NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA **July 21, 2009**

The combined July work session and regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, July 21, 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 Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Dobbs to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Johnson, 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.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dr. Bates called for a motion to approve agenda and the minutes of the June 2009 meetings as presented. Ms. Dobbs made a motion for approval, Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Operations Report Mr. Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the Operations Report. The financial report for June 30, 2009, is not available as data entry is continuing on FY 2009 invoices. Standard operating procedure is to close out all open purchase orders prior to closing out the fiscal year. The financial report as of July 31, 2009 will reflect the ending fund balance of FY 09 as the beginning fund balance of FY 10.

The Newton County School System's net April SPLOST II distribution is $738,811; a decrease of $488,346 from our net for March. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 52 months is approximately $44,348,427—averaging $852,854 per month.

Of the 1,191 work orders received in July, 926 have been completed. The remaining 265 work orders are in progress.

The Maintenance Department has completed numerous projects during the summer. Those projects included: repair and refinish of gym floor at Newton High, painting classrooms at Clements; painting canopy at Palmer Stone; repair of water damage to Newton gym floor; cleaned all ceilings, vents and fans in all kitchens; toilet partitions for Livingston restrooms, upgraded exterior doors at Fairview; painted restrooms at Livingston; top dress Sharp Stadium; replaced main water valves and pressure regulators at Newton High; paint E wing halls at Indian Creek Middle; painted selected classrooms and locker rooms at Eastside; painted all exterior doors at 19 locations; painted all student restrooms at Clements and Veterans; installed new carpet at Eastside auditorium; repaired drainage problem at Eastside football practice area; patched and painted 12 rooms at Sharp Learning Center; top dressed Eastside, Indian Creek and Alcovy football fields; tile/carpeting at Cousins, Newton, Sharp, Clements and Mainstay; sweep, clean and screen gym floors at all middle and high schools, cleaned and waxed floors at Clements and Fairview, and upgraded lighting in hallways at Clements Middle.

Construction of Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is ahead of schedule. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. We anticipate a permanent occupancy to be issued on Monday, July 20, 2009. This 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 by Meja Construction is on schedule. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of other 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

There was no fuel purchase during the month of June. Buses traveled 4,989,289 miles for the 2008-2009 school year on regular routes and field trips averaging 9.3 miles per gallon.

During the 08-09 school year, transportation completed a total of 3,038 field trips. Of those, 635 were for regular education; 1,286 were for special education and 1,117 were athletic trips, with an average of 16.88 trips per school day.

The cost per mile for field trips for the 09-10 school year will be $2.50. This is an increase of $.50 from the amount paid during the 08-09 school year.

Furniture installation for Liberty Middle is complete. The installation of furniture at Live Oak began on July 13, 2009.

Meal Pay Plus revenue for 2008-2009 was $386,268. Total revenue for the 2007-2008 school year was $269,833. Money added to student accounts through this online payment system increased by $116,435 for the year. This is an 43% increase over the 2007-2008 school year.

Meal Pay Plus is changing the fee structure as of July, 2009. The previous charge was $2.00 per transaction, the new fee implemented on August 1, 2009, will be 4.75% of the total payment. The new fee structure will be less costly for payments of $35.00 or less. Parents will be notified of this change on the web site and with flyers posted at each school during Open House.

During the 2008-2009 school year, 2,631,555 lunches were served. The average number of lunches served per day at 14,705. The average daily lunch participation for the year was 76.8%. This is an increase of 1.9% when compared to the 2007-2008 school year.

School Nutrition will use School Messenger to inform parents about the availability of free and reduced lunch prices and when to expect to receive the application. This message will go out on August 2, 2009.

Heard Mixon Elementary School was awarded a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for local school food authorities. This grant in the amount of $13,000 enabled the School Nutrition Program to purchase a double stack convection oven for the kitchen at Heard Mixon. The oven will be installed in September.

Mr. Carpenter expressed appreciation and recognized members of the Operations Department for their hard work during the summer months in getting ready for the new school year; Ms. Nyree Sanders – Human Resources; Mr. Bill Rosser – Maintenance and Operations; Mr. Chuck Brasher – Transportation; Ms. Peggy Bullard – Business Services; Mr. Mike Barr – Logistical Services and Ms. Jan Loomans – School Nutrition. Mr. Carpenter also introduced Dr. LaQuanda Brown, new Principal for Alcovy High School.

