

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2009 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

October 20, 2009

The monthly work session of the Newton County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy Dobbs presided due to the absence of Board Chair Dr. C. C. Bates. Other members present were: Mr. Almond Turner; Mr. Eddie Johnson 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. Johnson, with all voting in favor, to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted 4-0 to return to open session.

WELCOME, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the welcome by Ms. Dobbs, Mr. Johnson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ms. Becky Byrum, from Newton County Relay for Life – American Cancer Society, presented to the Board an award for having 100% school participation in the 2009 Relay for Life Program in Newton County. Newton County as a whole raised \$274,000, with the school system bringing in over \$110,000 of the total amount raised.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one request for public participation. Ms. Karen Citizen-Wilcox expressed several concerns to the Board in regards to textbooks and materials, accessing the student information system, a possible survey indicating interest in an after school program at Oak Hill Elementary and clarification of the grading system when a student is under suspension.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Operations Report

Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2009. With 25% of the year complete, total revenues are at 23.73% and total expenditures are at 25.04%. The Newton County School System's net July SPLOST II distribution is \$809,433 – a decrease of \$7,691 from our net for June. Total net SPLOST II received for the first 55 months is approximately \$46,696,492 -averaging \$849,027 per month.

Repairs to the front windows at Sharp Learning Center will soon be under way. In addition to window repairs, front blinds will be installed and front exterior trim work will be painted.

Bids are being prepared to issue for Sharp Field improvements. Bids will be presented to the BOE for approval in December with field improvement work beginning in January. The bidding of this project signals the beginning of Part A of the final phase of improvements at Sharp Stadium. Part B of the final phase is expected to go out for bid in either February 2010 or March 2010 and will include enhancements to the ticket booths, fencing and a paver wall.

The NCSS Bus Shop was assessed by the Georgia School Board Associations Risk Management Services on August 18, 2009 and received satisfactory markings in all areas assessed. Mr. Roger Mathews, Director of Risk Management, returned on Friday, October 2, 2009, to meet with the department in order to feature our shop in a future publication from GSBA. Congratulations to our bus shop manager, Mr. Burt Cram, for making sure all safety guidelines are being followed.

The school system is working with other government agencies in Newton County through the Center for Community Preservation and Planning, to establish an effective cooperative purchasing methodology. As a result, the school system will be adding language to purchasing solicitations that will require the vendor to extend pricing made available to the school system to other participating agencies. This process will allow each agency an opportunity to review the pricing obtained by the school system and then make a decision about utilizing that particular contract. There will be no requirement that other agencies officially consider the bid, nor would they be under any obligation to present it to their governing bodies. Accordingly, they would only adopt the contract if it was useful to that agency. Providing vendors with an increased opportunity to do business with other agencies should lead to better pricing for the school system.

The School Nutrition Program is providing reimbursable snacks to seven elementary schools for their after school program. There were 4,135 snacks provided in September.

The School Nutrition Program has also been selected to participate in the USDA sponsored School Food Purchases Study conducted by Promar International. This study will look at the cost of food, as well as the nutrient analysis of the foods served. The goal of the study is to document the fact that school systems are serving the highest quality food that they can afford to purchase with the current reimbursement rate. The ultimate goal is to work with Congress to have the reimbursement rate increased to allow school systems to provide even higher quality food and to improve the nutrient profile of the USDA foods provided to school systems. This is the third time in the history of the School Nutrition Program that the USDA has conducted a study of food costs and the first time that actual nutrient analysis has been conducted. The study will involve sending Promar International bid information, copies of the invoices for the third quarter of the year, (January, February and March) and the completion of a survey document. The program will receive about \$140.00 to offset the cost of copies and postage.

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

Two Newton County PreK teachers, Lauran Shannon from Mansfield Elementary and Kimberly Brewer from Heard Mixon Elementary, joined the team of Mentor Teachers with Bright from the Start. This title is awarded to teachers who have exhibited exemplary teaching and leadership practices. They will mentor teachers at the state and county levels.

On September 10, 2009, an ESOL Parent Orientation was held. Parents learned about the ESOL program, Title I Parent Services, and enjoyed a round table discussion with Mr. Juan Serrator, a teacher from Ficquett Elementary and Ms. Kathy Hatchett, ESOL Lead Teacher. Mr. Serrato discussed his experiences entering Ficquett Elementary as a 5th grade non-English speaking ESOL student, graduating from the Newton County School System, attending college and returning to Ficquett Elementary as a classroom teacher. His message was informative, inspiring and a powerful message to parents that their children can succeed. Forty parents were in attendance.

Eastside High School and Newton High School have each been awarded a \$5,000 Georgia Work Ready grant. They are two of only 56 high schools in the state to receive the grant that will provide three year access to skills-gap training software to help students improve their Work Ready Certificate levels.

Liberty Middle School has been awarded a \$95,000 Construction Related Equipment Grant from the GDOE. The grant will be used to purchase equipment for the Engineering/Technology, Family Consumer Science and Business Computer Science programs. The grant is provided through the Career Technical and Agricultural Education Department to provide essential equipment that is beyond the normal equipment purchased through a construction contract.

Alcovy High School has been awarded a \$10,400 Industry Certification Grant from the Georgia DOE. The grant will focus on updating the Manufacturing/Engineering Program. It will assist to purchase new computers and Autodesk Software to allow students the opportunity to improve design and manufacturing skills. The program will be required to undergo the state Industry Certification Evaluation in April. Students will have the opportunity to receive an industry credential.

The new principals participated in GLEI training and the second Principal Seminar. There were two topics covered during the session; FTE and Dealing with Difficult Teachers/Situations. A panel of veteran teachers joined the group and offered their insights and expertise on both topics.

The following individuals were awarded 2009 Snapping Shoals Bright Ideas Grants from Snapping Shoals EMC:

Alex DiRocco - Clements Theme School, Joy Fielding - Palmer Stone Elementary; Tanya Gant, Michele Jeselnik, Charmaine Stelle, Danielle Solomon, and Lindsay Wilson – Fairview Theme; Leah Green – Rocky Plains Elementary; Juanita Hosch-Martin – Ficquett Elementary; Kena Hudgins – Ficquett Elementary; Jennifer Jones – Newton County Special Education; Arthur Kusserow – Cousins Middle; Lynda Reagan – System Physical Therapist; Amanda Restivo – Alcovy High; Amber St. Clair – Palmer Stone Elementary; Teresa Sauls – Clements Theme; and Asherrie Yisrael – Alcovy High.

Parent/teacher conferences were held on September 17, 2009 and September 18, 2009. The total conferences scheduled for elementary and middle schools were 12,042; with 11,618 being held.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on October 10, 2009 was 19,593. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items, Item A through Item H, were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on October 27, 2009:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Waiver of Fees for Use of Sharp Cafeteria for Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Items**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contractual Agreement with McIntosh Trial (Headstart)**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract with Soliant Health for Occupational Therapist**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract with Soliant Health for Speech Language Pathologist**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Title I Waivers**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Charter School Commission**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Change of December 2009 BOE Meeting Date**

Executive Session Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented for Board action, the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that had been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the list of recommendations regarding personnel, Mr. Smith 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: September 11, 2009, at Sharp Stadium between Eastside High and Newton High; and Alcovy High will play at North Clayton High at 7:40 p.m.

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

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education