

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

December 9, 2008

The Newton County Board of Education held the combined December work session and regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, in the Board Room of the Central Office Administrative Building. The following Board members were present: Board Chairman, Mr. Almond Turner; Vice Chairman, Mr. Rickie Corley; Mr. Johnny Smith; Ms. Cathy Dobbs; and Dr. C. C. Bates. On a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 5:40 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and potential litigation. With a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Ms. Dobbs, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Mr. Turner, Mr. Johnny Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. School Council and PTO officers and members were welcomed to the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Eshe Riviears addressed the Board with her concern about discipline her son, a middle school student, received at school due to his choice of clothing after the recent Presidential election.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Ms. Dobbs made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Mr. Corley. All voted in favor.

Mr. Corley made the motion to approve the November 2008 meeting minute as presented. Dr. Bates seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Dr. Whatley made the annual presentation of the Legislative Issues for 2009. Senator John Douglas and Representative Doug Holt were in attendance to hear the school system concerns. Both legislators expressed their thanks and support of the Newton County School System and administration.

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2008. With 41.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 33.27% and total expenditures are at 29.94%.

The Newton County School System's net September SPLOST II distribution is \$999,537; an increase of \$54,045 from our net for August. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 45 months is approximately \$38,733,693, averaging \$860,749 per month.

The state auditors are currently on site conducting the audit of the system's financial records for the 2008 fiscal year. The on-site audit typically takes three to four months to complete.

All elementary schools are involved in foam tray recycling in the cafeterias. Evergreen Partners in Gwinnett County is currently unable to accept recycled foam trays. Ms. Connie Waller, Executive Director of Keep

Covington/Newton Beautiful, and Mr. Bill Rosser, Maintenance Director, are working on finding alternative recycling locations.

The bus parking area off Jack Neely Road is complete except for the lighting. The lighting arrived in late November but included the wrong lamps. The correct lamps are being shipped. The bus parking area will contain spaces for 63 buses and 98 automobiles.

The average cost of fuel for November was \$2.20 per gallon, for a total cost of \$101,051. This is a decrease of \$.45 a gallon under the average amount paid in October. The last fuel purchased in November was \$2.00 per gallon. The average mile per gallon was 9.7 for the month of November. The average cost of fuel this year is \$3.02 per gallon.

The Department of Motor Carrier Compliance will begin inspection on our buses on January 19, 2009.

The School Transportation Division of the State DOE has scheduled to conduct an on-site records assessment of our Transportation department next month. This is the first year for this assessment and it involves a review of all records that are required to be maintained by local systems, including training records, bus maintenance records, drug screening, etc.

Parents of elementary students with food allergies now have an additional resource available to assist both the parents and students in making safe food choices in the cafeteria. Ms. Susan Stone, Nutrition Education Coordinator for the NCSS, is available to meet with parents, teachers and school nurses to develop a school-based allergy plan for students with food allergies. The School Nutrition Manager at each school notifies Ms. Stone when they receive allergy information for a student.

Mr. Steven Joyce, Physical Education teacher at Fairview Elementary, and Ms. Susan Stone, Nutrition Education Coordinator for the NCSS, received a nutrition education grant from the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association. The mini-grant is for \$300 and will be used to purchase resources that will educate students on making positive changes concerning eating habits and exercise habits. The grant funds will be used to purchase items to be used at Fairview Elementary and then shared with other schools in the district.

Fulton Paper Company was our low bid supplier for foam trays. Gen Pak, the manufacturer of the foam trays, originally had an agreement with Evergreen, the recycling company in Gwinnett County, to purchase the foam tray resin but, we understand they have since pulled out of that agreement. We are unaware of any company that uses recycled foam trays to make new trays. Dart is also a manufacturer of foam products but does not make foam trays.