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

Robin Dykes, a consultant from Griffin RESA, will be conducting professional learning sessions with the NCSS teachers on writing. Two sessions will be held in September, with a follow-up session in October at the Newton County BOE. Ms. Dykes will be working with teachers on the 6+1 writing traits and genre instruction. She will also provide assistance with the Georgia Writing Assessment and examining student work in relation to the traits, genres, and what is expected on the writing assessment.

Summer school ended on June 24, 2009 for elementary and middle school students. Approximately 900 students, in either third or fifth grades were re-tested on the CRCT in reading and/or math. For eighth grade students, 105 were re-tested in reading and 492 were re-tested in math. CRCT re-tests, given in the summer, do figure into AYP calculations.

Approximately 300 Newton County special and regular education teachers and special education paraprofessionals participated in professional learning classes during the month of June. Participants earned professional learning hours and received stipends provided by IDEA/ARRA Stimulus funds.

No Child Left Behind School Choice letters were mailed on July 13, 2009 and July 14, 2009, to parents of students who are registered to attend Liberty Middle School and Middle Ridge Elementary. Parents have until July 29, 2009 to complete an application for a move to the receiving school. Middle Ridge students will have an option to attend Heard Mixon Elementary or East Newton Elementary. Liberty Middle students will have an option to attend Veterans Memorial Middle or Cousins Middle.

Training was done on July 16, 2009, for teacher leaders and administrators for use of PD 360 which is an online professional development resource. PD 360 is the culmination of 20 years of intensive research and videotaping in the best schools in North America. It provides well-organized video clips and precise examples and explanations of best educational practices that are research-based and proven in classrooms. PD 360 also provides administrators with tools to determine teacher usage, most preferred learning segments selected by teachers, and whether or not required follow-up activities after the training have been completed.

Summer work continues on a variety of projects for the technology department. Expected completion dates for the projects will be in August and September.

On a motion by Mr. Turner and a second by Ms. Dobbs, the Superintendent's Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of New Business was presented by Dr. Whatley and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, with a second by Mr. Turner, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Construction of Water and Sewage Lines**
  Approval recommended that the proposed interagency contract between the Water and Sewer Authority and the NCBOE be approved. Before additional property can be purchased for school construction, two issues need to be resolved. A risk hazard analysis completed for the system on the proposed property must be approved by the State Facilities Department. Second, the potential property is of value to the system, if water and sewer are available. In order to resolve the second issue, a contract has been negotiated which requires the NCBOE to pay one-fourth of the cost of the sewer line not to exceed $125,000 and payable upon completion of the line. Construction and maintenance of the line will be handled by the Water and Sewer Authority. The BOE will be required to pay the tap fees at an estimated cost of $100,000. Water and sewer will be sufficient for at least two schools. The contract calls for the water and sewer line to be operational at least 90-120 days prior to opening of the first school. The contract will only be finalized if the property is approved by the State Department for the Board's purchase.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Membership in Griffin RESA** Approval recommended that the Board adopt the Contract for Membership in the Griffin Regional Educational Service Agency. This membership contract is for $148,738.30. This is a total increase of $15,452.09, slightly more than 11.5% increase over FY09.

The following item, Item C, of New Business was presented by Mr. Carpenter and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, with a second by Mr. Smith, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Foam Tray Recycling Contract** Approval recommended for the contract with B & W Waste, Inc. for the recycling of foam trays. The effective date of the contract will be July 22, 2009 and the expiration date will be July 21, 2010. B & W Waste, Inc., has agreed to partner with the foam tray manufacturer to provide the service of densification and packaging of polystyrene foam products for the school system and will return the foam to the manufacturer for reuse. The estimated value of the contract is $35,900. It is projected that the program will reduce the number of solid waste containers needed at each school. It is conservatively estimated reducing the number of waste containers will save the school system $67,000 annually.

