

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

December 15, 2009

The Newton County Board of Education held the combined December work session and regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the Board Room of the Central Office Administrative Building. The following Board members were present: Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates; Vice Chairman, Mr. Johnny Smith; Mr. Almond Turner; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. Ms. Cathy Dobbs was absent due to illness. On a motion by Mr. Turner and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and potential litigation. With a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 4-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, she also gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Two Newton County School System employees were recognized. Mr. Greg Goins, Purchasing Specialist for the school system, was recognized for being recently awarded the Georgia Public Buyer of the Year Award for 2009. This award, from the Governmental Purchasing Association of Georgia, recognizes excellence in public procurement. Also recognized was Mrs. Jan Loomans, NCSS School Food Service Director. Ms. Loomans was recently awarded the 2009 School Nutrition Mentor of the Year Award through the Department of Education/School Nutrition Program Division. Ms. Loomans was nominated by a first time manager in our school district for the guidance and time she provides to new managers on the job.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two requests for public participation. Ms. Denise Stiles, parent from Clements Theme School, expressed her concerns with the discipline contracts at Clements Theme school and financial issues involving the PTO at the theme school. Ms. Tracey Scott expressed her concern for the school system not having crossing guards at subdivisions near Fairview Theme School, Porterdale Elementary, West Newton Elementary and Clements Theme School. Also, Ms. Scott had an additional concern about central drop off points for Fairview Theme School.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Mr. Smith. All voted in favor.

Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the November 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Reports Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2009. With 41.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 41.57% and total expenditures are at 41.26%.

The Newton County School System's net September SPLOST II distribution is \$744,398; an increase of \$22,982 from our net for September. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 57 months is approximately \$48,162,306 averaging \$844,953 per month.

The fire marshal's office has completed the annual inspection of our schools. All of our schools passed and the district was commended for our improvements. He also spoke at the system-wide head custodian's meeting and thanked them for their diligence in the area of fire safety.

The average cost of fuel for November was at \$2.22 per gallon for a total cost of \$96,416. This was an increase of \$.08 a gallon over the average amount paid in October. Buses travelled 393,762 for the month of November averaging 9.3 miles per gallon. Fuel was last purchased at \$2.22 per gallon.

A print audit of devices connected to the network is complete. The audit captured information such as the number of printers, toner levels, and the service needs of network print devices. Additionally, the department is in the process of completing a comprehensive inventory of copiers and review of paper copier purchasing agreements. Collectively, this information will provide information to be used in the development of a request for proposals (RFP) that will allow the school system to leverage the combined purchasing power of the entire school system for copiers and related equipment and software.

For the 2010 school year, an average of 60.82% of the students in our school system is receiving free or reduced priced meals. This percentage includes students enrolled at Challenge Charter and Project Adventure. In comparison, during the 2009 school year, 56.13% of the students received free or reduced price meals.

A presentation was made to the Board by Mr. Bob Cunningham and Mr. Ray Moore, Architects, as to the construction of a new elementary school.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report

Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

Approximately 1,600 fourth grade students and teachers attended the Newton County Arts Association's production of the *Nutcracker* on December 11, 2009. Prior to the performances, the teachers were provided with curriculum guides to assist in preparing students to attend the production.

A team of third grade teachers are meeting to develop a standards-based report card to be used with third grade students beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. In addition, administrators along with first and second grade teachers are working to revise the standards-based grading scale to more accurately reflect student work that exceeds standards.

PreK had many exciting activities that occurred in the months of November and December. Bright from the Start, the agency that funds PreK, requires PreK teachers and parents to participate in fall and spring conference. Fall conferences are planned for December and parents are meeting with teachers to review the students' portfolios to see the progress students have made. Parents and students are participating in activities such as Sweet Swaps, student performances, take home activities, and class parties. Resource Coordinators (RCs) are providing parenting educational events such as budgeting and purchasing safe and educational toys. The PreK Resource Coordination Department and "Newton County's Ready! Set! School! Literacy Program" is collaborating to provide parents with literacy strategies to use at home. Parents are eagerly participating in all that PreK has to offer.

As requested by our district health office, all school nurses continue to submit weekly flu logs that identify students who are sent home with flu-like symptoms. None of our schools have had 10% or more of their students absent on any given day. Recent reports indicate a decline in the number of students sent home with flu-like symptoms.

The technology cabling and network equipment installation for the addition at Alcovy High School was completed by December 1, 2009.

End Of Course Tests will be administered during December. The State is mandating Math I and II be administered first in order to complete standards setting so districts receive results by January 4, 2010. Math I and II will be given December 7, 2009.

The Newton College and Career Academy was recently awarded the Georgia Career Academy Grant by the Technical College System of Georgia. The grant award was \$3.05 million. The purpose of the grant is to fund construction/renovation of a building to house the career academy. Many community supporters assisted in the development of the grant, including 72 letters of commitment/support. NCSS recently learned that the Newton College and Career Academy Grant received the highest number of points on their scores of all applicants.

A team of teachers from Newton, Morgan, DeKalb, Decatur City and Rockdale school systems, as well as representatives from DeKalb Technical College, recently convened to complete the process of articulating postsecondary credit in the Small Business Development Pathway (Secondary) and the Marketing Program (Post Secondary). This is the final phase of creating the seamless articulation in this pathway. This phase helps validate that standards taught in the high school courses meet the standards set at the college level. The result will be that students who complete the Small Business Development Pathway will be awarded articulated credit in marketing at DeKalb Technical College. In the future, additional pathways will undergo this process which will provide meaningful post secondary credits for students. These pathways include Early Childhood Education, Construction and Administrative Information Support.

