

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2008 EXECUTIVE AND WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

MAY 13, 2008

On Tuesday, May 13, 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. Smith and second by Dr. Bates to hear student appeals and to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

Neither the student involved in Case No.08-333 nor his parent were present for the appeal. Each board member stated that he/she had listened to the CD recording of the tribunal hearing. On a motion by Mr. Smith and a second by Mr. Corley, the Board voted 5-0 to uphold the decision of the Tribunal Hearing Panel. The Response To Intervention (RTI) process is to continue and be completed for the student as this decision requires his placement at Sharp Learning Center.

In regard to a review of case 08-298, following a case review by the Superintendent, Ms. Dobbs made a motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, that the Board rescind its action in the April 30, 2008, appeal of the tribunal hearing of case 08-298. The Board voted 5-0. Through rescinding its action, the student is allowed to return to her high school under the terms of the Manifestation Determination held on April 25, 2008.

In regard to a parent's request for an exception to the graduation policy (IHF), the Board took no action to permit an exception to the policy regarding the student's participation in the graduation exercise. The student had not met the State Board of Education's requirements for granting a waiver/variance.

On a motion by Dr. Bates and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session, at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for Public Participation. Ms. Cathy Gaither, a parent from Eastside High School, asked that the Board review the tardy portion of the discipline policy and require parent notification when there was a problem with the student.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

There was no special recognition.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Deborah Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2008. With 83.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 84.64% and total expenditures are at 79.10%.

SPLOST II net distribution for February was \$967,459, an increase of \$281,439 from our net for January. The total net SPLOST II received for the first 38 months is approximately \$32,527,719, an average of \$855,992 per month.

Trailers are scheduled to be relocated in June as follows: six trailers will be moved from Livingston to Alcovy; seven trailers will be moved from West Newton – one to Fiquett, one to Rocky Plains, one to Veterans Memorial for special education, one to Indian Creek and three to Cousins.

Construction on South Salem Elementary School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. The Fire Marshal is scheduled to inspect during the week of May 12, 2008. The architect will also conduct an inspection and develop a

punch list that week. Furniture has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered the first two weeks in June, instructional start-up lists are in the process of being ordered and we will advertise to receive bids for playground equipment.

Construction on Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is also on schedule. The lower floor slab has been poured and the upper floor slab will be poured in May. This school is scheduled to be opened at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily from SPLOST II.

There are four bus drivers currently in training, with the next training class scheduled for May 13, 2008. There are currently 29 sub drivers and 7 sub monitors available.

Fuel was purchased in April at an average of \$3.58 per gallon for a total cost of \$194,462. This is an increase of \$.19 a gallon over the average amount paid in March. The last fuel purchase was \$3.62 per gallon. Buses traveled 564,642 miles for the month of April, averaging 10.3 miles per gallon.

There were 373 athletic and/or instructional field trips taken during April for a total of 3,477 field trips to date. Due to the rise in fuel cost, the fuel and maintenance cost per mile for field trips will be increasing from \$1.25 to \$2.00 for the 08-09 school year. Fuel and service costs have risen 165% and \$2.00 per mile will be in line with this increase.

Two classes of students participated in a food tasting event at Alcovy High School on May 6, 2008. The Culinary Arts students assisted the SNP staff members with setup and preparation of the food. The Culinary Arts students and Ms. Kim Newhouse's Broadcast class students tasted the food items. Feedback was provided to the SNP staff on products under consideration for the middle and high school menus for the 08-09 school year. They sampled seven breakfast items and eighteen lunch items. They chose four breakfast items and seven lunch items for the SNP to consider as new menu items.

The Broadcast class from Alcovy High School, taught by Ms. Kim Newhouse, received third place in the Nutrition TV Video Award contest sponsored by the Georgia School Nutrition Association. The award was accepted by Ms. Jolynn Gill, Alcovy High School Nutrition Manager during the GSNA annual meeting in Savannah on April 12, 2008.

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

An additional science textbook, Holt Environmental Science by Holt Publishing, was inadvertently left off the textbook list approved earlier. This will be one of the four science course options offered as the new graduation rule requiring four science courses is implemented.

