

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF WORK SESSION JUNE 8, 2010

Covington, GA

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The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair, Mr. Almond Turner; and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:00 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Turner and second by Mr. Smith to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation of employees and legal matters. The Board was joined at 5:25 p.m. by Mr. Eddie Johnson and Dr. C. C. Bates.

On a motion by Mr. Turner and second by Dr. Bates, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

### PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:05 p.m., Board Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs called to order the first of three public meetings before the Board officially adopts the FY 2010-2011 operational budget and millage rate. Dr. Whatley briefly reviewed the proposed budget, which had been presented to the Board in detail at their May 11, 2010, work session and studied extensively in a special called budget work session on May 6, 2010; May 13, 2010; and May 18, 2010. The tentative budget was adopted in the regular May 18, 2010 meeting of the Board and has been advertised in the county's legal organ, *The Covington News* on May 26, 2010.

For the FY 2011 General Fund Budget, a beginning fund balance is projected of \$5,869,074 compared to \$9,972,340 for the FY 2010. Total revenues are projected to be \$135,957,721 which is a 2.25% decrease from the FY 2010 budget. Expenditures are reduced by 4.78% from FY 2010 to \$136,353,080. This budget will provide a projected ending fund balance of \$5,473,715 which is 3.86% of the budget and much less than the recommended 7%.

Most of the decrease in budgeted expenditures comes from a reduction in employee benefits, including reductions in the Board contributions to the State Health insurance plan and the 403B retirement plan totaling \$3,044,400. Another \$3,060,000 in reductions is due to an increase in class sizes at the elementary level and a decrease in the number of Special Education teachers needed.

As the county, as a whole, is experiencing a decrease in the tax digest, a decrease is projected in the local property taxes, as well as a projected decrease in other local tax revenues.

Given the state revenue figures for May have not been released, there is concern that there possibly could be additional reductions in the FY 11 state funds, as was seen in the FY 11 and FY 10 years. In the budget work sessions, concerns were discussed relative to the economy and the impact that it may have on the FY 11 budget at mid-term, as well as the budget for FY 11-12 year. As the system goes through another year of financial uncertainty, the administration will be very zealous in monitoring the expenditures and revenues just as was done in 2010. The mindset will continue to be that the system will operate in an emergency mode for spending as necessary.

In the budget presentations made to the Board and the tentative budget adopted on May 18, 2010, a millage rate used by the Administration for Maintenance and Operations for raising the needed local revenue was 20.00 mills, raising the millage to its legal cap. However, that millage rate is below by .414 mills the tax office's calculated rollback rate of 20.414 mills.

Board Chair opened the floor for discussion. There were no comments from the audience and at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Bates made a motion to adjourn the public hearing session and return to Executive Session with a second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor.

On a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

## **WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the welcome by Ms. Dobbs, Ms. Dobbs gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

## **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS**

**Operations Reports** Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending May 31, 2010. With 91.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 91.95% and total expenditures are at 89.93%.

Newton County School System's April SPLOST III distribution is \$821,031, and a decrease of \$39,688 from our March collection. Total SPLOST III received for the first four months is approximately \$3,445,237, averaging \$861,309 per month.

New Elementary School #15 retention ponds are well underway and once completed and inspected the County will issue the balance of the building permit.

Ricks Construction Company, Inc., has the site for the New Elementary School #15 staked out and will begin grading for the building pad once the permit is issued by the County.

The Purchasing Department is in the process of reviewing eprocurement solutions. These solutions provide a platform for bidding and purchasing goods and services electronically. Streamlining the procurement process in this way would provide a long term cost savings to the school system.

The Purchasing Department is working with the CIT Directors to relocate and purchase needed furniture and equipment for Clements Middle School.

Meal Pay Plus revenues for May, 2010 were \$36,981.23 which is 33.1% higher than the revenues for May, 2009. YTD revenues through May 2010 were \$460,220.33. This is an increase of 19.2% over YTD revenues through May 2009.

