

# **NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2008 REGULAR SESSION**

**Covington, GA**

**MARCH 18, 2008**

On Tuesday, March 18, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner called to order the regular monthly 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 Ms. Dobbs and second by Dr. Bates to discuss appointment, employment, compensation of employees, land acquisition and potential litigation. The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Corley and seconded by Dr. Bates.

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

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

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Several students and employees were invited for recognition. Literacy Days winners for the Griffin RESA competition from our schools were as follows: from Cousins Middle School, Kimberly Stiers won first place honors in sixth grade recitation and Mary Lathem placed second in the seventh grade Ready Writing Contest; from Clements Middle School, Kristin Adaway earned third place in the sixth grade Reading Writing Contest and Stephanie Lightsey earned third place in the eighth grade Reading Writing Contest; Destiny McKnight from Veterans Memorial Middle School won first place in the eighth grade recitation contest. In addition, the following students from Veterans Memorial drama team won third place in the drama competition: Ian Elliott, D'Lexus Harvey, Hayley Hinton, Drew Kindall, Kaylarose Lindsey, Amber Myles, Chelsea Pilgrim and Caroline Sink. Also recognized was Ms. Caren Reed, the team coach.

The Eastside High School Varsity Wrestling Team was recognized for winning the team 2008 AAAA Traditional State Championship. In addition, there were seven state placers, three runner-ups, three fourth place and one sixth place finisher. Members of the team are: Lincoln Temple, Dalton Temple, Patrick George, Dalton Bragg, Michael Green, Brandon Cole, Cody Durden, Jon Palmer, Karl Williams, David Bender, Ardest Carter, Jamarkus Griggs, Joel Stafford, and Trevor Bailey. Also recognized was Coach Brandon Blakeman.

Several school nutrition program employees were also recognized. The GA DOE School of Nutrition implemented a requirement that all SNP managers must be a Certified Food Safety Manager. Our managers also received ServSafe training. The new Georgia Food Code requires that every food service establishment in Georgia must have a Certified Food Safety Manager on site. ServSafe is a nationally recognized exam that was developed by the National Restaurant Association's Education Foundation in the late 1990's. Newton County SNP managers and assistant managers-in-training completed the course and passed the exam. The newest Certified Safety Managers are: Teena Mooney – Central Office; Tyra Aycox – Sharp Asst. Manager in Training; Octavia Brown – Veterans Memorial Asst. Manager in Training; Cynthia Maughon – Indian Creek Manager; Melanie Crooms – Alcovy Asst. Manager in Training; Judy Skinner – Ficquett - Manager; Gail Lyle – Cousins- Asst. Manager in Training; Wende Wigton – Heard Mixon Manager; Chanda Twilley – Palmer Stone Manager; Sherry Harty – Livingston Asst. Manager in Training; and Susie Padgett – Fairview – Asst. Manager in Training.

Also recognized were our school board members as this is Georgia School Board Member Appreciation Week.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Corley made a motion to approve the agenda of the February 26, 2008 meeting as presented; Mr. Smith, seconded, with all voting in favor.

Ms. Dobbs made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2008 meeting as presented; Dr. Bates seconded; with all voting 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 March 11th. Copies are attached.

Dr. Kathy Reese, Director of Grades 9 – 12, provided an informational presentation on the new graduation rule. The new rule will be effective with the incoming high school freshmen in 2008. It will eliminate tiered diploma options. In addition, there will be a common set of diploma requirements and all graduates will prepare for college-entry courses. Course changes, elective changes, and changes with students with disabilities were explained.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Smith, the Superintendents' Reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

## OLD BUSINESS

On a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Ms. Dobbs, all voted in favor to approve the following policies, Items A – G on the agenda, which were on the table for 30 days:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy DIB – Financial Report**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy GAD – Professional Development Opportunities**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IDD – Special Programs – Special Instructional Assistance**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IDDD – Program for Gifted Students**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IEB – Organization for Instruction**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IED – Scheduling for Instruction**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy II – Testing Programs – Student Assessment**

## NEW BUSINESS

The following items, A – C, were approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Dr. Bates; all voted in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Electrical Repair** Approval of annual renewable contract for electrical contractor services was awarded to the low bidder, R & E Electric, Inc. Six vendors submitted bids based on average hourly labor rates and the cost of parts. The effective date of this contract will be March 19, 2008, if approved.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Furniture at South Salem Elementary School** Approval of authorization to purchase out of the Capital Projects Fund furniture for the new elementary school, South Salem. Student chairs, desks and classroom/computer tables from Virco as per contract; office furniture, cafeteria tables, files cabinets, book cases, and teacher desks and chairs from Hon as per federal Government Purchasing Agreement; and media center furniture from Total Office Products as per State of Georgia contact pricing.

Further, the Superintendent recommends authorization to purchase off these contracts additional furniture as needed due to enrollment changes at other schools. These purchases will need to be made during the current fiscal year and will be paid out of FY08 mid-term adjustment funds.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Certificate of Completion for Alcovy High School** Acceptance of the Architect's Certificate of Completion for the construction of Alcovy High School. The final construction contract for Alcovy High School was \$26,272,329 of which the state contributed \$6,704,401. The local portion of \$19,567,928 was paid with SPLOST II funds. The Certification of Completion is attached.

The following item, Item D, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, and second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Preliminary Mid-Term Adjustment for Revenues and Expenditures** Approval of the FY 2008 Preliminary Mid-Term Adjustment as presented. Further, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to prioritize the expenditures in Section III and only approve the expenditures as funds become available. An itemized listing of revenues and expenditures is attached.

The following three items, Item E – G, were discussed and action will remain on the table until the Board's regular meeting in April:

- **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**

The following item, Item H, was discussed and on a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor, was approved:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with Soliant Health for Speech Services** Approval of the agreement between the Newton County School System and Soliant Health for providing speech therapy services to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individual Education Programs (IEPs). This contract will help fill speech vacancies in our school system that our system has not been able to fill previously. Funding for this service will come from FY08 Federal IDEA funds.

#### **Discussion of Procedures and Criteria for Modifying Attendance Lines for South Salem Elementary School**

Information was provided for the Board members regarding the procedures and criteria for modifying attendance lines for the 2008-2009 school year to accommodate the addition of the thirteenth elementary school, South Salem Elementary.

**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, Mr. Smith 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. 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 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education