Congratulations go to DeOndre Robinson from Newton High Schools' Career and Technical Instruction (CTI) program. At the recent CTI State Conference, DeOndre became the third state officer in four years from Newton High. He also won first place in Public Speaking at this conference.

The final celebration session for our GLISI Rising Stars at Griffin RESA will be held on May 14, 2008. Congratulations to Newton County's Kim Coady, Takila Curry, Vicki Gheesling, LaSharon McClain and Bruce McColum for their completion of this prestigious leadership preparation program!

The Newton County CTAE Advisory Board met on April 29, 2008 and addressed plans for next year's CTAE Program Review. Four goals were approved: Goal 1 – Deliver career-related curriculum that maximizes student awareness and attainment of workplace competencies; Goal 2 – Integrate required State of Georgia educational objectives and practical workplace skills; Goal 3 – Provide facilities and logistics that support universal access to career-related education; and Goal 4 – Engage the community to ensure future reemployment opportunities. Greg Richardson, Chairman of the Education Workforce Roundtable Chamber Committee and member of the CTAE Advisory Board, clarified the joint efforts of both committees with the basic difference being that the Education Workforce Roundtable Committee is driven by the Chamber Membership, whereas the CTAE Advisory Board is driven by the Newton County Schools and state and federal requirements.

The scoliosis screening for middle school students has been completed. A total of 3,290 students were screened. Of those students tested, 93 received positive results. These students will be referred for further testing. Newton Medical Center will provide a free x-ray to all students who received a positive test during the school screening.

This spring, the first GPS-based assessments in English, Language Arts (ELA) and Science were administered. New performance standards (cut scores) were established for these tests and a new scale was created with four performance levels. The scale was designed to be similar to the GHSGT scale, where the "passing" score is 200. Students who score in Basic Proficiency or higher (200+) have met the graduation requirement for these tests and will be classified as Proficient for AYP calculations in ELA. The system score reports are expected the week of May 5.

The Newton County PreK Department has been busy preparing 2008-2009 student results from the lottery which occurred on Tuesday, April 29, 2008. All students registered had an equal chance of having his/her number drawn for one of the 40 available slots at each school, serving a total of 520 students in our system. PreK notification letters were mailed to parents on May 6, 2008. Presently, we have 247 students on the waiting list for PreK slots.

Dr. Kathy Garber provided via power point presentation, the first part of a CTAE presentation on Career Academies. Additional information on this subject will be provided at the May 20, 2008 monthly meeting.

Enrollment

Total enrollment as of May 2, 2008 was 18,786. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following items were reviewed:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Section F of Secondary Program Planning Guide**
Section F of the Secondary Program Planning Guide was reviewed but tabled for further review.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Policy KI – Free Material Distribution**
This item will require Board action in June after being on the table for 30 days.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of new business, Items A –J, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on May 20, 2008:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on Alcovy High School Track Improvements**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on Alcovy High School Site Work**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Newton High School Renovations**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on East Newton/Heard Mixon Canopies and Improvements on Sharp Stadium**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewals for School Nutrition Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bread Bids**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Milk Bids**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids on HVAC Contracted Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Presentation of FY 2009 Tentative Budget and Adoption of FY 2009 Tentative Budget**

Board action was requested on the following item, Item K:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Establishing Special Called Budget Work Session (Suggested Date May 15, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.)** On a motion made by Dr. Bates, and second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor, the date for the first Budget Work Session was set for May 15, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Newton County BOE.

Items L - Q of New Business on the agenda were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on May 20:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Dates for Public Hearings on FY 2009 Budget (June 10, 2008 @ 6:45 p.m.; June 17, 2008 @ 9 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.)**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for DIBELS Reading**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract DIBELS mClass Math**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids for Graphing Calculators for HS-T184**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal and Additional Nova Net Licenses**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Vocational Rehabilitation Agreement**

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented for Board action the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in executive session. Ms. Dobbs made the motion to approve the list of recommendations; second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board members of the Board Budget Planning Session on May 15, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. and also of the Retirement Dinner for employees of the Newton County School System that will be held in the Banquet Room at the Turner Lake facility on May 15, 2008, at 7 p.m.

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

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education