

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

September 9, 2008

On Tuesday, September 9, 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. Corley and second by Ms. Dobbs to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of employees.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Corley, 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 Mr. Turner, Mr. Corley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

There was no special recognition.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Deborah Robertson, Associate Superintendent for Business Administration, reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2008. With 16.67% of the year complete, total revenues are at 3.05% and total expenditures are at 5.08%.

SPLOST II net distribution for June was \$965,002, an increase of \$66,083 from our net for May. The total net SPLOST II received for the first 42 months is approximately \$36,128,780; an average of \$860,209 per month.

Open Enrollment for State Health insurance will be October 10, 2008 – November 10, 2008. Each employee will be receiving a *State Health Decision Planning Guide 2009* detailing the changes and providing instructions on how to make selections online. Significant changes have been made to the State Benefit Health Plan.

Mr. Johnny Smith, Dr. Whatley, and Mrs. Deborah Robertson attended a Georgia School Boards Inforum on September 2, 2008 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. The majority of that meeting was used to discuss the current state budget crisis as well as local property tax revenue uncertainties, and local budget options.

Construction of Liberty Middle School by Carroll Daniel Construction is on schedule. Brick work is at 85% and roofing is at 70%. The school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily by SPLOST II.

Construction of the new elementary school #14 on Kirkland Road by Meja Construction is on schedule. Plumbing and electrical rough is complete on the lower floor and is at 30% completion in the administration area. The lower floor concrete slab is being poured and steel erection will begin. The school is scheduled to open the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and is funded primarily by SPLOST III.

Bids for the construction of a new 50 classroom addition to Alcovy High will be opened on Thursday, September 18, 2008, and will brought to the Board at a later meeting.

The architect is working on plans for the new field house at Sharp Stadium that is to be constructed and ready for use in August 2009. The plan will be based on the needs as presented by the high school assistant principals assigned to athletics and one high school principal in the August 12 meeting where the field house needs were discussed. Once the preliminary plans are complete, this group will meet again to review any changes and plans. There will be no state funding for this project.

The architect is also working on plans for renovations at Newton High School that will continue in the summer 2009. These plans will mainly consist of kitchen renovations, lighting and electrical renovations, and painting.

The architect is also reviewing expansion possibilities for the band room at Eastside High School. The principal and band director of Eastside High will be involved in this project. The timeline presented in this project is to have it completed by the 2010 school year opening. There is no participation by the state in this project.

The latest fuel purchased in August was at \$3.53 per gallon for a total cost of \$191,542. This is a decrease of \$.46 a gallon under the average amount paid in July. Buses traveled 477,766 miles for the month of August. The average mile per gallon for the month of August was 8.9.

We have moved forward with the purchasing of 10 digital cameras since we have that number of VCRs that we have been unable to repair.

MealPay revenues for August were \$43,015. Year to date collections for 2008-2009 are \$53,670. By comparison, year to date collections for 2007 were \$47,745.

The school system has collected \$29,278 on surplus items through GovDeals since March 2008. There is a link on the right hand side of our home webpage, "Bid Opportunities", that will take interested bidders to a bid opportunity page. One of the links on that page is to 'view surplus property' for sale.

Attached is the process and timeline for naming new elementary school #14, located on Kirkland Road.

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

Second grade students will attend a production entitled, "Seth Decker and the Missing Piece Band", on September 10, 2008 at Porter Auditorium at Newton High School. This is sponsored by the Newton County Arts Association.

The Theme School Committee will meet at the Newton County BOE on September 15, 2008 at 7 p.m. to finalize recommendations. Previous committee meetings were held on May 27, 2008; June 23, 2008; July 21, 2008; and August 18, 2008.

A team of ten staff members from each middle school attended two days of System to Enhance Educational Progress (STEEP) training, presented by consultants from Griffin GLRS and Southeast Georgia GLRS. The team of forty trained testers then spent the next several days traveling to each middle school to conduct school-wide reading and math screenings on every student. The purpose of these screenings was to identify reading and math weaknesses. The results will be used to plan specific interventions for each individual student to address the identified weaknesses.

