

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2009 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

February 24, 2009

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Turner; Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Johnny Smith; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Johnson to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, Mr. Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Smith also welcomed a group from Newton County Youth Leadership that was in attendance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The school district's STAR students and STAR teachers were recognized. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) honors the students in each high school with the highest SAT score in one sitting. The students must also be in the top ten percent of their class based on grade point average. Each STAR student is then asked to select his or her STAR teacher. The Covington Kiwanis Club is the proud local sponsor of this program and these students and teachers were also recently honored at the February 12, 2009 club meeting. The students and teachers are as follows: from Alcovy High School, student Kimberly Michelle Rary and STAR teacher Ms. Anita Anderson; from Eastside High, student Leaha Ashley Wynn and STAR teacher Mr. Eric Adams; and from Newton High, Sarah Louisa Lanners and STAR teacher Ms. Janie Sheldon. Sarah Lanners and Janie Sheldon were also named the school district's STAR Student and STAR Teacher.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Karen Rhodes, a parent from Eastside High School, asked the Board to consider a \$45,000 budget request for new marching band uniforms for Eastside High.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Dr. Bates called for a motion on the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Ms. Dobbs made a motion for approval, Mr. Turner seconded, and all voted in favor.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2009, meetings as presented. Ms. Dobbs seconded and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports No additional information was added by Ms. Deborah Robertson to the Administrative Services Report, which was presented at the February 10, 2009, work session. Copies of the reports are attached. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Turner, the Administrative Services Report was approved, with all voting in favor.

Ms. Robertson introduced Mr. Chris Haymore, from Alcovy High School, who presented to the Board quotes and ideas for a new video/scoreboard for Sharp Stadium. These quotes and ideas represent the collaborative recommendation from the principals and Athletic Directors from the three high schools. This new purchase would fall under the renovation cost of Sharp Stadium, which will be funded by SPLOST monies.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/ Instruction/ Technology/Enrollment reports that was presented at the February 10, 2009, work session. On a motion by Mr. Turner, and second by Mr. Smith, the Curriculum and Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report was approved, with all voting in favor.

Dr. Hayden introduced Dr. Ken Proctor, Elementary Curriculum Director for the NCSS, who reviewed a power point presentation to the Board on the Pyramid of Intervention.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of old business, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policies in Sections E, F, H, K, L, and M of NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revisions/updates to Policies in Sections E, F, H, K, L, and M of the NCBOE Policy manual as presented. These policies have been on the table for one month and have been on the website for public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

The following item of new business, Item A, was tabled for further review until March 10th, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Field House** Nineteen bids were accepted for the construction of the field house and associated site work at Sharp Stadium. Because the bids were higher than anticipated, the architect was asked to work with the apparent low bidder, Hobgood Construction Group, LLC, to assess what could be eliminated without significant impact on the integrity of the project. Mr. Ray Moore, our architect of record, discussed the project and this bid proposal.

The following items of new business, Item B, Item C and Item D, were approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Facilities – New Song Church at Middle Ridge Elementary School** Approval recommended of the request for extended use of Middle Ridge Elementary by New Song Church for worship services each Sunday morning, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The rental fee will double to \$60.00 per Sunday, plus \$10.00 per hour for utilities, which is calculated to be 1.5 hours per week. The total due each week is \$75.00.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of Facilities – American Crusade Church at Clements Middle School** Approval recommended of the request for use of school facilities by American Crusade Church for worship services each Sunday morning, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., beginning March 1, 2009. The rent for the band room at Clements Middle School is \$30.00 per use and \$10.00 per hour for utility fee. The total due each week for rental and utilities is \$50.00.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items** Approval recommended for declaring items as presented as surplus as they are no longer serviceable to the school system. The motion also authorized the appropriate disposal of these items through a salvage company or other proper disposal methods.

The following item of new business, Item E, will remain on the table for one month for review:

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

The following item of new business, Item F, was approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Math Textbook Adoption for grades 10-12** Approval recommended for selected mathematics textbooks for use in grades 10-12 for the next seven years. These textbooks will follow the rollout of Georgia Performance Standards for High School. Texts adopted in 2008 were for Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Accelerated Mathematics I, Accelerated Mathematics II, Support Mathematics I, Support Mathematics II, AP Statistics and AP Calculus. The remaining high school math texts for Mathematics III, Accelerated Mathematics III, Support Mathematics III and Mathematics IV are recommended for adoption this year following the state rollout of GPS for high school mathematics. After approval, these textbooks will be purchased.

The following item of new business, Item G, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Block Scheduling** Approval recommended for block scheduling for Alcovy High, Newton High, and Sharp Learning Center beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. After careful study, the administrators of these three high schools recommended a change to block scheduling due to the following reasons: no cost of additional faculty; stakeholder buy-in; new graduation rule requirements; assistance in transfer students; alignment of school schedules for potential Career Academy/Center; expanding work-based learning; dual enrollment; and increased opportunities for Advanced Placement courses. Plans are being developed for professional learning to be provided for the remainder of this school year and throughout next school year for teachers as transition to this change. Plans are also being developed for parent notification of this change.

The following item of new business, Item H, was approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Student Information System** Approval recommended of the contract for a student information system to be awarded to K-12 Solutions Group of Commerce, Georgia, for the Infinite Campus product. The school system currently uses the SASI student information system supplied by Pearson Education. State reporting updates will no longer be supported by Pearson effective August 1, 2009 and Pearson will discontinue all product support for SASI effective August 1, 2010. After many months of review, which included other school systems, it was determined that the proposal submitted by K-12 Solutions Group offered the best value to our school system. The total cost for the first year including installation, implementation, and training is \$249,846.00. This cost will be paid from capital funds. If training can be arranged for several school systems the cost may be reduced. Annual renewal fees are \$162,246.00.

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the list of recommendations, with the exclusion of Number 1155 on the report, with a second by Ms. Dobbs and all voting in favor. Ms. Dobbs made the motion to accept Number 1155 on the personnel report with a second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor, with the exception of Mr. Smith, who abstained from the vote due to a conflict interest.

Dr. Whatley announced that the principal for the new middle theme school which is scheduled to open at Clements Middle School in August 2009 will be Dr. Jill Adams. Dr. Adam's recommendation was approved on the attached personnel report.

Dr. Bates reminded the Board of the upcoming Job Fair on March 14th at Eastside High School.

Dr. Whatley asked the Board members to check their schedules as a Board Planning Session would need to be scheduled in March. A possible date is March 16th at 5 p.m., at the Board office.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education