

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2009 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

March 17, 2009

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Newton County Board of Education in the Central Office Administrative Board Room. The following board members were present: Mr. Almond Turner; Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Johnny Smith; and Mr. Eddie Johnson. 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 Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Bates gave the welcome and invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Staff members from two schools were recognized. Ms. Jessie Schmid, an EIP teacher from Middle Ridge Elementary, has been invited to be a Clark Scholar at the 29th Annual David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Education Administration and Policy in San Diego, California next month.

Also being recognized was the leadership team of Eastside High School as the school was recently named a 2008 Georgia School of Excellence. This honor was based on its continuous gains in student achievement for the past three years as measured by assessments in reading and mathematics. Eastside High tied with Centerville Elementary in Houston County for top honors in the Eighth Congressional District in the Greatest Gains category.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three requests for public participation. Mr. Eric Lee, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, addressed the Board in support of the new Academy of Liberal Arts program at Newton High. Mr. Jeff Wagner, from Wagner Service Solutions, Inc., presented the Board information on a pilot janitorial program that his company would like to have considered for Live Oak Elementary and Liberty Middle Schools. Mr. Dan Murphy, an Indian Creek Middle School parent, presented his concerns with the new middle school theme school program.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Board Chair Dr. Bates called for a motion on the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Ms. Dobbs made a motion for approval, Mr. Turner seconded, and all voted in favor.

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2009 board meetings as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports No additional information was added by Ms. Deborah Robertson to the Administrative Services Report, which was presented at the March 10, 2009, work session. Copies of the reports are attached.

Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/ Instruction/ Technology/Enrollment reports that were presented at the March 10, 2009, work session. On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Dobbs, the Administrative Services Report and Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report were approved, with all voting in favor.

Dr. Hayden introduced Dr. Ken Proctor, who gave a presentation on the Learning Focused Schools model that is being implemented in our school system.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business, was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Ms. Dobbs, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Section I of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
Approval recommended for revisions/updates on policies in Section I to be adopted as presented, with the exception of Policy IHA, which remains under review.

The following item, Item B, of Old Business, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Theme Schools** Approval recommended that the parent involvement theme school, located at Fairview Elementary School, be designated as a grades K-3 site and the parent involvement school located at Clements Middle School be designated for grades 4-8. To alleviate overcrowding conditions at Veterans Memorial Middle School, we will evaluate a reassignment of rising sixth grade students (current fifth graders) from Livingston Elementary and South Salem Elementary and environs around South Salem Elementary to Liberty Middle Schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of New Business—Item A, Item B, Item C and Item D, were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Smith and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Certificate of Completion for Newton High School**
Approval recommended for the acceptance of the Architect's Certificate of Completion for the Phase I renovations at Newton High School. In July 2007, we were notified that our capital outlay application requesting \$1,404,890 in state funding for renovations at Newton High was approved. We are now satisfied that the contractor has completed all that is required and we are ready to accept the certificate of completion.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Electrical Repair** Approval recommended for the renewal of the contract to R & E Electric, Inc. of Covington, Georgia. The effective date of the renewal will be March 18, 2009 and the expiration date will be March 17, 2010. This contract was publicly bid and was awarded to the low bidder of R & E Electric. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$250,000.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Preliminary Mid-Term Adjustment for Revenues and Expenditures** Approval recommended of the FY 2009 Preliminary Mid-Term Adjustment as presented and attached.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items** Approval recommended for declaring items as presented as surplus as they are no longer serviceable to the school system. The motion also authorized the appropriate disposal of these items through a salvage company or other proper disposal methods.

The following item of New Business, Item E, will remain on the table for one month for review:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of Section J of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following item of New Business, Item F and Item G, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Student Agendas** Approval recommended for the renewal of the contract awarded to Pride Enterprises for the design, printing, and delivery of student agendas. The effective date of the renewal will be March 18, 2009. The organization has adhered to all contract requirements and delivered student agendas in a timely manner. They did not request a price increase. Pride Enterprises costs are \$1.768 for the 5 x 8 size agenda and \$3.098 for the 8 ½ x 11 size agenda. This pricing remains lower than quotes currently being offered by leading competitors.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to The Academy of Liberal Arts at Newton High School** Approval recommended for the establishment of the Academy of Liberal Arts at Newton High School (ALANHS), beginning with the school year 2009-2010. The Academy will enhance the educational opportunities for all Newton County students, promote the Newton High mission, and result in overall improvements in Newton High School. The structure of the ALANHS will be a school-within-a-school housed at Newton High. This program will be in partnership with Oxford College of Emory University. Students currently enrolled at Newton High will be eligible for admission by meeting specific requirements, as will all incoming 9th grade students. The curriculum, course of study, procedures and administration have been established. Community service is a key component of this program, as well as parental involvement. An implementation timeline has been suggested and informational meetings are scheduled.

Executive Session At approximately 7:55 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, the Board members returned to Executive Session to continue discussion of the personnel recommendations. On a motion by Mr. Johnson, and second by Mr. Smith, all voted in favor to return to open session.

Dr. Bates called the monthly meeting back in session. Mr. Dennis Carpenter presented the personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session, which included the monthly listing and the recommendations of administrators, with the exception of the last item on the report. On a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Johnson, all voted in favor.

Dr. Whatley presented the recommendation presented in executive session for the naming of Mr. Dennis Carpenter as Deputy Superintendent of Operations for the Newton County School System, thus eliminating an Associate Superintendent position. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Johnson, all voted in favor.

Dr. Whatley announced that under the reorganization and downsizing of the central office, Mr. Carpenter would begin this position with the new fiscal year. This position will incorporate Maintenance and Operations, School Nutrition, Transportation, Business Services, and Personnel. A Director of Personnel will be named at a later date.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education