The middle school principals met with Education Consultant, Rebecca Reeves, on August 11, 2008, to make plans to begin the process of seeking approval to become school-wide Title I. A letter of interest was submitted to the Georgia Department of Education by the Title I Department on behalf of each middle school. The 2008-09 year will serve as a planning year, with August 1, 2009, being the deadline to become school-wide status for Title I.

An AP Teacher Training Grant, from the Georgia DOE and Professional Learning Funds, paid registration fees for a number of teachers to be trained in Advanced Placement courses. A total of seventeen teachers attended this training in seven different AP courses this summer.

The Georgia High School Graduation Retest will be given September 16-18, 2008. The Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) will be administered to all 11th grade students on September 24, 2008.

The Special Education Department welcomed Ms. Jennifer Jones, as the new Parent Mentor. The purpose of the Parent Mentor Program (PMP) is to build collaboration and communication between parents and educators, which will lead to greater success for Students with Disabilities.

The Newton County School System will participate in Year 2 of the Metro South GLRS Tier 4 Math Project Grant. This project utilizes computer-based mathematics instruction for Students with Disabilities. The research-based software, Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS), will again be implemented at all middle schools in the county. Targeted students with disabilities who failed the Spring 2008 Math CRCT in the assisted schools are participants. Added to the project this year, will be selected students with disabilities in the 5th grade, who failed the Spring 2008 Math CRCT from Livingston Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, Palmer Stone Elementary and Porterdale Elementary. Supplemental funding for the project is made possible with Focused Monitoring Corrective Action Plan funds. Jean Austin, the Special Education Instructional Coach, serves as the local facilitator and support person for the ALKES program.

As of August 11, 2008, the Title I NCLB Public School Choice transfers were completed. A total of 431 choice transfers were approved.

The Teacher Leaders Cohort I group planned the Higher Order Thinking Skill of Deductive Reason to be a district focus for September. The Teacher Leaders will return to their schools to redeliver a “hands on” activity to demonstrate what “Deductive Reasoning” looks like in the classroom.

The Teacher Leaders Cohort II group reviewed the Department of Education’s *School Keys* and created two surveys that assess curriculum and assessment to determine “where we are” as a district and as individual schools, as it related to “fully Operational” on the rubrics found in the *School Keys*. The surveys will be available on the county’s SharePoint survey feature in the coming weeks.

Teacher Induction School-Based Coordinators worked to coordinate the mentoring effort between the district and the schools. A survey has been developed for new teachers to assess their specific needs. Once data has been gleaned from the survey, this group will begin to develop a comprehensive induction plan.

The Georgia Assessment of Performance on School Standards (GAPSS) training for assistant principals for instruction will occur on September 11, 2008. The first internal GAPSS review of Newton County Schools will take place in October 2008. Middle Ridge Elementary will be the first school that a district team trained in the GAPSS process will evaluate regarding performance on school standards.

Enrollment

Total enrollment as of September 4, 2008 was 19,382. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

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 September 16, 2008:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Adoption of Resolution Authorize Submission of Class Size Waivers As Needed**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Intergovernmental Agreement with East Metro Health District Concerning the Use of Properties and Personnel for Mass Dispensing of Pharmaceuticals**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Use of East Newton Elementary School by Grove Pointe Church**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Convection Ovens through Georgia Education Cooperative Contract**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contracted Services for Repair and Service of Kitchen Equipment**

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Extended Use of Clements Middle School by Churches**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to State Health Insurance Benefits**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to McIntosh Trail Early Childhood Developmental Council, Inc. (Headstart)**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contract of Supplemental Educational Services**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bids to Provide Data, Video, Voice, Wireless Cabling and Equipment for Liberty Middle School and for Elementary School #14**

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. Corley made the motion to approve the list of recommendations; second by Ms. Dobbs, and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board members of the upcoming Board Planning meeting on September 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the FFA Camp.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Bates, second by Mr. Corley, with all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education