

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2008 REGULAR SESSION

Covington, GA

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner called to order the regular monthly 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 Ms. Dobbs and seconded by Dr. Bates 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. Corley and seconded by Ms. Dobbs.

WELCOME, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Miss Stephanie Lightsey was recognized as the Newton County 2008 Spelling Bee winner. She is an eighth grader at Clements Middle School. This marked the fourth time in five years that Miss Lightsey has been our county champion.

Ms. Karen Crowder, Principal of Middle Ridge Elementary, was recognized for recently earning national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This is a voluntary assessment program and certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

Members of the Newton County School System's District Change Team, who have been participating in the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) were also recognized. The members are from Fairview Elementary – Ms. Holly Dubois, Ms. Shari Thomas, Ms. ReNae Malcom; from Cousins Middle School – Mr. Scott Sauls, Dr. Renee Mallard, Ms. Brook Khodabakhsh; from Alcovy High School – Mr. Dave Easterday, Ms. Debbie Stephens, Ms. Allison Jordan; from the Newton County Board office – Dr. Steve Whatley, Dr. Sheila Thomas and Dr. Linda Hayden.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Robert Tymkew, parent from Rocky Plains Elementary, requested that the Board review the discipline section of the handbook in reference to earlier parent involvement in harassment situations. The Board will review this request.

Mr. Marcus Hill, representing Newton High School Band Booster Program, presented the Board with additional bids for the future purchase of approximately 130 new band uniforms. The Board will review the request for future funding.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda of the January 15, 2008 meeting as presented; Ms. Dobbs, seconded, all voting in favor.

Dr. Bates made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2008 meeting as presented; Mr. Corley seconded; with all voting in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Administrative Services Report, Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Reports

No additional information was added to these reports that were given at the Board's work session on February 12th. Copies are attached.

Dr. Adria Griffin provided an informational presentation on the middle school and high school graduation coach program. This program focuses efforts on all students, also working with parents, teachers, and administrators, to understand the importance of graduating from high school. The coaches work with the students to stay on track and also provide them with support and resources in the school and in the community to help them reach their goal of high school graduation.

On a motion by Mr. Corley and seconded by Ms. Dobbs, the Administrative Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

On a motion by Dr. Bates and seconded by Mr. Corley, the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and seconded by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor to approve the following policies which had been on the table for one month:

- **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.

NEW BUSINESS

The following seven items, items A - G on the agenda will be on the table for 30 days.

- **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 Revision of Policy II – Testing Programs – Student Assessment**

Item H, listed below, was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Summer School Programs** Approval of the recommendations for dates and locations of summer school services for Newton County. The elementary program will be held at Middle Ridge Elementary from June 2 – 6 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for third and fifth grades. This program is for students who did not meet standards on the Reading section of the CRCT in third grade or Reading and/or Math sections in fifth grade. There is no fee and transportation will be provided at specific pick up/drop off points. The middle school program will be offered at Clements and Cousins Middle Schools beginning June 2 – June 6; first session from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., with the second session from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. to students based on priority. This program is offered to tutor 8th grade students who fail to meet the minimum score in reading and math on the GCRTC or for remediation of coursework in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies or connections. There is a fee of \$150.00 per course and transportation will

be provided at specific pickup/drop off points. The high school program is a GHSGT remediation course which will be held at Newton High from June 30 – July 11. There is no fee.

Executive Session Dr. Steve Whatley, Superintendent, presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Mr. Corley made the motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Mr. Smith, 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 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, seconded by Mr. Corley, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education