The HON Company and Total Office Products Service are donating classroom furniture to the school system. The new SmartLink classroom furniture system is designed to support a variety of teaching and learning styles and will be installed in one classroom at Eastside High School. Furniture will include a teacher station, student desks, modular storage, and wall rail system. The classroom will allow the school system to test the new furniture and will serve as a model classroom for HON and Total Office Products Service. The total retail cost of the items donated is \$24,772.

Dr. Kathy Garber, NCSS Grant Writer; Don Wood, NCSS Construction Manager; Cheryl Delk, Kevin Walter and Tom Cheatham from Newton County Government; and Kay Lee and Hosanna Fletcher from The Center, worked along with other county government employees to develop the Safe Route to Schools Grant. This grant is due December 10, 2008, and has been approved by the Board of Commissioners as is required. This grant can make up to \$500,000 available to schools working with their county government to make it safe for kids who live nearby to walk or ride bikes to school. The proposed project being submitted is a pedestrian bridge over Brown Bridge Road at the location of Veterans Memorial Middle School and West Newton Elementary School. The project would include sidewalks on both sides of Brown Bridge Road, east to Salem Road, lighting, and handicap accessible entrance ramps. If the grant is awarded, the DOT will handle all aspects of the project.

The Steering Committee for the Education Foundation is meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Ray Moore, architect from Cunningham, Forehand, Matthews and Moore, gave the board an update on the Sharp Stadium improvements.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

The End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) are criterion-referenced tests that assess the statewide curriculum of eight content area assessments. ECOTS will be administered during December 8-19, 2008. Each school will publicize their specific dates. A student's final grade in an EOCT course will be determined by using a combination of the student's grade in the course, (including daily work, quizzes, homework, and tests) and the EOCT score. A student's final grade will be calculated by using the course grade, which counts 85% of the final grade; and the EOCT score, which counts 15% of the final grade. According to the GDOE, the EOCT for Mathematics I will not count for 15% of the final course grade for the winter 2008 administration due to standard setting being postponed until spring.

Elementary principals are participating in a professional learning book study led by Dr. Proctor on Under Resourced Learners – 8 Strategies to Boost Student Achievement, by Ruby K. Payne. Elementary assistant principals are studying High Impact Leadership for High Impact Schools, by Pamela S. Salazar. These professional learning sessions are held monthly during regularly scheduled meetings.

Newton County Schools will send 30 students to compete at the state level for participation in the 2009 Governors Honors Program. Alcovy High students are: Jonathan Betancourt, Joseph Butso, Zach Elliott, Ronnie Few, Bria Lewis, Kailyn Maynard, Jasmine Simpson, and Emily Wright. Eastside High students are: Brooke Bohannon, Joyce Cooner, Jimmy Davies, Evanne Davis, Sam Glanton, Alayah Glenn, Laura Greenwich, Hillary Hardison, Tate LeClair, Ralston Medouze, Samantha Miller, Nada Sedyame, Gurinder Sunner, Courtney Thompson, Kaitlyn Trust, and Nic Walter. Newton High students are: Ashley Bradford, Kim Dean, Renee Horne, Patrick Lopes, Tre Thornton and Brooke Wilson.

Special Education FTE contact persons coordinated the data collection process at their school for the December 1 Federal Child Count. Data collected includes all services received, least restrictive environment, and ethnicity/primary disability area. Data collected will be reflected in our system profile on the GDOE website.

The secondary media specialists are sponsoring teams to the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl in January. A local competition will be held on January 31, 2009. The local winners will then compete for district honors. The district competition will be held at Clayton State University on February 17, 2009.

Mr. James Woodard, CTAE Director; Dr. Hilda McKithen, Newton High CTAE Assistant Principal; and Dr. Gloria Griffith, Eastside High CTAE Assistant Principal, are currently participating in the New CTAE Leaders Academy. The academy is designed to provide new CTAE leaders with an understanding of how school-based CTAE programs are connected to economic development in the community and in Georgia, an understanding of the basic concepts of the QBE law and FTE funding, an understanding of legal issues, and a basic understanding of CTAE programs and initiatives.

