

# **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2009 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Covington, GA**

**APRIL 21, 2009**

On Tuesday, April 21, 2009, Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Almond Turner; Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Johnny Smith; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Smith to discuss the future acquisition of real estate and the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session at 7:00 p.m.

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

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, Mr. Johnson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Several high school students from Newton County were recognized for recent accomplishments. Newton High School eleventh graders, Tiffany Hunt and Kristen Birdsong, were recognized for winning third place honors in the chemistry division of the regional science fair at the Griffin RESA Science Fair. Two seniors, Leah Wynn of Eastside High and Andrew Kabue of Newton High, were recognized as being named finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Nine Newton County school system rising juniors and seniors have been named Governor's Honors finalists and will be invited to participate in the prestigious six-week instructional program at Valdosta State University this summer. They are as follows: Jonathan Betancourt and Zach Elliott from Alcovy High School; Evanne Davis, Alayah Glenn, Hillary Hardison, Ralston Medouze and Gurinder Sunner from Eastside High School; and Renee Horne and Brooke Wilson from Newton High School.

Dr. Tina Daniel-Reasey, guidance counselor at Eastside High School, was recognized for being recently named Region IV Secondary Counselor of the Year by the Georgia School Counselors Association.

Also recognized and thanked were members of the leadership team of Oxford College at Emory for their support of the new Academy of Liberal Arts that will open next year at Newton High. Dr. Stephen Bowen, Dean of Oxford College; Dr. Kenneth Anderson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Dr. Joe Moon, Dean of Campus Life were in attendance.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

### **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Board Chair Dr. Bates called for a motion on the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Ms. Dobbs made a motion for approval, Mr. Johnson seconded, and all voted in favor.

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2009 board meetings as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS**

**Financial and Administrative Services Reports** No additional information was added by Ms. Deborah Robertson to the Administrative Services Report, which was presented at the April 14, 2009, work session. Copies of the reports are attached. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor, the Financial and Administrative Services reports were approved.

**Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report** No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/ Instruction/ Technology/Enrollment reports that were presented at the April 14, 2009, work session. On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Dobbs, the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Report were approved, with all voting in favor.

Dr. Hayden introduced Ms. Cathy Stubbs, Director of Special Education, who gave a presentation on the “Least Restrictive Environment” and a special education update for the Newton County School System.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The following item, Item A, of Old Business, was approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor:

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

Approval recommended for revisions/updates on policies in Section J to be adopted as presented.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The following item, Item A, was presented by Dr. Whatley:

- **Preliminary Budget Update**

The following items, Item B – Item E, were presented by Ms. Robertson, and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Plumbing Services** Approval recommended for the one year extension of the annual renewable contract for plumbing contractor services be awarded to low bidder, American Residential Services, LLC. The new contract year is April 23, 2009 through April 22, 2010. Bids were evaluated based on an average hourly labor rate and cost of parts. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$150,000.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Selected Purchases of Furnishings and Equipment for Live Oak Elementary and Liberty Middle School** Approval recommended for the following purchases of equipment, computer workstations, ActivBoards, custodial equipment and library books for Live Oak Elementary and Liberty Middle School. These purchases are included as a part of the SPLOST budget that was approved for each of these schools. Classroom, office, media and cafeteria furniture will be purchased, based on need as determined by projected student enrollment and staff allocations from contracted vendors; The Hon Company, Total Office Products Service and Virco Manufacturing, with the total purchase being approximately \$900,000. Computer workstations will be purchased based on the current standard of three computers per classroom, lab computers, staff and office computers and media center computers, on a negotiated price of \$815 per computer workstation with ByteSpeed Computers, the current approved supplier, with the total purchase being approximately \$450,000. ActivBoards and accessories will be purchased, one ActivBoard per classroom teacher, lab, and media center, from the low bidder, Logical Choice Technologies, with the total purchase being approximately \$470,000. Select custodial equipment will be purchased from Associated Paper, the system’s approved contracted supplier and will include standard equipment for maintaining the school facility, with the total purchase being approximately \$80,000. Library books will be purchased for each school in accordance with SACS requirements for the first year of a school’s operation, with the total purchase being approximately \$105,000.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Ice Cream for School Food Services** Approval recommended for Blue Bell Creameries, L.P. to be awarded an annual renewable contract for ice cream and related products for School Food Services. Blue Bell Creameries submitted the lowest overall pricing for all items. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$73,879.26.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Video Board for Sharp Stadium** Approval recommended for the purchase of the Model 3740 Video Board and video equipment for Sharp Stadium from Electro-Mech Company in Wrightsville, Georgia at a total cost of \$142,111. The original cost of the scoreboard has been reduced by \$4,233. due to the participation of the Coca-Cola Company in this project. The Coca-Cola Company has donated or assisted in sponsoring scoreboards at the other middle and high schools in our county.

