

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2008 REGULAR SESSION

Covington, GA

APRIL 22, 2008

On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner called to order the regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Turner, Chairman; Vice Chair Mr. Rickie Corley, Dr. C. C. Bates, Ms. Cathy Dobbs, and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Dr. Bates to discuss appointment, employment, compensation of employees, land acquisition and potential litigation. The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Corley and seconded by Mr. Smith.

WELCOME, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Turner welcomed members of Youth Leadership Newton County to the meeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Turner recognized several students who were recent winners of the Newton County School System Young Georgia Author Contest. They will now represent Newton County in the Griffin RESA competition. They are as follows: kindergarten student Jared Seals of Middle Ridge; first grader Katherine Hopson of Oak Hill Elementary; second grader Alori Council of Livingston Elementary; third grader Steven Peppers of East Newton Elementary; fourth grader Samantha Temple of East Newton Elementary; fifth grader Elise McDonald of Oak Hill Elementary; sixth grader Kimberly Stier of Cousins Middle, seventh grader Sherreese Jordan of Indian Creek Middle, eighth grader Tiffany Gilmore; ninth grader Michaele Smith of Alcovy High; tenth grader Jessica Cain of Alcovy High; eleventh grader Kimberly Rary of Alcovy High; and twelfth grader Jonathan Boon of Alcovy High.

Mr. Turner also recognized the following students who will participate in the 2008 Governor's Honor Program at Valdosta State University this summer. They are Ashley Aycox, Jowanna Malone, Cody Caho and Naomi Wills of Eastside High School and Geoffrey Nolan of Newton High.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three requests for public participation. Ms. Christina Gilmore asked that the Board consider funding a swim team at Eastside High. Ms. Latavia Washington asked that the Board review graduation participation requirements. Mr. Gerald Parker asked that the Board re-evaluate the process of choosing tribunal panel members for disciplinary hearings; specifically having a non- school system panel member added to the panel.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Corley made a motion to approve the agenda of the March 18, 2008 meeting as presented; a second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2008 meeting as presented; a second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Administrative Services Report, Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Reports

No additional information was added to reports that were given at the Board's work session on April 15th. Copies are attached.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and a second by Mr. Smith, the Superintendents' Reports were approved, including the Middle Ridge Elementary School uniform request. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

The following policies, which have been on the table for 30 days, were reviewed and approved accordingly:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IFBG – Use of Computers/Communication Devices**
On a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Corley and all voting in favor, this item was approved.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHE – Promotion/Retention**
On a motion by Mr. Corley, second by Ms. Dobbs and all voting in favor, this item was approved.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHF – Graduation Requirement/Credentials**
On a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates and all voting in favor, this item was approved based on an amendment added stipulating that beginning with 9th grade high school students in the fall of 2008, the class of 2012, these students must pass all portions of the GHSGT and have earned all high school credits for their diploma type to be eligible for graduation.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A – C, were approved on a motion by Mr. Corley, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on Contracted Services for Plumbing Services**
Approval of the recommendation that the annual renewable contract for plumbing services be awarded to American Residential Services, LLC. Bids were based on average hourly labor rates and cost of parts. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$150,000.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Custodial Equipment for South Salem Elementary School**
Approval of the recommendation to purchase custodial equipment for South Salem Elementary from Associated Paper, Inc. based on an equipment pricing agreement included in the contract for a comprehensive cleaning program that was awarded January 15, 2008. The total cost of custodial equipment recommended is \$39,453.96. This reflects a 20% discount off the manufacturer suggested retail price. Equipment purchase will include wet/dry vacuum, burnisher, scrubber, restroom cleaner, carpet dryer and buffer.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities (Veterans Memorial) by Mustard Seed Faith Church**
Approval of the recommendation for Mustard Seed Faith Church to use Veterans Memorial Middle School cafeteria for church services on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and a classroom on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. beginning April 23, 2008.

The following Item D will be placed on the table for consideration for action in May.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policy KI – Free Material Distribution – on table for review**

The following Item E was approved, with the exception of Section F, on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Program Planning Guide** Approval recommended for the Newton County Schools Program Planning Guide for the 2008-2009 school year.

The following Item F was approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbooks** Approval recommended for the system portion of the 2008-2009 Elementary School Handbook with changes noted.

The following Items G – P, were approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor;

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Handbooks** Approval recommended for the system portion of the 2008-2009 Secondary Handbook with changes noted.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Math Adoption for High Schools** Approval recommended for attached listing of textbooks from the state adopted list for Math in grades 9 – 12. The math textbook adoption will follow the rollout of Georgia Performance Standards for high schools. These textbooks will be used for the next seven years.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Science Adoption for Grades K-12** Approval recommended for the attached listing of textbooks from the state adopted list for Science in grades K-12. These textbooks will be used for the next seven years.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Desktop Computers** Approval recommended for the purchase of 229 desktop computers for South Salem Elementary from the current supplier, ByteSpeed Computers, at the cost of \$825 per computer, for a total cost of \$188,925. This purchase will include 104 student classroom computers, 63 teacher computers, and 62 lab computers. These will be purchased from capital projects funds.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Interactive White Boards** Approval recommended for the purchase of 52 Promethian ACTIVboards 78 with ActiveStudio 3 software, including an audio system from sole source provider Logical Choice Technologies for \$4,175 each, for a total cost of \$217,100. These will be purchased from the capital projects fund.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Expansion of MediaCast** Approval recommended for the purchase, installation, and training of system upgrades to MediaCast broadcast equipment and software to enable distribution of live broadcast capabilities and cable TV to the classrooms for a total cost of \$51,620. Also approval recommended for purchase of MediaCast broadcast equipment for South Salem and purchase of MediaCast broadcast equipment for Middle Ridge and South Salem for a total cost of \$8,400 for each school. The total for these MediaCast upgrades will be \$68,420 and funded between capital projects and general fund 08 technology budget. Services will be provided by FForg, the sole source Georgia distributor of MediaCast.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Amendment of 2008-2009 School Calendar** Approval recommended for amendments to the 2008-2009 school calendar. Principals requested more professional learning time for teachers during non-instructional time. Amended calendar is attached.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Primary Rated ISDN Telephone Lines** Approval recommended that the low bid of \$1,125.55 per Primary Rated ISDN (PRI) line per month be approved; an annual cost of \$40,519.80 to be included in the FY09 General Fund budget. PRI lines are telephone trunk lines that all external telephone traffic passes. There are two lines in current use and both are almost at capacity. This third line should be sufficient to handle growth as projected in our five year building plan.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Middle Ridge Uniform Proposal** Approval recommended that uniforms be approved for use at Middle Ridge Elementary School for 2008-2009. The same colors and styles of clothing will be used at Middle Ridge as are already in use in other Newton County schools that enforce a uniform policy.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Modifying Attendance Lines for South Salem Elementary School** Approval recommended designating the attendance zones for South Salem Elementary School and its surrounding schools for FY 09 as presented.

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Mr. Corley made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board members of the upcoming Board Planning Session on April 28th at 5:00 p.m.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education