item, Item Q, was presented by Mr. Carpenter and be on the table for review for one month and action requested in May, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of the Certified Employees Portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations. Ms. Dobbs made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education