

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MAY 12, 2009

Covington, GA

May 12, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates and the following Board members were present: Vice Chair Ms. Cathy Dobbs, Mr. Almond Turner, 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. Johnson to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Dobbs, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

### WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Dr. Bates, Mr. Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests for public participation.

### SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

**Financial and Administrative Services Reports** Ms. Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2009. With 83.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 81.61% and total expenditures are at 82.18%.

The Newton County School System's net February SPLOST II distribution is \$547,868; a decrease of \$178,243 from our net for January. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 50 months is approximately \$42,382,459 averaging \$847,649 per month. Last February's SPLOST was slightly more than \$965,000.

Construction of Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is ahead of schedule. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. Carroll Daniel Construction is working on the punch list. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST II. The school is still considered a construction site and no one should be going inside the school without prior approval from our Construction Manager, Mr. Don Wood.

Construction of Live Oak Elementary School by Meja Construction is progressing. This school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the new classroom addition at Alcovy High School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The first and second floor slabs are complete and the roof is at 70% completion. This addition is scheduled to open the 2010-2011 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST III.

Construction of the Sharp Field House by Hobgood Construction has begun. Demolition of the buildings is complete. The retention pond upgrade is at 80% completion. The project is on schedule. In order to be sure that the field is in excellent playing condition by August 20, 2010, the actual field work will begin immediately after football season is over this fall. This will allow for the sod to take full root prior to games being played.

The average cost of fuel for April was a \$1.62 per gallon for a total cost of \$62,809. This is an increase of \$.21 a gallon over the average amount paid in March. The last fuel purchased in April was \$1.56 per gallon. Buses traveled 453,807 miles for the month of April. Buses averaged 9.4 miles per gallon in April.

The Transportation Department Road-e-o was held on May 2, 2009. The first place winner was Destiny Williams and the second place was Jeff Gresham. These drivers will represent Newton County next month in the State Road-e-o.

During the month of April 251,342 lunches were served. The average daily lunch participation was 79.3%. The average number of student lunches served per day was 14,785. A total of 96,585 breakfasts were served. The average number of student breakfasts served per day was 5,681. The average daily breakfast participation was 33.5%.

Furniture for Liberty Middle has been scheduled for delivery as follows: computer workstations are scheduled to be delivered on May 20 and classroom, office and media furniture will be delivered June 20.

The timetable for furniture for Live Oak Elementary is in the process of being scheduled for delivery with anticipated set up the week of July 13, 2009.

The Education Foundation Organizing Committee met on May 6, 2009 and in that meeting the committee adopted the bylaws, approved expenditures, and began the process to elect the Board of Directors. The next meeting is scheduled on May 15, 2009.

The Safe Route to Schools Grant recipient announcement has been delayed by the State Department of Transportation. This is the \$495,000 grant the county applied for in December to build a pedestrian bridge across Brown Bridge Road connecting the Silos subdivision with West Newton Elementary and Veterans Memorial Middle School. The announcement of the first round project selections will hopefully be made before the end of May.

### **Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report**

Associate Superintendent Dr. Linda Hayden presented the CIT Report.

The Title I School-wide Transitional Plans for Clements, Cousins, Indian Creek, Veterans Memorial, and South Salem to move from targeted assistance to school-wide were sent to the GDOE for approval during the last week in April.

Dr. Kathy Reese will join administrators from Rockdale County for the kick-off of all Math-Science Partnership Grants at the GDOE on May 13, 2009. Plans are underway for 80 hours of intensive training for middle and high school math and science teachers from Rockdale and Newton Counties. Training will begin this summer with follow-up training together throughout the 2009-2010 year.

Newton High School was selected as the only high school in the south to participate in the High School Tiered Interventions Initiative. This study is a partnership between the National High School Center, the National Center on Response to Intervention, and the Center on Instruction. The work of Dr. Mitzi Cagle, Newton High Counselor and Response to Intervention Coordinator, was recognized by the partnership. Newton High was identified by the partnership as a model for the implementation of tiered interventions, supplemental academic/behavioral supports, and dropout prevention to assist struggling students.

Student Track, a parent portal, has been active for two years. As of April 29, 2009, the record showed 1,000,000 logins to the portal. The response to this site has been great.

Newton County's ELL population has increased to 551 students. There are 417 students in elementary, 93 students in middle, and 41 students in high school. In the fall of 2009-2010, South Salem Elementary, Live Oak Elementary,

Fairview Theme Elementary School and Liberty Middle School will provide services for indentified ELL students. As student numbers increase, more services can be offered in students' home schools.

A meeting was held on April 30, 2009 to bring together county math teachers to present "Fabulous Math Lessons" in grades 1-8, that are linked to the district's identified CRCT domains in need of improvement. The established math vertical team will utilize the "fabulous lessons" as they build a math SharePoint site that will house the work of the system's math teachers and create a forum to conduct math discussions across the district.

On Thursday, April 30, 2009, a reception was held by Newton Mentoring, Inc. to honor the mentor and mentees who participated in the program during the 2008-2009 year. Certificates were provided to more than 75 mentors and 100 plus mentees.

