

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MARCH 9, 2010

Covington, GA

March 9, 2010

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 9, 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, Mr. Johnny Smith, Dr. C. C. Bates, 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. Johnson, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Dobbs welcomed Boy Scouts from Troop 748.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Jamia Brown, an Indian Creek Middle School parent, addressed the Board with her concern about lack of parental notification regarding scoliosis testing and the lack of textbooks at her child's school.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Reports Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending February 28, 2010. With 66.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 70.96% and total expenditures are at 64.99%.

February SPLOST collections are \$853,473. This is the first collection from SPLOST III and does not include any deduction for Social Circle City Schools. The first payment for the new Social Circle Agreement will be in January, 2011. These payments are estimated to be less than \$5,000 per month for the five year period. The agreement for SPLOST II was for Social Circle to be paid \$1,000,000 over five years (\$16,666.67 per month). The SPLOST III agreement is a net amount based on how many NCSS students attend Social Circle City Schools and how many Social Circle students attend NCSS, multiplied by 90% of local per pupil revenues.

Due to the success of our partnering with B & W Waste to recycle foam lunch trays, we can now eliminate the number of weekly pick-ups at our elementary schools. This should save the district approximately \$33,660.00 annually. We have sent and confirmed notice to B & W Waste and also thanked them for their willingness to take part in this effort to reduce the amount of waste being taken to our landfills.

Elementary School/Airport Road plans have been approved by the State BOE and the State Fire Marshall. Plans were delivered on March 1, 2010, to Newton County Planning and Zoning. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for March 17, 2010, and a bid approval recommendation will come to the Board in April.

All work is on schedule for the development of the updated Five Year Facilities Plan. This plan should be approved and ready for implementation on June 1, 2010. Work for this project is being coordinated with the State Board of Education Facilities Coordinator.

School Breakfast Week will be celebrated during the week of March 8 – 12, 2010. Each Newton County school has planned a special day for March 10, 2010. Each student who receives breakfast will receive a bookmark with the theme “School Breakfast – Ready – Set – Go” printed on it. Each school’s SNP Manager has invited a guest server to assist with breakfast service on March 10, 2010.

Dr. Carpenter introduced Mr. Bob Cunningham, architect with Cunningham, Forehand, Matthews and Moore, who presented to the Board design drawings utilizing the current Newton High School site as the home of the district’s future Career Academy.

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

Ms. Theresa Kuhns, School Nurse Liaison from Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, provided our school system with two nebulizer machines. These machines are available for use by all of our school nurses.

The Technology Department is working with the Professional Learning Department to plan the development of online courses. Ten technology teacher leaders have been solicited to develop online courses that will use eLearn as the platform. The plan is to have at least two online courses available for teachers to take during their summer vacation, with the rest to follow.

Special testing sessions are as follows: the GHSWT retake was on February 24, 2010 with 191 students tested; the GAA testing started in September 2009 and will be finished during March; fifth grade writing was administered March 3, 2010; third grade writing is to be administered March 15-24, 2010; and the GHSGTs are to be administered March 22 – 26, 2010.

PreK registration was a great success with thanks to all involved. Over 709 students were registered during the week of February 22 – March 1, 2010, for the 540 existing slots. The lottery occurred on March 8, 2010.

Approximately 1,600 fifth graders and teachers will attend the Newton County Arts Association’s production of *The Wizard of Oz* on March 17, 2010. Prior to the performances, the teachers were provided with curriculum guides to assist in preparing students to attend the production.

Caitlin Smith, the NCSS Spelling Bee winner, won second place at the District Spelling Bee on February 27, 2010 in Eatonton. She is now eligible to compete in the state spelling bee on March 19, 2010.

Parent conference meetings for elementary and middle school were scheduled. Conferences were held on February 4, 2010 and February 5, 2010.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on March 4, 2010, was 19,449 students. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business, will be on the table for one month and action will be requested at the regular Board meeting, on March 16, 2010;

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revisions in Policy GAN and Policy KM**

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A – Item C, of New Business, were presented by Dr. Dennis Carpenter and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Large Kitchen Equipment for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Furniture for Alcovy High School Addition**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Newton County School System Proposed Organization**
Approval recommended of the Newton County School System Proposed Organization to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education Facilities Section in preparation of the district's new Five Year Facilities Plan. Proposed organization chart is attached.

The following item, Item E, was presented by Dr. Hayden. Board members expressed some concerns about the cost of the student agendas. Due to budget issues, it was requested that other parent/student communication options be reviewed before voting on this item.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Student Agendas**

The following item, Item F, was presented by Dr. Hayden:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Elementary Textbooks**

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Whatley. The item was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Turner; with a 4-1 vote. Mr. Smith was the dissenting vote.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of the 2009-2010 School Calendar** Approval recommended of the revision of the 2009-2010 school calendar to accommodate the makeup of the February 12, 2010, snow day. Further, the Superintendent requests authority to adjust the work calendars appropriately. Parents will be informed of the change to the calendar.

The following items, Item H and Item I, were presented by Dr. Whatley:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to High School Rezoning**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2010-2011 School Calendar**

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Turner and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education