

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION

Covington, GA

April 27, 2010

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. The meeting was relocated to Alcovy High School auditorium due to the size of the expected crowd. The following board members were present: Chairman 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. Smith and second by Dr. Bates to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After the welcome by Ms. Dobbs, Mr. Turner led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were thirty requests for public participation. Mr. Brian Kincaid expressed to the Board his concern of the possibility of contractors being allowed to perform work while avoiding mandatory taxes. Ms. Rose Stagemeyer expressed her concern over possible budget cuts to the special education program. The following individuals expressed their concerns over possible budget cuts involving middle school athletics, paraprofessionals, and teaching positions; Ms. Tammy Wood, Mr. Brett Jacobs, Miss Taylor Jones, Miss Maggie Berry, Ms. Aubree Thacker, Mr. Rick Hurst, Mr. Eric Bowman, Ms. Nicole Vanderwolf, Mr. William Hale, Jr., Ms. Alicia Eddy, Ms. Debbie Harper, Ms. Khristie Eidson, Mr. Michael Moss, Ms. Gina Bryan, Ms. Sharon Dennison-Bell, Ms. Melissa Cowan, Ms. Jackie Karp, Mr. Mike DelVicchio, Ms. Jennifer Freeman, Mr. Kenneth Heflin, Mr. Travis Price, Ms. Maggie Folmar, Ms. Annette Parsons, Ms. Shannon Price and Mr. Gary Mistovich. Ms. Elizabeth Gregory expressed her concern over the elimination of graduation coaches in the NCSS. Mr. Anthony Holcombe expressed his concerns over graduation ceremonies at the high schools being held at a facility outside of Newton County.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented by the Superintendent of the March 2010 meetings. Dr. Bates made a motion for approval, Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Board Chair Ms. Dobbs called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented by the Superintendent of the March 2010 meetings. Mr. Turner made a motion for approval, Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report No additional information was added by Dr. Dennis Carpenter to the Operations Report, which was presented at the April 13, 2010, work session. Copies of the report are attached.

On a motion by Dr. Bates, and a second by Mr. Johnson, the Operations Report was approved, with all voting in favor.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Reports as presented at the April 13, 2010, work session.

On a motion by Mr. Turner, and a second by Mr. Smith, the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of New Business, Item A and Item B, were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items** Approval recommended for declaring items as presented as surplus as they are no longer serviceable to the school system. The motion also authorized the appropriate disposal of these items through a salvage company or other proper disposal method.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to the Contract for Ice Cream for School Nutrition Program** Approval recommended that the annually renewable contract be awarded to Blue Bell Creameries, L.P. for ice cream and related products for the school nutrition program. It was determined after the bid review process, that Blue Bell Creameries met all contractual and administrative requirements. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$83,867.43.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Elementary School #15** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the low bid for New Elementary School #15 on Highway 142 be awarded to Ricks Contractors, Inc. , that submitted the low bid of \$13,257,000. This school is the final project to be completed under the outgoing Newton County Five Year Facilities Plan that was originally scheduled to carry the school system through June 30, 2011; reminder this plan is being updated a year early. In addition to the regular state entitlement funds, SPLOST funds will be utilized to support this project.

The following items of New Business, Item D and Item E, were tabled due to the Board members requesting clarification of specific discipline rules and consequences:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbooks System Portion**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Handbooks System Portion**

The following item of New Business, Item F, was approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Desktop Computers** Approval recommended for the annually, renewable contract for desktop computers be awarded to ByteSpeed, LLC of Moorhead, Minnesota. Proposals from five vendors were submitted and reviewed via a multi-stage process. The total cost of each desktop computer, including monitor, and associated peripherals is \$805. The district is only going to replace computers as needed, so having an annual contract in place assures the most competitive pricing.

The following item of New Business, Item G, was approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson; with a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Smith voting against:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2010 – 2011 School Calendar** Approval recommended for the 178 day student calendar for the school year 2010-2011; with first semester having 87 days and second semester having 91 days. After preliminary review of the revenue for 2011, and given the authority granted to a Board by the State to decrease the student year up to four days in emergencies, the decision has been made to eliminate two days due to financial emergency. Two days will remain for inclement weather or financial emergency, if the state further reduces revenue during the FY 11 year.

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations with the exclusion of number 1, on page 2. Dr. Bates seconded the vote and all voted in favor. Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the list of recommendations including number 1, on page 2. Mr. Turner seconded the motion; with Dr. Bates abstaining, the motion passed 4-0. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education