

# **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES OF WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

**Covington, GA**

**February 10, 2009**

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs, Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Johnny Smith and Mr. Eddie Johnson. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Turner to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

### **WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS**

**Financial and Administrative Services Reports** Ms. Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2009. With 58.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 63.54% and total expenditures are at 54.08%. All departments continue to reduce spending and are hopeful to have significant savings in the FY 09 budget to prepare for additional revenue shortfalls for FY 10.

The Newton County School System's net November SPLOST II distribution is \$643,908; a decrease of \$192,741 from our net for October. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 47 months is approximately \$40,214,250—averaging \$855,622 per month.

Foam trays continue to be collected at all elementary schools and trays are placed in a holding trailer. Dart Containers picks up the full trailer and takes it to a recycling facility in Michigan. This is a short-term solution to recycling the foam trays. We continue to work with Ms. Connie Waller and Dart Containers on a long-term solution for foam tray recycling. We are postponing recycling foam trays at the middle and high school until a long-term solution has been determined.

Construction on Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is ahead of schedule. The irrigation is at 96% completion and the grass is 90% complete. The school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST II.

Construction of Live Oak Elementary School by Meja Construction is on schedule. Steel erection on the main level is at 98% completion. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the new classroom additions at Alcovy High School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The underslab plumbing and electrical is complete. This addition is scheduled to open the 2010-2011 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

The School Nutrition Department has received no products involved in the peanut butter recall. As a precautionary measure, we have chosen to remove all menu items that contain peanuts or peanut butter until the recall is over.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee for the Education Foundation is Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Subcommittees are working to finalize the mission statement and bylaws. Officers for the Steering Committee were elected: Chairman, Ms. Loucy Hay; Vice Chairman, Ms. Vicki Hutchinson; and Secretary, Ms. Huanne Brown. Dr. Kathy Garber has provided excellent leadership in this initiative.

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

The art display at the central office during February is from Palmer-Stone Elementary and Cousins Middle School. Students and teachers are to be commended for such outstanding artwork.

The Newton County School System will, once again, co-apply with the Rockdale County Schools for the Math-Science Partnership Grant. Over the past two years, many middle and high school math and science teachers have benefited from outstanding professional learning offered by professors of Georgia Tech, Georgia State University and Clayton State University. If awarded again, the plan is to continue this outstanding learning with Georgia Tech professors for the next two years.

The Newton County Spelling Bee was held on Friday, January 30, 2009 at Eastside High School. One student representative from each elementary and middle school, including Sharp Learning Center, competed. Congratulations to Gaby Collantes, a student at Veterans Memorial Middle School, for winning first place and to Jeremy Walton, a Cousins Middle School student, for winning second place. These students will go on to participate in the District Spelling Bee on February 28, 2009, at Putnam County Middle School.

Clements Middle School has been selected for the GDOE initiative, "Supported Classroom with Assistive Technology." Approximately ten sixth-grade students with specific learning disabilities will be provided with low to middle tech-assistive technology to implement in their English/Language Arts class to address their deficits in the area of reading. Assistive Technology is any piece of equipment, either handmade or store bought, that enables a student with disabilities easier access to the general curriculum, such as textbooks on tape or CD. Staff from the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology, a division of the GDOE, will provide on-site support and training for the selected students and their teachers in both the regular and special education setting. The project will last one year and students will be frequently monitored to determine the effectiveness of the assistive technology that was implemented. At the conclusion of the project all assistive technology equipment used during the initiative will become the property of the Clements Middle School Special Education Department.

The school system recently completed the second FTE count, also known as the December 1 Federal Child Count of Special Education. This count reflects all students served in special education programs in the school system. Our December 1 count shows that 2,216 students with disabilities are receiving special education services.

The after-school instructional extension program will begin for all elementary schools during the last week of February and go until the first week in April. Identified students in Grades 3 and 5 who require additional assistance to be ready for the CRCT will be invited to attend. At most schools, the sessions will be held two days per week for two hours per day for a total of 24 hours of additional instruction.

Newton County School System will administer the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHGST) the week of March 23-27, 2009, to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for the first time. All students seeking a Georgia high school diploma must pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHGST) in four content areas: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students must also pass the Georgia High School Writing Assessment which was given in the fall. There will be multiple retest opportunities for students who do not pass the test.

The Annual Career Awareness Expo is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the Covington campus of DeKalb Technical College. The event hours are 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The goal is to raise awareness of the many careers and occupational opportunities available to students.

James Woodard, CTAE (Career, Technical and Agricultural Education) Director, will be conducting a system wide meeting of all CTAE instructors and administrators on February 12, 2009, at The Center in Covington to discuss program goals and direction. This will provide the teachers a glimpse of the focus of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education as it relates to business/industry engagement, curriculum focus, career academies, industry certification, career development and workforce readiness. Ms. Kay Lee, Director of The Center, and Mr. Ed Hutter, Chairman, CTAE Advisory Committee will assist Mr. Woodard with sharing the importance of workforce development for our secondary students.

The enrollment for the afterschool academic program for three of our schools is as follows: Porterdale - 36 students; West Newton – 34 students; and Fairview – 69 students.

Work continues by Ms. Deena Sams and Dr. Kathy Garber on a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. Newton County Schools has to be the applicant, and there is a requirement to partner with law enforcement, mental health and juvenile justice. In addition to these partners, NCSS will also partner with Juvenile Court, KidsNet, The Learning Center, and the Community Partnership. The grant is due March 4, 2009.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on February 5, 2009, was 19,141. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The following item was discussed and will be on the table for one month and action will be requested at the regular Board meeting on February, 24, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of Sections E, F, H, K, L and M of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following items, Items A - D, of New Business were presented by Ms. Deborah Robertson and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Field House**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Facilities – New Song Church at Middle Ridge Elementary School**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities – American Crusade Church at Clements Middle School**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

The following item, Item E, was presented by Dr. Hayden and will be on the table for one month, with action requested at the March 17, 2009, meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of Section I of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following items, Items F – H, were presented by Dr. Hayden and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Math Textbook Adoption for Grades 10 -12**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Block Scheduling**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Student Information System**

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Implementation of 2010 Budget Reductions** Approval recommended for the FY' 10 budget, a reduction in anticipated personnel related expenditures of over \$4,200,000 to help offset the revenue shortfall that is anticipated by June 30, 2010.

**Executive Session** Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Dr. Bates reminded those in attendance that Winter Break would be February 16 – 20, 2009, for the school system. With schools being closed, the regular session Board meeting for the month of February will be February 24, 2009.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Ms. Dobbs, and all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education