The following item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Hayden, and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Implementation of Uniform Proposal at Sharp Learning Center** Approval recommended that school-defined dress code/uniforms be implemented at Sharp Learning Center beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. It is expected that the school dress code will minimize disruptive behavior, improve discipline and assist in preventing gang activity and allow for easy identification of intruders on campus. The Sharp Learning Center School Council, parents, administrators, faculty and staff are supportive of this move.

The following items, Item G – Item J, were presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Choosing the Best Abstinence Education Grant** Approval recommended for that the “Choosing the Best” Abstinence Education Curriculum be added to the middle and high school health curriculum. The curriculum would be provided at no cost through a grant with Healthy Concepts Research, Inc. This program would supplement materials already in place. Parent permission would be obtained for student participation in the curriculum, with the option to opt out of participation. Parent may also preview the material if requested.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Internet Access** Approval recommended that the school system agree to contract from the low bidder of Charter Communication for internet access for FY 2010. The contract would be for one year, for 24 schools, at the cost of \$2,400 per month per school, for the contracted period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Elementary Textbooks, (Reading, English and Math)** Approval recommended for the purchase of elementary textbooks for reading, English and mathematics. The GDOE adoption cycle for 2009 includes new reading and English language arts materials, but due to the economic downturn, new reading and English language arts textbooks will be delayed for at least one year, but consumable materials will have to be purchased. The approximate cost of this purchase is \$275,000. First and second grade student editions are consumable and require a yearly purchase, with the approximate cost being \$120,000.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Nova Net Licenses** Approval recommended for the renewal of 80 NovaNET subscription licenses from 2009/2010 funds for a total cost of \$67,085. Funding will be provided by general instructional funds designated for grades 9-12 curriculum and instructional initiatives. Students receive credit recovery within the school days using this program.

The following items, Item K – Item M, were presented by Dr. Whatley be placed on the table for review in April for one month, with recommended changes to be acted on in May, 2009:

- **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 of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following item, Item N, was presented by Dr. Whatley and approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Ms. Dobbs and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Modification of Attendance Lines for Live Oak Elementary**  
Approval recommended of a two-part plan designating the attendance zone for Live Oak Elementary School and its effect on the adjacent attendance zone for Porterdale Elementary for FY10. Part 1 lists the description of the attendance area for Live Oak Elementary (Fairview Elementary attendance zone for 2008-2009) with minor modifications, which includes subdivisions/streets/roads to be moved from Porterdale Elementary to Live Oak. Part 2 further recommends that a one-time opportunity be offered to all fifth grade students in the Porterdale attendance zone to remain at Porterdale for the 09-10 school year with the understanding that transportation is a responsibility of the parent/guardian. This one-time transfer opportunity does not apply to siblings of these fifth grade students and will be valid for the fifth grade students only prior to enrollment the first day of school.

The following item, Item O, was presented by Dr. Whatley and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Reassignment of Rising Sixth Graders from Livingston and South Salem to Liberty Middle School**  
Approval recommended that rising sixth grade students from Livingston Elementary and South Salem Elementary be assigned for the 2009-2010 school year to Liberty middle School. This is a reassignment of one grade only and does not require the changing of attendance lines and is also a way to downsize Veterans Memorial Middle School.

The following item, Item P, was presented by Mr. Carpenter for review in April for one month, with recommended changed to be acted on 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. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Ms. Dobbs, 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 approximately 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education