

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2009 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

November 10, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. The following board members were present: Dr. C. C. Bates, Chairman; Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs; Mr. Eddie Johnson; and Mr. Johnny Smith. Mr. Almond Turner was not present. At 5:30 p.m., the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted 4-0 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. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Veteran's Day and also in remembrance of the tragedy at Ft. Hood, Texas.

Members of Leadership Newton County in attendance were recognized.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Newton County School District recently received a second place state award in the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Water Reduction and Recycling category for 2009. In addition to the Styrofoam tray recycling program, our award was also based, in part, on assigning Environmental Coordinator duties and responsibilities to Ms. Leighann Johnston. She integrates these programs into the schools and oversees the day-day activities of the school custodians. This was the first year of implementation of the new recycling program.

Ms. Johnston, Mr. Bill Rosser, NCSS Director of Maintenance; and representatives from Keep Covington Newton Beautiful—Ms. Laurie Riley, Ms. Mary Ann Smith, and Ms. Leslie Lathem were recognized.

In addition, Eastside High School freshman, Mary Lathem, was also recognized for receiving the Student of the Year award from Keep Georgia Beautiful. Mary was nominated by Laurie Riley of Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful. Mary has worked with Home Depot and other members of the Newton County 4-H with a water conservation display. She speaks about water conservation to Home Depot customers, at 4-H meetings and other community events. As part of her award, she received a \$1,000 cash prize.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Karen-Citizen Wilcox, who expressed her concerns last month at the Board meeting, was appreciative of the information that had been reported back to her on three of the four concerns she had expressed earlier. She still expressed her wish to have another survey of interest for an after-school program at Oak Hill Elementary taken because of delivery issues involving the first survey.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report

Dr. Carpenter reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending October 31, 2009. With 33.33% of the year complete, total revenues are at 34.92% and total expenditures are at 33.28%. The Newton County School System's net

August SPLOST II distribution is \$721,416 – a decrease of \$88,017 from our net for July. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 56 months is approximately \$47,417,908 -averaging \$846,748 per month.

NCSS electrician, Joel Smith, completed a seminar for Data Room Air Conditioning. This will equip Mr. Smith with additional knowledge concerning proper installation, design and usage of Data Room Air Conditioning systems.

The Purchasing Department will be issuing a request for proposals for desktop and laptop computers during November 2009. This will be the first solicitation document to include language that will allow other government agencies in Newton County to purchase items at the same price offered to the school system. It is anticipated a recommendation for award will be made in February 2010.

The school system recently received a rebate check from Office Depot in the amount of \$3,005.32. Office Depot encourages electronic commerce by offering rebates for orders submitted via electronic ordering systems. The maximum rebate is equal to 1% of the total annual sales volume. To obtain the maximum rebate, at least 80% of orders must be submitted electronically. The school system conducted 89.4% of all transactions electronically. The school system purchases office and school supplies from the vendor utilizing a U. S. Communities contract, which leverages the combined purchasing power of local government agencies to obtain lower pricing.

Purchasing specialist for the school system, Mr. Greg Goins, recently received the Georgia Public Buyer of the Year Award for 2009 from the Governmental Purchasing Association of Georgia. The organization represents state agencies, colleges and universities, county governments, municipalities, authorities, school districts and other public agencies in Georgia. The award recognizes excellence in public procurement. Mr. Goins has been a member of this organization since 2007. He currently serves the organization as chair of the legislative committee, which monitors legislation pertinent to public procurement.

The School Nutrition Program is providing reimbursable snacks to seven elementary schools for their after school programs. The School Nutrition Program is also providing snacks for the 21st Century Grant for After School Care programs at Porterdale Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, and Liberty Middle School, as well as the Washington Street Community Site.

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

Ms. Zandra Overstreet, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Newton High School, was selected by the GDOE to serve on the Phase III-A Career Pathways Instructional Resources Development Team. Ms. Overstreet will be assisting the DOE with writing unit plans for the Interior Design Career Pathway.