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

May was a very busy month for testing. The Retest CRCT was administered at the end May after an intensive remediation at each elementary and middle school. Reading tests were administered in third, and reading and math tests were administered in fifth and eighth grades. In third grade, 10 students took the retests; in fifth grade, 374 students took the retests; and in eighth grade, 443 students took the retests. EOCTs were also administered during the month of May. Tests were given in the areas of Math I, Math II, U.S. History, Economics, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature, American Literature, Biology, and Physical Science. The ACCESS test results were returned and approximately 20% (101 students) of all ESOL students tested scored a "5" (minimum required score to exit program) and will exit the program.

In June, all of the School Resource Officers will attend a three-day training specifically designed for law enforcement officers in schools. The training is sponsored by the National Association of School Resource Officers and will be held in Byron, Georgia. Lt Charles Ledford, supervisor in charge of SRO's, will share

information with Central Office staff and principals to determine if our current standard operating procedures need to be changed or modified.

The Eastside High Engineering Program will be undergoing major renovation this summer. The renovation will help qualify the program for a Georgia Department of Education Grant of \$67,500 and will align it with the Alcovy High School Engineering Program. This will also help in creating alignment to the Engineering/Manufacturing Program planned for the Newton College and Career Academy.

Three staff members recently graduated from the Leadership Newton Program. Ms. Jim Mineguzzo, Assistant Principal at Indian Creek Middle School; Dr. LaQuanda Brown, Principal at Alcovy High; and Mr. James Woodard, CTAE Director, received their diploma for participation in the program. The leadership program focused on areas such as economic development, community services, state and local government, education, health and human services and public safety.

Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) provides students with leadership and competitive opportunities in the program areas related to Career, Technical and Agricultural Education. The attached gives a listing of state winners from the various CTSOs offered through the NCSS.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on May 28, 2010, was 19,303 students. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The following items, Item A and Item B, were presented by Dr. Whatley and action will be required at the regular monthly meeting on June 15, 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Adoption of the FY 2011 Budget**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Millage Rate for FY 2011**

The following item, Item C, will remain on the table for review and action will be required at the regular monthly meeting on June 15, 2010:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revisions of Policy IFBG of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following item, Item A, of New Business, was presented, by Dr. Linda Hayden and a powerpoint presentation related to the uniform proposal for Live Oak Elementary was made by Principal Ericka Anderson:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Uniform Policy for Live Oak Elementary School**

The following item, Item B, was presented by Dr. Whatley. The item was discussed and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bid for Site Work for Newton College and Career Academy** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the low bid for the site work/grading for the Newton County College and Career Academy (NCCA) on the campus of Newton High School be awarded to Charles Sullivan Construction, who submitted the low bid of \$364,000.00. Bids were advertised according to state requirements and were publicly opened on June 3, 2010 at the NCBOE. The District received a state grant from the Lt. Governor's Office to support the construction of a Career Academy. In the original grant, this facility was scheduled to open in the fall of 2011. After attempts to secure various sites stalled, the district began investigating the construction of the NCCA on the campus of Newton High School, given the plan to construct a replacement

school for NHS. This option has turned out to be a viable solution, but due to timing the NCCA will now be scheduled to open January 2012 and this is an aggressive timeline.

The following items, Item C – Item K, were presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contact Renewal for Garbage and Waste Removal**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Awarding Contract for Plumbing Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Beverages for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Awarding Contract for Food Items for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contract for Paper Products for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Awarding Contract for Produce and Fresh Eggs for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contract for Kitchen Small Wares for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to 403B Plan Document**

The following items, Item L – Item P, were presented by Dr. Linda Hayden:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contract for Microsoft Licenses**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of CTAE Local Plan**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of PD 360**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Licenses of Nova Net**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Naming of Board of Directors for Newton College and Career Academy**

The following item, Item Q, was presented by Dr. Whatley:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Appointment to Fill the Unexpired Term of District #5 Board Member**

**Executive Session** Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, 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 approved with a 4-1 vote; with Mr. Johnson being the dissenting vote. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Ms. Dobbs reminded the Board members of the Georgia School Board Association conference in Savannah, Georgia on June 10 – June 12, 2010.

The second public budget hearing will be held, June 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Newton County Board of Education.

Groundbreaking will be held for the Newton College and Career Academy on June 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at Newton High School; followed by the groundbreaking of New Elementary #15 on Airport Road at 4:45 p.m. the same afternoon.

The third public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on June 15, 2010 in the Board Room of the Newton County Board of Education.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor.

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education