

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF WORK SESSION JUNE 9, 2009

Covington, GA

June 9, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates and the following Board members were present: Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Johnny Smith and Mr. Eddie Johnson. Ms. Dobbs was not in attendance. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Turner to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Turner, the Board voted 4-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, she also 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 Administrative Services, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending May 31, 2009. With 91.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 86.62% and total expenditures are at 90.68%. We have not received our tax funds for the Homeowner's Tax Relief Grant from the state and we should have received those funds in May; that is \$3.1 million in budgeted revenues.

The Newton County School's net March SPLOST II distribution is \$1,227,157 an increase of \$679,289 from our net for February. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 51 months is approximately \$43,609,616 averaging \$855,090 per month.

The NCSS received official notification on June 3, 2009 that the system is receiving \$1,861,555 in FY 09 AARA Stabilization Funds. These funds can be used to offset instructional personnel costs in salaries and benefits for FY 09. The system has also received notification that our state QBE funds for FY09 are going to be cut once again due to a newly revised estimate of state revenues that are even lower than the earlier revised estimate. Meanwhile, we are in limbo about what our true ending fund balance is going to be for FY 09 and that ending fund balance will impact our projected beginning fund balance for FY10.

Construction of Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is ahead of schedule. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. The construction company is working on the punch list. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST II. The school is still considered a construction site and no one should be going inside the school without prior approval from our Construction Manager, Mr. Don Wood.

Construction of Live Oak Elementary by Meja Construction is progressing. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the new classroom addition at Alcovy High School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The first floor block walls are complete and the roof is at 95% completion. This addition is scheduled to open the 2010-2011 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the Sharp Field House by Hobgood Construction is on schedule. Demolition of the buildings is complete. The retention pond upgrade is complete and the footings are being dug.

Renovations at Newton High began on June 2, 2009. Painting of some or all the lockers may be a possibility as there will be painting on the inside of the building going on and the cabinets and counter tops in the Consumer Science area are being reviewed to determine what needs to be replaced and what can be repainted. Work will be done as warranted.

The average cost of fuel for May was at \$1.70 per gallon for a total cost of \$51,337. This is an increase of \$.08 a gallon over the average amount paid in April. Buses traveled 556,891 miles for the month of May and buses averaged 10.7 miles per gallon.

The state transportation allotment for 2010 has been received. The initial allotment shows funding for 84 drivers; that includes salaries and benefits for \$804,229, which is an average of \$9,574 per driver. There is no state allotment for bus monitors. We have 235 drivers and 53 monitors. Bus replacement funds area \$251,556 and these funds are included in the general budget to pay on our buses that have been financed. Total 2010 allotment for transportation is \$1,692,160 and that is for salaries and benefits, insurance, maintenance and repairs, and bus purchases. No bus purchases have been made for FY 2010 due to the loss of state and local revenues. Our transportation allotment for FY 2009 was \$1,759,917 so we are receiving approximately \$68,000 less in state funds next year than we received this year.

Furniture installation for Liberty Middle has begun and is on schedule. The anticipated completion date is June 30, 2009.

Furniture installation for Live Oak Elementary is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 13, 2009.

The Education Foundation Organizing Committee members are making contact with prospective Board of Trustees for the Foundation. The Committee hopes to have all Trustees named by the end of August.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report

Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

CRCT remediation for elementary and middle school students began on June 8, 2009. The elementary summer school classes are located at Middle Ridge Elementary, and the middle school program will be at Cousins Middle. Teachers met for a planning day on June 5, 2009. Eight instructional days will be followed by two days of testing. Make up tests will be given on June 24, 2009.

Special education teachers and related service providers completed Annual Review Individual Education Program (IEP) team meetings and eligibility re-determinations for all students with disabilities receiving special education services. As of May 29, 2009, there were over 2,500 team meetings conducted in preparation for the FY10 school year.

The Individuals with Disabilities Act requires that the need for Extended School Year (ESY) services be considered for each student served in special education programs as a part of the IEP process. There are currently 100 students with disabilities that have been recommended for ESY scheduled to begin June 8, 2009. Services will be provided through contractual arrangements with approximately 45 system staff. ESY programs will be located at Middle Ridge Elementary, Cousins Middle School and at a high school location. These services are funded through IDEA Flow-Through funds.

A team of leaders from Newton, Morgan, and Rockdale counties, as well as representatives from DeKalb Technical College, recently convened to align standards in the Small Business Development Pathway (Secondary) and the Marketing Program (Post Secondary). Students who complete the Small Business Development Pathway will be

awarded articulated credit in Marketing at DeKalb Technical College. Teachers will meet to develop common course syllabi, curriculum pacing guides, and end-of-course assessments.

Under NCLB, school systems are required to pay for public school choice related transportation for all students who opt to transfer as a result of a school being in Needs Improvement Year 2 status or higher. Initially, school systems were guided to provide bus transportation; however, now the guidance regarding NCLB is that school systems may provide bus transportation or reimburse parents mileage for transporting their child to and from the receiving school. Procedures will be set up to regulate the paying of the parents' mileage; setting up the payment process of paying the parents mileage; deadlines for turning in mileage, verifying the information completed by the parent for payment, actual payment procedures, etc. In the past, NCSS provided bus transportation; however, now due to the economic downturn and funding cuts, it is in the best interest of the school system to reimburse parents mileage for transporting their students during the 2009-2010 year. This change for transportation will enable 22 buses currently being used for NCLB transfers to be used for regular transportation of students. Parental notification will be provided once AYP determinations are received from DOE.

The Technical College System of Georgia has begun to solicit applications for Career Academy grants in FY10 from schools, businesses, and community leaders who are encouraged to plan together and apply for a Career Academy in their area. Grant application workshops that will provide information about the Charter application process will be held June 23, 2009 in Tifton and June 25, 2009 in Atlanta.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on May 29, 2009, was 18,979. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following items, Item A – C, were discussed and will be on the table for one month and action will be requested at the regular Board meeting on June 16, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Adoption of the FY 2010 Budget**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Millage Rate for FY 2010**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of the Classified Employees Portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

NEW BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, with a second by Mr. Smith and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Uniform Policy for Fairview and Clements Theme School**
Approval recommended that school uniforms and the parent contract be approved for use at Fairview and Clements Theme Schools beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

The following item, Item B, was presented by Dr. Whatley and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Authorize to Transfer 09 Mid-term Funds to Appropriate 2010 Accounts for Incomplete Purchases**

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Garbage Removal and Disposal**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Program Bids for Produce and Eggs**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Program Bids for Kitchen Small Wares**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Selected School Nutrition Contracts**

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Pediatric Services of America**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Data, Voice, Video, and Wireless Cabling and Equipment at Alcovy High**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Microsoft Licensing Agreements**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval for CTAE Local Plan**

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

Dr. Bates reminded the Board of the upcoming Georgia School Board conference in Savannah on June 10 – June 13, 2009. There has also been a tour scheduled for Board members to visit Live Oak Elementary and Liberty Middle on June 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education