

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2008 REGULAR SESSION

Covington, GA

JUNE 17, 2008

On Tuesday, June 17, 2008, Board Chair Almond Turner called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The meeting was preceded by an advertised public hearing relative to the proposed FY 2009 general fund budget and millage rate. The following board members were present: Mr. Turner, Chairman; Vice Chair Mr. Rickie Corley; Dr. C. C. Bates; and Mr. Johnny Smith. Ms. Cathy Dobbs was unable to attend. Both meetings were held in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Dr. Bates and second by Mr. Corley to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Corley, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the Executive Session to return to open session.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:45 p.m., Chairman Turner called to order the third of three public hearings before the Board officially adopted the FY 2008-2009 operational budget and millage rate. Dr. Steve Whatley, NCSS School Superintendent, briefly reviewed the proposed budget which had been presented to the Board in detail at the

May 13, 2008 work session and studied extensively in a special called budget work session on May 15, 2008. The tentative budget was adopted in the regular May 20, 2008 meeting of the Board and has been advertised in the county's legal organ, *The Covington News*.

In previously held meetings, concerns have been expressed regarding the effects of both the local and state economy on our revenue projections and required expenditures. In addition to the effects of low or slow growth in the local tax digest on the 09 budget, other issues include rising fuel costs, increasing numbers of students, increased costs associated with opening the new South Salem Elementary School on Salem Road, and a continuing state reduction in revenue, which for 2009 is \$1,027,133.

In the budget presentation made to the Board and the tentative budget adopted on May 20, 2008, a millage rate used by the Administration for Maintenance and Operations for raising the needed local revenue was 18.21 mills. That millage rate is .054 mills under the tax office's calculated rollback rate of 18.264 mills.

Mr. Turner opened the floor for discussion from the public. There were no comments from the audience and at 7 p.m. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the public hearing session and begin the regular monthly work session. Dr. Bates seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dr. Bates made a motion to approve the agenda of the May 20, 2008 meeting as presented, with a second by Mr. Smith, all voted in favor.

Mr. Corley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2008 meeting as presented, with a second by Dr. Bates, all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

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

No additional information was added to reports that were given at the Board's work session on June 10, 2008. Copies are attached.

Dr. Kathy Reese, Director of Secondary Schools and CTAE, presented a power point presentation on Sharp Learning Center – Update 2007-2008. This presentation gave an overview of the mission, purpose, beliefs and programs at Sharp Learning Center. Mr. Gabe Burnette, Principal of Sharp, and Mr. Kenneth Daniels, who oversees night school at Sharp Learning Center, were both present. Mr. Burnette answered questions from the Board members and explained future goals at the school.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, and a second by Mr. Corley, the Superintendent's Reports were approved, and all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

The following items of Old Business were approved as noted:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Section F of Secondary Program Planning Guide**
With clarification of Section F in the handbook, on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor, this item was approved.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Adoption of FY 2009 Budget** Approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, a second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor, this item was approved.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Millage Rate for FY 2009** Approved on a motion by Mr. Corley, a second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor, this item was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

With no changes noted, the following items, Items A – D, were approved on a motion by Mr. Corley, and a second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Garbage/Trash Removal and Disposal**
Approval recommended for the acceptance of the annual renewable contract awarded in 2007 to B & W Waste, Inc. of Madison, Georgia, at an estimated cost of \$238,980 for garbage removal and disposal at selected schools. The cost is based on how many containers are at each school site and how many days per week pickup is requested at each site. If the number of containers or pick-up days changes, the cost will also change. All schools are included except those that are within the City of Covington service area. The company has also been informed that the number of pick-up days will in all likelihood change as the school system implements a foam tray recycling program.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contracts for Selected School Nutrition Program Items**
Approval recommended for the acceptance of the following selected items: contract renewal with Fulton Paper Company of Austell, Georgia, for the purchase of paper products at an estimated annual cost of \$383,000; a bid from Atlanta Fixture and Sales of Atlanta, Georgia, for the purchase of small kitchen wares at an estimated cost of \$50,000; and the purchase of large kitchen equipment needed by specific schools using a bid awarded by the Cobb County School District. Total purchase requested from this bid is \$88,159. Board policy provides the option of purchasing off a contract awarded by another school district. Using the bid awarded by Cobb County Board of Education allows the school system to benefit from the pricing given to a larger school system purchasing these items in greater volume.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Energy Management Contract** Approval recommended for the renewal of the energy management contract with Automated Logic Controls of Georgia, Inc. of Kennesaw, Georgia. The renewal is \$38,830 and this amount is included in the FY 09 budget.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Authorization to Transfer 08 Mid-Term Funds to Appropriate 09 Accounts for Incomplete Projects** Approval recommended to authorize the transfer of FY 08 mid-term funds that were appropriated by the Board in April and that are in the process of being expended, be transferred to the corresponding FY 09 accounts.

With no changes noted, the following items, Items E –G, were approved on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Corley, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Antivirus Software** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the low bid, in the amount of \$75,908.00, for antivirus software be awarded to Carahsoft Technology Corporation.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Microsoft License Renewals** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the renewal of the annual licensing agreement with Soft Choice for Microsoft software in the amount of \$176,531.92 for 2008-2009. Microsoft does not sell direct; Soft Choice is the Microsoft reseller that was awarded the bid.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to FY 2009 Career and Technical Education Plan** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the 2009 Newton County Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Program Improvement Local Plan. According to the new Perkins IV law, federal funds are now tied to the date that the Local Plan is approved by the local Board of Education. The 2009 Federal Perkins IV approved funds are \$133,650; the 2009 Federal Perkins IV – Education and Career Partnership approved funds are \$13,077, and the 2009 Federal Perkins IV – Professional Development funds are \$16,303 for a total of \$163,030. The 2009 FTE/Local Budget for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Local Maintenance of Effort is \$2,595,000.

The following item, Item H, was approved on a motion by Mr. Corley, second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor;

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Agreement with Newton County for School Resource Officers** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the contract with the Newton County Board of Commissioners to provide the School Resource Officer Service (SROS) for the schools and school system through the Sheriff's Office, with the officers being employees of the county, not the school district. The intergovernmental agreement includes: the number, duties and compensation of deputies; terms of reimbursement of the county; liability information and standard operating procedures. The Sheriff's office will advertise, hire and train officers, and begin service for the 2008-2009 school year. The contract has been reviewed by all parties and their attorneys.

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; Dr. Bates seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Under other matters of interest, the Board members were reminded to contact two community members who would be interested in committing to working with the upcoming Education Foundation that will be formed. Each board member should have two different contacts to submit.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor.

Chair, Newton County Board of Education