

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2009 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

August 11, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009. The following board members were present: Dr. C. C. Bates, Chairman; Vice Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson; and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Smith to discuss 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.

### WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

There was one item of special recognition. Mr. Greg Goins, purchasing specialist with the NCSS, was recently awarded the Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) credential from the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). The UPPCC was established in 1978 by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing and the National Institute of State Procurement Officials to independently administer certification and promote procurement professionalism in the public sector. To become certified, candidates must meet certain stringent criteria established by the UPPCC, including formal education, procurement coursework and training, and public purchasing experience. A comprehensive written examination is also required to complete this rigorous process.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three requests for public participation. Ms. Kim Rutherford addressed the Board in regards to her son not being enrolled in the NCSS due to his expulsion from the Rockdale County School System. Ms. Erica Avery and Ms. LaSharie Parker both addressed the Board in regards to a change in the theme school bus transportation.

### SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

**Operations Report** Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending July 31, 2009. With 8.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 1.37% and total expenditures are at 1.29%. FY 2009 data entry for both revenues and expenditures will continue through the end of August. The FY 2009 end-of-the year financial report is due to the state by September 30, 2009.

Based on the Day 4, August 6, 2009, enrollment and review of class sizes, schools were identified that need additional staff members to transfer from other locations for class size compliance purposes. The process for implementing these staff changes began on July 31, 2009, in conjunction with building principals utilizing the district's transfer process. Class sizes are being monitored and necessary adjustments will be made as needed. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, costs of any additional personnel is being kept to a minimum, thus necessitating the transfers of teachers as state class size guidelines will allow.

The new scoreboard and video board is operational at Sharp Stadium. Athletic Directors and personnel from the technology department were trained on August 5, 2009. Each school will have their own laptop and controls. Cameras and the equipment needed to record activities at this facility have been purchased.

Liberty Middle School opened on schedule and welcomed students on August 3, 2009. Funding for the construction of Liberty Middle is primarily from SPLOST II funds. The contractor continues to work on the punch list.

Live Oak Elementary School opened on schedule and welcomed students on August 3, 2009. Funding for the construction of Live Oak Elementary is primarily from SPLOST III funds. The contractor continues to work on the punch list.

The renovations at Newton High have progressed as scheduled. The contractor continues to work on the punch list.

The average cost of fuel for July was \$2.06 per gallon for a total cost of \$27,725. This is an increase of \$.44 per gallon over the average amount paid in May. Buses traveled 29,996 miles for the month of July.

The Purchasing Department has begun work developing a request for proposals for digital copier equipment and related software. The request will leverage the combined purchasing power of the school system for better pricing on copier equipment and related software. It will also provide for a streamlined approach to print management in which efficiency can be improved and supply and labor costs decreased.

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

As of August 3, 2009, a total of 23 students have chosen to leave Middle Ridge Elementary for either Heard Mixon Elementary or East Newton Elementary; 41 students have chosen to leave Liberty Middle for either Cousins Middle or Veterans Memorial Middle under the No Child Left Behind provisions.

The art on display at the NCBOE during the month of August comes from students at Rocky Plains Elementary and Veterans Memorial Middle. Thanks are sent to the art teachers who have taken the time to arrange the displays for all to enjoy.

Thirty-one special education teachers attended the Special Education New Teachers Orientation. This training was held on July 16 -17, 2009. Training topics included the following: NCSS Special Education Procedures, The Role of the IEP; IEP Writing; and SEMS Tracker Usage (computerized systems for IEP's).

The Leadership Retreat was held on July 20-21, 2009, and the theme of the retreat was "Planting Seeds of Leadership." Topics presented included the following: reports/information from the various departments at the NCBOE; preview of the new GPS e-Learn site; update on the work of Developing High Performing Leaders Committee; update on the work of the Data Protocol Committee; review of customer service expectations; and group presentations on the book *The Power of Small*.

New teacher orientation was held at Eastside High School on July 22, 2009. Mentors from all schools were invited to attend and met with new teachers, along with BEST (Building Excellence and Supporting Teachers) coordinators. New teachers heard information from Dr. Whatley, Dr. Hayden and Mr. Carpenter. Directors and coordinators from the various departments at the BOE also spoke to the new teachers. An enlightening session on the Code of Ethics for teachers was presented by John Grant from the Professional Standards Commission. New teachers were treated to a fashion show highlighting appropriate teacher dress. A motivational speech was given by Darrell Huckaby, a local author and educator.

During the 2008-2009 school year, ten grants provided Newton County Schools a total of \$1,031,539.40 One other grant with the Governor's Office for Children and Families System of Care for counseling/mental health services for \$324,997 has been completed, but winners for the grant will not be announced until September 30, 2009.

Reading and English workbooks from Houghton Mifflin were ordered the first part of the summer so the items would be in the schools by August 1, 2009. To date, those items have not arrived due to the large amount of orders that Houghton Mifflin received from all school districts when no new Language Arts textbook was adopted. Many districts chose to utilize the same series that was already in place from the last adoption cycle. Conversations with the company representative will continue in order to accelerate the delivery of these books before September. NCSS has been given a projected delivery date of early September.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on August 7, 2009 was 19,226. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The following items, Item A and Items C – Item E were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on August 18, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on Internet Content Filtering Session**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Accelerated Reader and STAR Subscription**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Warranty Agreement for 3Com Equipment**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

The following item, Item B, was discussed and after discussion, on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor, the agenda will be amended to bring this item up for a vote at the August 11, 2009 meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Blade Servers** Approval recommended using a state-wide contract for the purchase of selected servers from Dell Marketing L.P. for \$41,101.82. The school system buys servers on an annual basis to replace older servers in order to accommodate new applications and system needs. After considerable research, it was decided to use blade servers instead of rack-mounted servers for several reasons. Blade servers allow for higher density, use less energy and as a result of less energy, these servers have a need for less cooling. This will provide a cost savings for the school system. The purchase will include 3 PowerEdge M610 Blade Servers, 3 PowerEdge M710 Blade Servers, 1 Blade Server Enclosure, and 4 PowerConnect Managed Switches. The purchase will be made using system technology funds. On a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor, this item was approved for purchase.

**Executive Session** Mr. 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, Ms. Dobbs seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Dr. Bates reminded those in attendance of the upcoming football game on August 28, 2009 at Sharp Stadium between Alcovy High and Newton High at 7:30 p.m.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education