The following item, Item D, of New Business was presented by Mr. Carpenter and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, with a second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Precipitous Decline** Approval recommended of the LEA Form for Documenting Precipitous Decline. The NCSS has been approved for $11,424,193 in ARRA funds to date, with $4,995.547 added to the QBE allotment to offset state austerity reductions. The balance is allotted by way of Title I and Title VIB federal grants. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) will be monitoring the expenditure of funds allocated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The GAO will release monthly reviews of how states, including Georgia, are using these funds. As a result of these accountability requirements and in order to have these funds released to the district, NCSS must prepare the form and submit it to the GDOE. Once this initial form is approved by the local board, the district will be required to submit quarterly reports to the state board detailing the expenditures of ARRA funds.

The following item, Item E, of New Business was presented by Dr. Whatley and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, with a second by Mr. Turner, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Giving Superintendent Authority to Employ/Transfer Staff to Meet Enrollment Demands During first Month of School** Approval recommended that the Superintendent be authorized to employ or transfer staff during the first month of school as enrollments and maximum class size requirements demand. The state requires that no class be over the maximum class size after the first 15 days of school. If class sizes exceed the allowed maximums, teachers will need to be added. If more teachers are employed than needed at one school, then classes are collapsed and teachers are transferred. Paraprofessionals may need to be added or transferred as those positions are used in determining class sizes for kindergarten and special education. Since the enactment of school choice with No Child Left Behind, there may be a need to add bus drivers and/or monitors based on the number of students who participate in the choice option as those schools are required to offer choice. The FY 2010 budget contains $200,000 in contingency funds to offset any additions to personnel. The costs for salaries and benefits of additional personnel needed per this request will be reported in the mid-term adjustment. Additional funds may be received from the state at mid-term to help offset these costs.

The following item, Item F, of New Business was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, with a second by Mr. Smith, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreements with Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech/Language Pathologists** Approval recommended that agreements between the

NCSS and the following individuals to provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech/language therapy services to students with disabilities in accordance with the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Funding is from FY10 Federal IDEA Flowthru funds.

Physical Therapy:

Lynda Reagan	$55.00 hour	110 days (3 days/wk and 2 workdays)
Carla Duncan	$52.50 hour	110 days (3 days/wk and 2 workdays)

Occupational Therapy:

Marcus Bramlett	$55.50 hour	190 days
Laverne Shelton	$50.00 hour	190 days
Jennifer Sorrow	$50.00 hour	113 days (3 days/wk/5workdays)
LaVern Roper-Ramkisson	$50.00 hour	190 days
Anna Silver	$47.50 hour	190 days
Jessica Crutchfield	$50.50 hour	190 days

Speech/Language Therapy:

Andrea Rosegreen	$65.00 hour	74 days (2 days/wk and 2 workdays)
Tawanna Jackson	$65.00 hour	149 Days (4 days/wk and 5 workdays)

The following item, Item G, of New Business was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, with a second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Activboards for Alcovy High School** Approval recommended that Promethaean ActivBoards needed for Alcovy High School be purchased from Logical Choice Technologies for $205,160. Logical Choice Technologies was awarded the annually renewable contract for the supply and installation of Promethean ActivBoards and accessories on April 14, 2009.

The following item, Item H, of New Business was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, with a second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting on favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Petition for Charter Career Academy** Approval recommended that the Charter Petition for the Newton College and Career Academy be approved. The Academy is designed to offer students a challenging career pathway based on local workforce needs. In accordance with Charter School Law and State Board of Education Charter School rule (160-4-9-.04), each eligible local school system shall submit charter petitions for approval by the local BOE. Following local approval, the State BOE will consider the charter petition for approval.

Executive Session Mr. Carpenter presented for Board action 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.

Dr. Bates reminded those in attendance of upcoming school system activities: school administrative meetings on July 20 and July 21, 2009; new teacher orientation on July 22 and July 23, 2009; open house for all schools on July 31, 2009 and the first day of school being August 3, 2009.

In review of the information received from Governor Perdue's office at 3:00 p.m. today on additional state budget cuts and furlough days, there will be a called Board meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

There will be a called Board meeting on July 23, 2009 at 8 a.m. at the NCBOE building.

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

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education