

# NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2009 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Covington, GA

May 19, 2009

On Tuesday, May 19, 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. 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. Johnson and second by Mr. Smith to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees. The vote was 5-0. On entering executive session and needing to hear from the school board attorney regarding certain policies, on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session. After hearing from the school board attorney, Stan Hawkins, via telephone conference, the Board on a motion by Mr. Turner, and second by Ms. Dobbs, voted 5-0 to return to executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Turner 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

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

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Mr. Dan Murphy, a parent from Indian Creek Middle School, presented a progress report of the ideas that were being proposed and had been reviewed by the principal, Dr. Renee Mallard, in regards to the QUEST program at Indian Creek Middle School. Mr. Murphy approached the Board during public participation at a BOE meeting earlier in the school year, with his concerns about the QUEST program at Indian Creek Middle School.

### 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. Smith seconded, and all voted in favor.

Ms. Dobbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2009, meetings as presented. Mr. Turner seconded 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 May 12, 2009, work session. Copies of the reports are attached. On a motion by Mr. Turner and second by Mr. Smith, the Administrative Services Report was approved, with all voting in favor.

**Curriculum/Instruction/Technology/Enrollment Report** No additional information was added by Dr. Linda Hayden to the Curriculum/ Instruction/ Technology and Enrollment reports that were presented at the May 12, 2009, work session. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs, and second by Mr. Turner, the Curriculum and Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Report was approved, with all voting in favor.

Dr. Hayden introduced Mr. Gabe Burnett, Principal of Sharp Learning Center, who gave a informational presentation on Sharp Learning Center.

## OLD BUSINESS

The following item, Item A, of Old Business, was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, with a 3-2 vote, with Dr. Bates and Mr. Smith voting against:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policy IHA of the NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revision of Policy IHA of the NCBOE Policy Manual. Revision of this policy will remove the letter grade "D" from the NCSS grading scale and designate a C = 70-79 on the secondary grading scale. This will not change a student's numeric average, only his/her advantage in HOPE calculations.

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 Policy IHF of the NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revision of Policy IHF of the NCBOE Policy Manual. Recommendations from the Office of Civil Rights and the legal division of the DOE have been received, and are asking that the title of the diploma for students with disabilities to be changed.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policy JBCC of the NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended for revision to Policy JBCC of the NCBOE Policy Manual with changes noted.

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

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

Approval recommended for revisions/updates to policies of the certified employees portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual with changes noted.

## NEW BUSINESS

The following item of New Business, Item A, was presented by Dr. Whatley:

- **Adoption of FY 2010 Tentative Budget**

The following items of New Business, Item B – Item E, were approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Johnson and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Facilities for Veterans Memorial School by Mustard Seed Church** Approval recommended of the request for extended use of Veterans Memorial Middle School by Mustard Seed Church for worship service each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. The church has asked to use the cafeteria from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and use a classroom from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The rental fee will be \$100 per Sunday and \$60 per Wednesday. The utility fee would be \$60 each Sunday and \$15 each Wednesday.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Contract Renewal for Bread** Approval recommended of the renewal of the contract awarded to Sara Lee Food and Beverage for bread for the school nutrition program. The effective date of the contract will be May 20, 2009 and the expiration date will be May 19, 2010. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$125,000.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to School Nutrition Contract Renewal for Milk** Approval recommended for the renewal of the contract awarded to Mayfield Dairy Farms, LLC for milk for the school nutrition program. The effective date of the renewal will be May 20, 2009 and the expiration date will be May 19, 2010. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$603,000.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Maintenance Contract Renewal for HVAC Services** Approval recommended for the renewal of the contract awarded to Beam Enterprise, LLC for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor services. The effective date of the renewal will be May 20, 2009 and the expiration date will be May 19, 2010. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$420,000.