The Newton College and Career Academy Grant was recently chosen as a finalist for the five \$3.1 million grants. Representatives from Newton County recently attended the final presentation. Those attending from the school system were: Dr. Steve Whatley, Dr. Linda Hayden, Mr. James Woodard, and Dr. Kathy Garber. Community representatives included: Newton County Commission Chair Ms. Kathy Morgan; City of Covington Mayor Ms. Kim Carter; Covington-Newton Industrial Authority Mr. Rob Fowler; The Center Director Ms. Kay Lee; Director of Economic Development for the Covington-Newton Chamber of Commerce Ms. Shannon Davis; and the following representatives from DeKalb Technical College—Dr. Tonya Gorman, Dr. Larry Teems, Ms. Sue Chandler, Ms. Daryl Barksdale, and Mr. Marcus Hicks

A total of 201 students have chosen school choice for 2009-2010. Middle Ridge Elementary had 43 applicants and Liberty Middle had 158 applicants.

In October, there was a training program for the Media Specialist and the school-based technicians on the new version of MediaCast, our video-on-demand system. This day-long training was very helpful in familiarizing everyone with the newest version. The Media Specialists will be redelivering the training they received to the teachers in their school.

An internal GAPSS analysis was conducted at Veterans Memorial Middle School on October 20-22, 2009. A total of 250 classroom observations were completed by a team of elementary, middle and high school classroom teachers, teacher leaders, instructional coaches, and administrators. Results are shared with the school.

Differentiation training was held on November 2-3, 2009 at the FFA Camp. The following schools were involved in this training: Cousins Middle, Indian Creek Middle, Clements Theme, and Sharp Learning Center. Sandra Page conducted the training for the department/grade level chairs, team leaders, and an administrator from each school. Ms. Page has worked for over 15 years with differentiation of instruction as a teacher and a central office administrator and now as a full-time educational consultant. She serves as a professional consultant with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) in Alexandria, Virginia, and presents to groups across the United States, Canada, and internationally.

Art work this month on display at the BOE building has been provided by Oak Hill Elementary and Newton High School.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on November 5, 2009 was 19,623. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

There were two items of Old Business.

The following item, Item A, was discussed, with action requested. On a motion by Ms. Dobbs and a second by Mr. Johnson, Item A was approved on a 3-1 vote, with Mr. Smith voting against:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Water and Sewer Authority Agreement** Approval recommended for the revisions of a previously approved contract with the Newton County Water and Sewage Authority (NCWSA). Revisions included: NCWSA will engineer, construct, operate, maintain and repair a sewer pump station and line from the south end of the proposed property to existing sewer infrastructure of the City of Covington; construction is to be completed no later than three months prior to BOE's anticipated issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for any facility; NCWSA will contribute \$125,000 to the project and the City of Covington will contribute \$125,000 in the form of credits toward the purchase of sewer capacity. The Industrial Development Authority will give a reimbursement to BOE of \$179,650 toward the cost of the pump and line construction; NCWSA will reserve for the benefit of the BOE for a period of 10 years 29,840 gallons per day of wastewater treatment capacity to serve the site. After that time, unused capacity will be surrendered to NCWSA; and at the time of access to the lines, all tap fees will be paid by BOE to NCWSA.

The following item, Item B, was discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on November 17, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revisions for the Charter for Career Academy A/B**

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A through Item D, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on November 17, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Uniform Rentals**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Agreement with the Marcus Institute**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Approval of Net Trekker**

The following item, Item E, was discussed and approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Johnson, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of 2010 School Calendar** Approval recommended to revise the 2009-2010 school calendar to build in further days of furlough, which may need to be taken by certified staff. By revising the calendar, the possible days are placed as late in second semester as possible to allow for both time and local action based on decisions made by the Governor and legislature. The calendar is attached.

The following item, Item F, was discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on November 17, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2010 Legislative Priorities**

Executive Session Mr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the list of recommendations regarding personnel, Mr. Johnson seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Dr. Bates reminded those in attendance of the upcoming football games on November 13, 2009. For the first time, all three high schools will be in playoff games in their respective region.

Also, the Teacher of the Year Reception will be held on November 12, 2009 at Newton High at 4:45 p.m.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Mr. Smith, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education