

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## DRAFT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

February 12, 2008

On Tuesday, February 8, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner called to order the monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Turner, Chairman; Vice Chair Mr. Corley, Dr. C. C. Bates, Ms. Cathy Dobbs, and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Corley to discuss appointment, employment and compensation of employees, and land acquisition. The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Dobbs.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

Mr. Turner welcomed two members of Youth Leadership of Newton County to the meeting.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

**Financial and Administrative Services Reports** Ms. Deborah Robertson reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2008. With 58.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 67.37% and total expenditures are at 56.57%.

SPLOST II distribution for November was \$839,550, a decrease of \$77,592 from our net of October. The total net SPLOST II receipts for the first 35 months is approximately \$29,991,244 averaging \$856,892 per month.

The State auditors have concluded the audit for the financial records for the 2007 fiscal year. The exit conference was held on January 17. The supervising auditor, Mr. Tommy Harp, was extremely complimentary of the business office staff and stated that this was one of the best audits he has conducted. There were no findings in this audit, but three items were discussed in the exit conference.

Construction of the new elementary school #13 is on schedule to open in the fall of 2008. Construction on the new middle school #5 is underway and will open in the fall of 2009. Both schools are primarily funded from SPLOST II.

Fuel was purchased in January at an average cost of \$2.80 per gallon for a total cost of \$130,837. This is an increase of \$.02 per gallon over the average amount paid in December. Buses traveled 581,206 for the month of January averaging 9.4 miles per gallon.

On January 31, the Department of Motor Carrier Compliance completed its annual inspection of 252 of the 254 buses that are on regular routes or used as spare buses. The other two buses are having repair work done and will receive final inspections once they are ready for use.

The switch to Retrieve Corporation, the new credit card processor for Meal Pay, has been completed and is now operational for all parents and staff. Meal Pay collections for December 2007 were \$13,884. For the 2007 calendar year, the total transactions on Meal Pay were \$157,597.

We have received written notification from the Georgia Department of Education that we will have another follow up review at the end of March from the State School Nutrition Coordinated Review Team. The previous finding at Porterdale has been resolved but one additional finding was noted. Since the federal regulations require that without an appeal on file, the state could withhold some federal funding until a clean review is received, a letter of appeal is being filed.

The purchasing department is preparing an invitation to bid for an annual contract for plumbing contractor services. The bid will seek to procure the service of a qualified and experienced plumbing contractor to perform repairs and installations as needed by the school system.

Mike Barr, Purchasing Coordinator, and Bill Rosser, Maintenance Director, met with the account manager at Associated Paper on January 23 to discuss the implementation of the new custodial program that will begin March 1. This program will ensure the usage and ordering of adequate supply levels of custodial supplies for our county.

Grove Pointe Church, who was previously approved to use the facilities at Cousins Middle Schools for their church services, would like to move their services to East Newton Elementary School. This will be a transfer of contract and has been approved by the Principal of East Newton Elementary.

A six-hour customer service training has been completed for all school administrators, clerks, secretaries, counselors and county office employees. The overall evaluation of the training was positive.

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

Social workers continue their work toward reducing truancy and unexcused tardies. To date, approximately 500 referrals have been received and approximately 40 juvenile complaints have been filed.

There are approximately 1,114 children in Newton County that are enrolled in private school and 708 children enrolled in home school programs according to the district's annual private and home school report.

The Technology Department has completed the E-Rate application process. In addition to applying for partial reimbursement for all telecommunication services and for the secondary internet line, the technology department applied for assistance in constructing additional fiber lines, in renovating technology infrastructure in selected schools, in replacing file servers, in paying for maintenance of technology equipment, in adding more telephone licenses, and in providing technology infrastructure in the new schools.

Newton County students will have the opportunity to work with the City of Covington through Charter Communications on the Education Access cable channel. The Covington City Manager has established a committee to look into the aspects of production and technology for the channel. All programming, which would highlight aspects of education, schools, students and community involvement, would be produced by students only.

Youth Apprenticeship for second semester includes sixteen students at Alcovy, twenty-five at Eastside and sixteen at Newton High for a total of fifty-seven students. Students are placed at various employers around the county including placement at the Newton County Sheriff's Department this semester.

Tutorial services, through a joint effort with the judicial system, have begun at the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). These services are from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The extra services are provided by a teacher and are only for students with disabilities who are placed on home study. A parent/guardian is required to stay with the student during the tutorial session.

SB 10 Public Choice was available again for second semester. Of the four applications that were submitted for consideration, only two were granted.

Training on how to conduct a Georgia Assessment of Performance on School Standards (GAPSS) was completed by the Georgia DOE for principals on January 22. Training for assistant principals will be provided next.

There are fifty-eight students participating in either joint enrollment or dual enrollment at local colleges this semester. Jointly enrolled students receive credit only at the postsecondary institution. This credit is in addition to their high school requirements for a diploma.

The Newton County Spelling Bee was held on January 30. Stephanie Lightsey, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Clements Middle, was the first place winner.

All high schools are providing remediation/test preparation sessions before school, after school, and/or on Saturdays for the upcoming GHSGT. In addition, Alcovy High will pilot credit recovery sessions on Saturdays through March.

A peer tutoring/mentoring program for students before school and during lunch has been started by seniors at Alcovy High.

The Middle School Literacy Day contests were held at Newton High on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The winners are as follows; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ready Writing - Kristen Adaway from Clements; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Ready Writing – Mary Lathem from Cousins; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ready Writing – Stephanie Lightsey from Clements; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Recitation – Kimberly Stier from Cousins; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Recitation – Meg Gourley from Veterans; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recitation – Destiny McKnight from Veterans; Drama Team Performances – first place from Veterans.

Informational meetings will be held at night during March at all middle schools to discuss the new graduation rule with parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will be done at each school prior to completing 9<sup>th</sup> grade registration forms. Information will be sent out to the parents about these important meetings.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment as of February 1 was 18,917. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The following items were discussed under old business:

- **Revision Policies: GRIB – Illness; and GBRID – Military** In accordance with Board policy, these revised policies were discussed at the work session in January and were placed on the table at the regular meeting in January. The policies have been reviewed with school principals and have been available for public review. These policies were revised to be in compliance with Georgia law.
- **Naming of New Elementary School #13 and New Middle School #5** The naming of the new elementary school #13 and the new middle school #5 were discussed at the work session in January. In order to have more input and time to review names, the Board asked to delay the naming of the schools until the February 12<sup>th</sup> work session. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs, seconded by Mr. Corley, the name of South Salem Elementary was chosen for the new elementary school #13. All voted in favor. On a motion by Mr. Corley, seconded by Ms. Dobbs, the name of Liberty Middle School was chosen for the new middle school #5. All voted in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following items of new business were discussed:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy DIB – Financial Report**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy GAD – Professional Development Opportunities**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IDD – Special Programs – Special Instructional Assistance**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IDDD – Program for Gifted Students**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IEB – Organization for Instruction**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IED – Scheduling for Instruction**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Summer School Programs**

**Executive Session** Dr. Steve Whatley, Superintendent, presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Ms. Dobbs, 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 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, seconded by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education