The following items of New Business, Items F – Item G, were approved on a motion by Mr. Turner, second by Mr. Johnson, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for Antivirus Software** Approval recommended for the acceptance of the low bid for one year for Kaspersky enterprise antivirus software to be awarded to Latus Point IT, Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia. The antivirus software covers servers, workstations, and email. The total cost of the software is \$45,850.00; which is a savings of over \$30,000 from the product used last year.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Rescinding the Contract for Charter Internet Access** Approval recommended for the contract with Charter Communications, Inc. for internet access granted on April 21, 2009 to be rescinded. The school system was notified via postal mail that Charter Communications, Inc. had filed for relief under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United State Code (“the Bankruptcy Code”). This action by the company has directly affected the ability of the school system to collect E-rate funds. Further, the school system has been advised by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the agency that manages the E-rate program for the FCC, that it would not make additional reimbursement payments to the company. Accordingly, the school system has not executed the contract with Charter Communications and is requesting the approval to do so be rescinded. Other offers submitted earlier, as well as other options, are being reviewed to determine the best course of action for the school system.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Handbooks** Approval recommended of the system portion of the 2009-2010 elementary student handbook with changes noted for the coming school year.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Secondary Handbooks** Approved recommended of the system portion of the 2009-2010 secondary student handbook with changes noted for the coming school year.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Program Planning Guide** Approval recommended of the changes noted for the Program Planning Guide for the 2009-2010 school year.

The following items of New Business, Items K – Item O, were approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Turner, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Read 180** Approval recommended for the purchase of *Read 180* from the vendor *Scholastic* at a cost not to exceed \$27,000 in federal Title I school improvement funds for Middle Ridge Elementary. Middle Ridge staff members have completed extensive improvement plans and corrective action plans as a result of the school’s needs improvement statue under NCLB. One of the goals is to increase reading achievement for all students and to provide intensive

interventions for students struggling with reading achievement. *Read 180* is a research-based intensive intervention to be utilized with struggling students.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Elementary Assessments (mClass: Math; mClass: DIBELS)** Approval recommended to renew the contract for *mClass: Math* and *mClass: DIBELS* for students in grades K-5 at a cost not to exceed \$126,000 in both federal and state funds from the sole source vendor *Wireless Generation*. Through the requirements of IDEA 2004 and State BOE Rule 160-4-7, teachers are required to have immediate access to valid and reliable data to make academic and instructional intervention decisions. Teachers have successfully utilized these programs to provide immediate feedback for reading and math instruction.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Math Manipulatives** Approval recommended of the purchase of math manipulatives from the vendor *ETA/Cuisenaire* at a cost not to exceed \$31,000 in federal Title I funds. One of the strategic goals of the NCSS is to continue to raise student's achievement in the area of mathematics. The use of hands-on manipulatives will offer students opportunities to internalize abstract mathematical ideas by using concrete representations.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Thinkgate Curricular Software** Approval recommended for the purchase of Thinkgate Software for benchmark assessments for Alcovy High and Newton High for a total cost of \$42,413. Thinkgate is a web-based assessment system that will combine curriculum, instruction, assessment, and data utilization elements to create a solution for benchmarking across the core academic subject areas, grades 9-12. Presently, teachers at each high school in the district are developing their own benchmark assessments by hand. There is a specific need for consistency among the high schools regarding expectations for creating reliable and valid assessments as well as implementing the benchmarks consistently in each of the core curricular areas, grades 9-12. The ability to use this web-based management system will relieve teachers of the tedious task of developing, scoring and analyzing these assessments on their own.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Vocational Rehabilitation Agreement** Approval recommended of the agreement between the NCSS and the Georgia Department of Labor/Rehabilitation Services. This agreement is a continuation of the agreement for services approved during the 2008-2009 school year. The cost for our system's portion of the agreement is \$13,000, which will be included in the FY10 IDEA budget.

The following item of New Business, Item P, was reviewed by Mr. Carpenter:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Review of Classified Employees Portion of Section G of the NCBOE Policy Manual** Approval recommended that the employees' portion of Section G of the NCBOE policy manual be placed on the table for review. These policies, with recommended changes, will be reviewed in May, with action requested in June.

**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. Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the list of recommendations, with a second by Mr. Smith and all voting in favor.

Dr. Bates reminded the Board of several upcoming events. The Top Ten Banquet will be May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Alcovy High School. The system retirement dinner will be held at the Turner Lake Complex on May 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Graduation activities will be on May 30, 2009 as follows: Eastside High at 10:00 a.m. at the Church In the Now; Alcovy High at 1:00 p.m. at 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 8:05 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor.

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Chair, Newton County Board of Education