The Newton County School System was recognized by the GDOE during the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education Conference held November 11 – 13, 2009 for meeting state targets for educating children in the least restrictive environment and reducing the students who drop out of school.

Work continues on the school calendar for next school year. The calendars will be posted online during January for a vote. Pros and cons of each calendar have been recommended by the calendar committee.

Much work was done on the Title I Comparability Part A Report this year. In order for the Title I schools to be comparable in their ratio of instructional staff to students to that of the non-Title I schools (based on the November 4, 2009 CPI Report regarding personnel reports to the DOE and the October 2009 FTE – 1 Count), non-federally paid personnel changes needed to be made. Several meetings were held with principals to address the issue. NCSS achieved comparability with the movement of staff, including some Special Education staff.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on December 10, 2009, was 19,498. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and a second by Mr. Johnson, the Superintendent's Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was only one item, Item A, of Old Business and it was approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policy KG of NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revisions/updates to Policy KG, use of school facilities, as presented. These policies have been on the table for a month and have been on the website for public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed, and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, with a 3-1 vote; with Dr. Bates voting against.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Pest Control Services** Approval recommended on the annual renewable contract for pest control services be awarded to Cox's Mid-Georgia Pest Control of Grayson, Georgia. The effective date of the renewal will be December 16, 2009 and the expiration date will be December 15, 2010. The contract was originally awarded on December 10, 2008. The contractor has performed satisfactorily and did not request a price increase. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$25,000.

The following item, Item B, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Turner, with a 3-1 vote; with Dr. Bates voting against.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Request Contract Renewal with Associated Paper for Comprehensive Custodial Program** Approval recommended for the renewal of the custodial supply and green cleaning program contract with Associated Paper, Inc. of Conyers for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be January 15, 2010 and the expiration dates will be January 15, 2011. The contract was originally awarded on January 16, 2008 and will expire on January 15, 2010. Progress toward the original six key standards with this company is evident, measurable and satisfactory. The vendor has requested a 2.86% increase in the core cost of the program. The core program includes custodial supplies, training and planning. The total cost for the core program will be \$355,476. The total estimated annual value of this contract is \$560,000 and includes the core program and projected costs for new equipment and the repair and service of existing equipment.

The following item, Item C, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, with a 3-1 vote; with Dr. Bates voting against.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal Contract of Maintenance and Repair of Kitchen Equipment** Approval recommended for the annual renewable contract be awarded to Beam Enterprise LLC of Covington, Georgia for maintenance and repair of kitchen equipment be renewed for an additional contact period. The effective date of the renewal will be December 16, 2009 and the expiration date will be December 15, 2010. The contract was originally awarded on December 12, 2007. The contract has performed satisfactorily and did not request a price increase. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$130,000.

The following item, Item D, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal Contract for Transportation Fuel** Approval recommended for the annual renewable contract awarded to Indigo Energy Partners, LLC of Alpharetta Georgia, for diesel fuel be renewed for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be January 20, 2010 and the expiration date will be January 21, 2010. The contract was originally awarded on January 21, 2009, and will expire on January 20, 2010. The contractor has performed satisfactorily and did not request a price increase. The pricing is tied to the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) Same Day Contract Average Gross. The estimated annual value of this contract is approximately \$1,000,000.

The following item, Item E, of New Business was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Sharp Field Renovations** Approval recommended to accept the low bid of \$234,217.53 from Athletic Construction, Inc., in Oakwood, Georgia as the contractor for the renovations of the field at Sharp Stadium to be funded from SPLOST III Capital Outlay funds.

The following item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Certificate of Completion for Sharp Field House** Approval recommended to accept the Architect's Certificate of Completion for the construction of the field house at Sharp Stadium. The contractor has completed all that is required. The final construction contract for

the construction was \$881,469 and was funded with SPLOST III funds. No asbestos-containing building materials were used in this construction.

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter, discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor. Mr. Turner abstained from the vote.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities for Springfield Baptist Church**

Approval recommended for the application for use of school facilities by Springfield Baptist Church. The church has requested the use of the auditorium at Newton High School for Sunday mornings, from 8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m., beginning February 7, 2010. A school employee has agreed to contract with the church for services required in Board policy. Per Board policy, in lieu of paying rent and utilities for the first year, the church will be donating approximately \$35,000 in capital improvements to the Porter Auditorium at Newton High School.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities for Abiding Grace Lutheran Church** Approval recommended for the application for use of school facilities by Abiding Grace Lutheran Church. The church is requesting the use of the cafeteria at West Newton Elementary School for Sunday mornings, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., beginning January 3, 2010. A school employee has agreed to contract with the church for services required in Board policy. The rent for the use of the cafeteria is \$50.00 and utilities for the 4 hours will be \$60.00 per week.

The following item, Item I, was presented by Dr. Whatley, discussed, and approved, with changes, on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of the NCSS Superintendent Search Brochure through GSBA** Approval recommended that the Superintendent search brochure, with changes made, be forwarded to GSBA.

The following item, Item J, was presented by Dr. Whatley, discussed and the date will be set at the Board Planning Session in January 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Date and Time for Superintendent's Annual Evaluation**

The following item, Item K, was presented by Dr. Whatley, discussed, and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, and second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Board Planning Meeting**

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Johnson 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 9:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education