

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC HEARING FY 2011 BUDGET/MILLAGE  
10:30 a.m.**

**Covington, Georgia**

**June 9, 2010**

The Newton County Board of Education met in a special called Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, for the purpose of holding a second public hearing relative to the proposed FY 2011 budget and FY 11 millage rate. Board Chair Cathy Dobbs called the meeting to order with the following Board members present: Mr. Almond Turner, Vice Chair; Mr. Johnny Smith, Mr. Eddie Johnson, and Dr. C. C. Bates. Dr. Steven Whatley, Superintendent, was also present.

Mrs. Dobbs turned the meeting over to the Superintendent, who stated that this is the second of three public hearings before the Board officially adopts the FY 2010-2011 operational budget and millage rate in its June 15, 2010 meeting. Dr. Whatley stated that for the FY 2011 General Fund Budget, a beginning fund balance is projected of \$5,869,074 compared to \$9,972,340 for 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%.

Much of the decrease in budgeted expenditures comes from a reduction in employees, due to an increase in class sizes at the elementary level, thus a decrease in the number of elementary teachers, and a decrease in the number of Special Education teachers needed. Another \$3,044,400 expenditure savings occurs from reductions in the Board contributions to the State Health Insurance plan and the 403b retirement plan.

Although the Governor has signed the state's FY11 budget, the State Department of Education has not yet sent the school system's QBE allocation. There is concern that there possibly could be additional reductions in the FY 11 state funds during the fiscal year, as has occurred in previous years.

As the county level, as there has been a decrease in the value of property, there will be a decrease in the revenue projected from local property taxes. In the budget presentations made to the Board and the tentative budget adopted on May 18, 2010, a millage rate of 20 mills was used for the Maintenance and Operations budget. This raises needed local revenue, but sets the millage at the legal cap. However, this millage rate is below by .414 mills, the tax office's calculated rollback rate of 20.414 mills.

Mrs. Dobbs opened the floor for discussion from the public. There were no comments from the audience.

At 10:50 a.m., Dr. Bates made a motion to adjourn the public hearing session, a second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education