The middle school Literacy Day Competition will be held in the auditorium of Eastside High School on December 17, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. Student representatives from each middle school and each grade will compete in the areas of poetry recitation, drama, and ready writing. Winners will proceed to the Griffin RESA Literacy Day competition in February, 2009.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on December 4, 2008, was 19,247. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

Dr. Hayden introduced Mr. James Woodard, Director of CTAE for the Newton County School System, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the recent CTAE Five-Year Program Review by the Georgia DOE. This review team, on their recent November visit, reviewed all aspects of the district's programs at both the middle and high schools. Commendations and recommendations were noted.

On a motion by Mr. Corley and a second by Ms. Dobbs, the Superintendents' 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 Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policies in Section A and B of NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revisions/updates to Policies in Section A and B 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 items, Item A and Item B, of New Business were presented by Ms. Deborah Robertson, discussed, and approved on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor:

- **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 bid for this contract was issued on behalf of five local agencies—the school system, the Newton Board of Commissioners, the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority, the City of Covington, and Social Circle City Schools.
- **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. The total estimated annual contract value is \$400,000. This includes the cost for equipment repair and service as well as the purchase of new equipment.

The following item, Item C, was presented by Ms. Robertson and will remain on the table for one month:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policies in Section C and D of NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended that policies in Sections C and D be placed on the table for review. These policies will be reviewed in December, with recommended changes acted on by the Board in January 2009. One of the recommendations from the Quality Review Team from our SACS District Accreditation was to engage in a systematic audit of existing Board policies to eliminate redundancy of state statutes and state board rules and review necessary policies to ensure intent meets implementation in an annual process.

The following item, Item D, was presented by Ms. Robertson, discussed, and approved on a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Reinstatement of Plan 403-B and Addendum to Section 125 Plan**

Approval recommended of the adoption of the Resolution authorizing the addendum to the NCSS Dental/Optical/Hearing Plan and the restatement of the NCSS 403-B Retirement Savings Plan as presented.

The following item, Item E, was presented by Dr. Whatley and will remain on the table for one month:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policy JBCC**

Approval recommended that Policy JBCC, Student Assignment, be placed on the table for review, with action in January, 2009. The policy has been reviewed primarily regarding two issues—medical conditions requiring out of zone placement and permissive transfers to accommodate choice.

The following item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Whatley for review and at the regular meeting on January 20, 2009, the Board will take action:

- **Presentation of Selected Names for New Elementary School #14** A packet of correspondence was provided to each Board member for the Board's consideration regarding the naming of new elementary school #14. At the work session on January 13, 2009, the Board will discuss the suggested names for each new school and narrow the list to no more than six names by each Board member. At the regular meeting on January 20, 2009, the Board will take action on naming the new elementary school.

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Whatley, discussed, and approved on a motion by Dr. Bates, a second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Theme Schools** Approval recommended that an elementary and a middle theme school be established and that the elementary and middle school attendance zones and school sites be established for the 2009-2010 school year. The parent involvement theme schools will be located at Fairview Elementary School and Clements Middle School.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative Calendar for 2009-2010 School Year** Approval recommended that the attached "Balanced" calendar be approved for the 2009-2010 school year. The 2009-2010 school calendar has been under development for several months following a process previously delineated by the Board. The committee was charged with the task of developing four calendars, which were reviewed by school councils, teacher forum members, school faculties and also through community feedback. The balanced calendar was overwhelmingly supported.

The following item, Item I, was presented by Mr. Turner, discussed, and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, and second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Date and Time for Superintendent's Annual Evaluation** The date and time for the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation was set for December 15th, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at Newton Federal Bank.

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented via telephone conferencing in executive session, 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.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution Honoring Rickie Corley** Approval recommended for the resolution honoring Mr. Rickie Corley for his service and dedication to the students and school system during his twelve-year tenure as a representative of District 2 of the Newton County Board of Education.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education