

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2008 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

March 11, 2008

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner called to order the monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Turner, Chairman; Vice Chair Mr. Rickie Corley, Dr. C. C. Bates, Ms. Cathy Dobbs, and Mr. Johnny Smith. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Corley and seconded by Ms. Dobbs to discuss appointment, employment and compensation of employees, and land acquisition. The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Dr. Bates.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

Mr. Turner welcomed members of Leadership Newton County to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Deborah Robertson reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending February 29, 2008. With 66.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 74.27% and total expenditures are at 64.73%.

SPLOST II distribution for December was \$882,996, an increase of \$43,446 from our net for November. The total net SPLOST II receipts for the first 36 months is approximately \$30,874,240 averaging \$857,618 per month.

Construction on South Salem Elementary and Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The elementary school will open in the fall of 2008 and the middle school will open the fall of 2009. Both schools are primarily funded from SPLOST II funds.

The architects are preparing specifications for work this summer at Newton High, Heard Mixon Elementary, East Newton Elementary and Sharp Stadium.

Fuel was purchased in February at an average cost of \$2.80 per gallon for a total cost of \$135,807. This is an increase of \$.17 a gallon over the average amount paid in January. Fuel costs continue to rise and the last purchase was \$3.17 per gallon. In comparison, in February 2007, we averaged paying \$2.13 per gallon. Buses traveled 473,273 miles for the month of February, averaging 10.2 miles per gallon.

The second meeting for lead bus drivers is scheduled for March 18th.

Meal Pay collections for February were \$23,945. Total collections for this school year are at \$192,244.

The Coordinated Review Team is coming for a follow-up on-site visit on March 19th, and will be here through March 21.

The purchasing department is preparing an invitation to bid for an annual renewable contract for plumbing contractor services. The bid will seek to procure the services of a qualified and experienced plumbing contractor to perform repairs and installations as needed by the school system. It is anticipated this bid will be publicly advertised during the month of March.

Curriculum and Instruction Report Associate Superintendent, Dr. Linda Hayden, presented the CIT report.

Dr. Kathy Garber, Grant Writer for our school system, worked diligently to prepare state grant applications for training more AP teachers for each of the high schools. Funding in the amount of \$1,500 per high school was awarded.

Work continues on the new graduation requirements for entering freshmen. Teachers and parents of students who receive Special Ed services are being informed at meetings that the Special Ed diploma will no longer be available as a choice for students who enter the 9th grade next school year.

Our school system will administer several types of tests during the next several weeks. The Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) will be administered to 11th grade students during the week of March 17-21. The 5th Grade Writing Assessment was given on March 5th. Third graders will receive the Third Grade Writing Assessment during March 17 – 28.

The technology design for Elementary School #14 has been completed and has been turned over to the architects to be incorporated into this school's blueprint.

Plans are underway for creating a Technology Professional Development course for teachers who will be receiving interactive whiteboards next school year. The course will be taught at Alcovy High during the month of June.

More than 700 high school juniors and seniors participated in the 2008 Career Expo on March 5th at DeKalb Technical College Economic Development Center. The Newton County Chamber of Commerce held their monthly breakfast meeting at the same location to witness the kick-off of the Expo. Students interested in a variety of careers including engineers, architecture, health-medical, electrical, construction, and law enforcement were able to speak directly to representatives involved in these careers in the Newton County area.

The Newton County Schools' GLISI Rising Stars program will be featured on *The Chat Room*, a local cable TV talk show. Alcovy High School partners with the producers of *The Chat Room*, where all programs are taped in the Alcovy CTAE Video Production lab.

Newton County teachers will continue their work with Mathematics Vertical Teaming on March 14. Teachers from elementary, middle and high school are meeting throughout this school year to examine mathematics curriculum K-12 and share "best practices".

The Newton County School System, in conjunction with the Newton County Arts Association, will sponsor the annual exhibition of student art at the Newton County Library during the month of March. A reception was held at the library on the evening of March 3 to honor students exhibiting work.

The third FTE count for this school year is March 6. The Student Services Department is working closely with school staff and administrators to ensure accuracy of the data entered for this count.

The Graduation Coach at Cousins Middle School requested that the attendance officer and school social worker present information to students with excessive absences in an effort to reduce truancy. Approximately 75 students participated.

Principals have requested additional professional learning time for teachers in the areas of standards-based education, differentiation, pyramid of interventions, and co-teaching and collaboration in special education. Therefore, professional learning days for next year are under review.

Newton County hosted a Job Fair for prospective teachers on March 1st at Eastside High School. It was well attended; approximately 250 interested applicants brought in resumes and interviewed with school principals.

Enrollment

Total enrollment as of March 7 was 18,909. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following policies have been on the table for one month and action will be requested on March 18:

- Revised Policy DIB – Financial Report
- Revised Policy GAD – Professional Development Opportunities
- Revised Policy IDD – Special Program – Special Instructional Assistance
- Revised Policy IDDD – Program for Gifted Students
- Revised Policy IEB – Organization for Instruction
- Revised Policy IED – Scheduling for Instruction
- Revised Policy II – Testing Programs – Student Assessment

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of new business, Items A – I, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on March 18:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Electrical Repair**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Furniture at South Salem Elementary School**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Certificate of Completion for Alcovy High School**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Preliminary Mid-Term Adjustment for Revenues and Expenditures**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IFBG – Use of Computers/Communication Resources**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHE – Promotion/Retention**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHF – Graduation Requirements/Credentials**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Soliant Health for Speech Services**
- **Discussion of Procedures and Criteria for Modifying Attendance Lines for South Salem Elementary School**

The following item, Item J on the agenda, was unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Dobbs:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Student Agendas** An invitation to bid on the annual contract for the design, printing and delivery of student agendas was opened publicly on February 5, 2008. Five vendors submitted bids, with Pride Enterprises of Blountstown, Florida, being awarded the bid. Pride Enterprises has contractually guaranteed to deliver the agendas to the school system within sixty days from receipt of the purchase order.

Executive Session Dr. Steve Whatley, Superintendent, presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Dr. Bates made the motion to approve the list of recommendations; Ms. Dobbs seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board members of the upcoming Board Planning Session on March 24th at 5:30. They will begin the afternoon session at 3:30 p.m. with a tour of the new South Salem Elementary School.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor.

Chair, Newton County Board of Education