

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008 REGULAR SESSION

Covington, GA

November 18, 2008

The regular monthly session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. The following board members were present: Mr. Almond Turner, Chairman; Mr. Rickie Corley, Vice Chair; 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 Mr. Corley to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

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

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Turner welcomed members of Leadership Newton County to the meeting. Following the welcome by Mr. Turner, Ms. Dobbs gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Several teachers who are recipients of the Hewlett Packard Technology for Teaching Grants this year recognized during the meeting. Only 110 schools nationwide were selected to receive this grant and Ficquett Elementary and Veterans Memorial Middle were two of those schools. A small group of teachers from each school worked with Dr. Kathy Garber, the school system grant writer, to write the winning grants. Both schools received an award package of HP products and a cash award for each teacher. The cash value of the grant, which is designated to transform and improve learning in the classroom through innovative uses of technology, was in excess of \$38,000. The Ficquett team was composed of teachers Susan Fowler, Kena Hudgins, Laurie Carpenter, Heather White, and Kristen Emerson. The Veterans Memorial teachers were Pat Alexander, Joan Braswell, Bonnie Garvin, Cliff Roberts, and Lynn House. Ms. Alexander accepted the certificate for the group as the other teachers are involved in a previously scheduled school function.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Ms. Dobbs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Corley seconded, with all voting in favor.

Dr. Bates made a motion to approve the minutes of the October, 2008 meeting as presented; Mr. Smith seconded, with all voting in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Administrative Services Report, Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment Reports

No additional information was added to the Administrative Services Report that was presented at the November 11, 2008, work session. Copies of the reports are attached.

No additional information was added to either the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Report or the Enrollment Report that were presented at the November 11, 2008, work session.

Ms. Samantha Fuhrey, Professional Learning Director, presented a power point presentation on Professional Learning Initiatives for School Improvement. This update provided much information as to what is happening in our school district in the area of professional learning.

On a motion by Mr. Corley and second by Ms. Dobbs, the Administrative Services, Curriculum/Instruction/Technology and Enrollment reports were approved, with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was only one item, Item A, of old business and it was approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revision/Update of Policy GAEB – Sexual Harassment and Policy GRIG – Family Medical Leave** Approval recommended for revisions/updates to Policies GAEB and GBRIG as follows:

Policy GAEB: Sexual Harassment The BOE policy on sexual harassment should define the process an individual must follow to report complaints of sexual harassment. The policy should also clearly outline the school system's position on notification, confidentiality, and non-retaliation related to reports of sexual harassment. This revised policy includes each of these components.

Policy GRIG: Family and Medical Leave In January, 2008, the President signed into law The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Among other things, NDAA amends the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 to include two additional qualifying events applicable to military families. By updating this policy, the school system becomes compliant with the changes to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993. Also, during the review of this policy, legal counsel suggested the school district clarify some language that could be confusing to employees. This revised policy includes the additional qualifying events and clarifies the existing language as recommended by legal counsel.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A and Item B, were approved on a motion by Mr. Corley, second by Mr. Smith, with all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items** Approval recommended for declaring items as presented as surplus as they are no longer serviceable to the school system. The motion also authorized the appropriate disposal of these items through a salvage company or other proper disposal methods.
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Facilities at West Newton Elementary School by Community Fellowship Baptist Church** Approval recommended of the request for extended use of West Newton Elementary School's cafeteria by Community Fellowship Baptist Church for worship services each Sunday morning. In accordance with Board policy, if extended use is requested and approved by the Board, the rental fee for use will double. The current rental fee for this group is \$100, with this extended request, the new fee will be \$200 per Sunday, beginning December 7, 2008. The utility fee will remain the same hourly rate of \$15 per hour, with 3.5 hours of use—the total being \$52.50. Total of all fees per week will be \$252.50.

The following item, Item C, will lie on the table for one month and action will be requested on December 9, 2008:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Policies in Section A and B of NCBOE Policy Manual**

The following items, Item D and Item E, were approved on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, a second by Mr. Corley, and all voting in favor:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Uniform Rentals** Approval recommended of a contract awarded to Unifirst Corporation of Atlanta, Georgia, for uniform rentals for selected

custodial, maintenance and transportation staff. The effective date of the renewal will be November 28, 2008, and the expiration date will be November 27, 2009. The vendor did not request a price increase. The estimated annual value of this contract is \$25,000. Uniforms are furnished for high school custodians, including Sharp, as well as system maintenance workers, who are in and out of the schools; and bus mechanics.

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract Renewal for Maintenance and Repair of Kitchen Equipment** Approval of the recommendation of terminating annual renewable contract for the repair and service of kitchen equipment for the school nutrition program awarded to General Service Company, Inc., in December, 2007, and awarding the contract for this service to Beam Enterprises, LLC, the next lowest bidder. On August 12, 2008, General Service Company, Inc., notified the school system it was unable to continue to provide service due to changes in the ownership of the company. Beam Enterprise LLC has agreed to honor the original bid submitted and has been performing the required work in the interim. Although the cost for parts submitted by Beam Enterprise LLC was slightly higher, the combined cost for labor and parts was significantly less than the other bid submitted.

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

- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2009 Legislative Priorities**

Approval recommended on the 2009 Legislative Priorities as presented. The Board members have attended the Georgia School Boards Association summer and fall meetings and have reviewed issues that affect the policies, procedures, and funding of public schools, as determined through legislative action. The priorities presented are a means of communicating to our legislative delegation those issues of major importance for which the state, through legislature, supports the achievement and success of public school students and the maintenance and operation of the school district. Members of the legislative delegation will be invited to the December 9, 2008, combined Board meeting for the purpose of review of the Board's legislative priorities.

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. Smith made the motion to approve the list of recommendations; Mr. Corley seconded, and all voted in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board members of the upcoming School Board Planning Session on November 19, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at Newton Federal Bank. Board members were also reminded of the Eastside High School football playoff game, November 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at Sharp Stadium.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, second by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education