Kay Burch, Director of the Metro South GLRS in Griffin, met with the Special Education Planning Team on Friday, April 24, 2009, to discuss plans for a Special Education Summer Professional Learning Institute that will be held during the month of June. The group discussed training sessions for special education teachers and paraprofessionals that target special education program needs. Participants will earn Professional Learning hours as well as stipends for successfully completing the requirements of each training session.

As a result of a generous donation made by Caldwell and Cowan Funeral Home, three Netbooks have been purchased for the academic resource classes at Alcovy, Eastside and Newton High Schools, and one for Sharp Learning Center. Netbooks are mini-laptops that are low cost, low power alternatives to laptops. Students with disabilities in academic resource now have access to the technology which enables them to sit at their desk and type papers for their classes, research colleges on GA 411, access their teacher's eLearn sites, use EOCT and GHSGT remediation programs, develop multi-media presentation for class assignments, monitor their assignments and grades on Student Track, and much more. The academic resource students are working toward fulfilling requirements of College Prep and Technology Career Prep Diplomas. The Netbook project will continue again next year with the donation of additional Netbooks for other high school academic resource classes.

The Hewlett Packard Team at Ficquett Elementary was selected to present at the National /Educational Computing Conference in Washington, D.C. HP has granted an all expense paid trip to the conference for one member of the team, Ms. Kristen Farmer, to present on behalf of the school. Other team members are Laurie Carpenter, Kena Hudgins, Heather White and Susan Fowler.

## **Enrollment**

Total enrollment on May 7, 2009, was 19,078. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The following items, Item A - Item D, of Old Business were discussed and have been on the table for one month and action will be requested on May 19, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHA of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy IHF of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy JBCC of the NCBOE Policy Manual**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of the Certified Employees Portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following item, Item A, of New Business were presented by Ms. Deborah Robertson and approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, with a second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Visitor Bleachers at Sharp Stadium** Approval recommended for accepting the low bid of \$189,600 submitted by Dant Clayton Corporation for the installation

of the Sharp Stadium visitor bleachers. The bid proposal includes the installation of the bleachers over the existing concrete bleachers. Since the bid was under the anticipated cost, the system would like to proceed with getting competitive quotes on the demolition of the current bleachers. If a responsible quote comes in under \$25,000 we will proceed.

The following item, Item B, was presented by Dr. Whatley:

- **Presentation of FY 2010 Tentative Budget and Adoption of FY 2010 Tentative Budget**

The following items, Item C – Item F, were presented by Ms. Robertson and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Facilities for Veterans Memorial School by Mustard Seed Church**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Contract Renewal for Bread**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Contract Renewal for Milk**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Maintenance Contract Renewal for HVAC Services**

The following item, Item G, was presented by Dr. Hayden and approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Ms. Dobbs, with a 3-2 vote, with Dr. Bates and Mr. Smith voting against:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Academic Consequences of Absences Due to Suspension**  
Approval recommended for the revisions of the Academic Consequences of Absences portion of the Elementary and Secondary Handbook as addressed in the following paragraphs. In the System Secondary Handbook, it will read: A student under suspension will be allowed to make up work and receive full credit. Some work, by its very nature, is impossible to make up and may necessitate alternative assignments. The principal (or designee) is the final authority in determining alternative assignments. Students will lose credit for any work not made up within the number of school days suspended. For example, if a student is suspended 3 days, the student will have 3 days upon return to school to complete make-up work. In the System Elementary Handbook, it will read: A student under suspension will be allowed to make up work and receive full credit. Some work, by its very nature, is impossible to make up and may necessitate alternative assignments. The principal (or designee) is the final authority in determining alternative assignments. Students will lose credit for any work not made up within the number of school days suspended. For example, if a student is suspended 3 days, the student will have 3 days upon return to school complete make-up work.

The following items, Item H – Item Q, were presented by Dr. Hayden and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Antivirus Software**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Rescinding the Contract for Charter Internet Access**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbooks**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Handbooks**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Program Planning Guide**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Read 180**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Assessments (mClass; Math; mClass:DIBELS)**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Math Manipulatives**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Thinkgate Curricular Software**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Vocational Readiness Agreement**

The following item, Item R, was presented by Mr. Carpenter and action will be requested at the next meeting:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Classified Employees Portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following item, Item S, was presented by Dr. Whatley, and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobb, second by Mr. Turner, will all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Establishing Special Called Budget Work Session (May 13 @ 1:30 p.m.)**

**Executive Session** Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendation. Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Johnson and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Dr. Bates reminded everyone of the upcoming Top Ten Banquet at Alcovy High School on May 21, 2009 at 7 p.m. and also the system retirement dinner at Turner Lake on May 28, 2009 at 7 p.m. The high school graduation schedule on May 30, 2009 is as follows: Eastside High at 10:00 a.m. at the Church In the Now; Alcovy High at 1:00 p.m. in the school gym; and Newton High at 4:00 p.m. at the Church In the Now.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Turner, and all voting in favor.

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Superintendent, Newton County Schools

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education