

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2008 WORK SESSION

Covington, GA

January 8, 2008

On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, Board Chair Mr. Johnny Smith 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. Smith, Vice Chair Mr. Almond Turner, Dr. C. C. Bates, Ms. Cathy Dobbs, and Mr. Rickie Corley. At 5:30 p.m. the Board went into executive session on a motion by Mr. Corley and seconded by Dr. Bates to discuss appointment, employment and compensation of employees, land acquisition. The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs and seconded by Mr. Turner.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Financial and Administrative Services Reports Ms. Deborah Robertson reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2007. With 50% of the year complete, total revenues are at 50.46% and total expenditures are at 45.24%.

SPLOST II distribution for October was \$917,142, a decrease of \$555,035 from our net of September. The total net SPLOST II receipts for the first 34 months is approximately \$29,151,694 averaging \$857,402 per month.

As part of the official record and notification to the public, on December 21, 2007 the Board of Education closed on the purchase of 139.38 acres located on the east side of Highway 162 on Stewart Road. The price per acre was \$15,000 for a total purchase price of \$2,090,700.

Maintenance and Operations completed the following projects during the winter break; installed new flooring in the lobby of the ninth grade wing at Newton High, replaced floor covering in two classrooms at Livingston, replaced floor covering in one classroom at Oak Hill, cleaned twelve kitchen vent hoods and cleaned all HVAC vents at the BOE building.

Construction of the new elementary school #13 and new middle school #5 is on schedule. Both projects are primarily funded by SPLOST II funds.

The Board had no objection to authorizing the contractor, Carroll Daniel Construction, of the two new schools on Salem Road, to proceed with the construction of the sewerage system as designed at an additional cost of \$293,356.

Annual inspection of our buses by the Department of Motor Carrier Compliance will begin January 28, 2008.

The first meeting of the lead bus drivers was held on January 4. Seventeen out of the twenty lead drivers were present. A driver safety meeting will take place in February, with the next lead driver meeting being held in March.

The State DOE Nutrition Department conducted a follow-up Coordinated Review at Porterdale, Veterans and Eastside on November 27 -30. The exit conference was held on January 3, 2008. The review team complimented the overall quality of our school nutrition program. The review team will report their findings to the State and we expect to receive a letter from the State detailing any necessary actions relative to this finding within the next few weeks.

An invitation to bid for the purchase of the student agendas will be publicly advertised in January.

Purchasing is now utilizing the eQuote System developed by the state Purchasing Division of the Georgia Department of Administrative Services. eQuote is an electronic solicitation tool which allows buyers access to suppliers nationwide. This system allows for greater competition for purchases not requiring formal bids. On December 13, a meeting was held with various secondary administrators, athletic trainers from colleges and outside high schools, to discuss services that athletic trainers could provide to the secondary schools, how other schools in Georgia may be providing these services and the needs of our school system and options that may be available to meeting these needs. It was concluded that an athletic trainer could provide a valuable service and the most feasible way to provide this service was to advertise for an athletic trainer who is also a certified teacher or one who is eligible for a provisional certificate.

The ninth grade wall and the railings in the gym at Newton High have been stabilized.

On February 27, 2007, the Board authorized our local legislative delegation to introduce legislation for submission of a local referendum relative to Newton County Homestead Exemption for qualifying seniors. The referendum will be on the ballot on February 5 and will read as follows: "Shall the Act be approved which provides a homestead exemption from Newton County school district ad valorem taxes for maintenance and operations purposes in the amount of \$30,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are 65 years of age or over and whose annual adjusted gross income does not exceed \$25,000?" It has been estimated with the passage of referendum, that the school district could lose about \$587,000 in local property tax revenue.

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

Newton High School FBLA recently received two awards at a conference in the fall – Largest Rally Attendance – First Place and Rally Roundup – Third Place. At the Region Leadership Conference in November, the club also received 3rd place recognition in the Largest Local Chapter Membership category (3rd largest in the state).

Through community partnering, Video Broadcast students at Alcovy High are gaining extraordinary experiences in all aspects of filming, editing and production. These students recently taped Covington Mayor Sam Ramsey's "End of Term Show." This show will be broadcast on the local Covington cable network. These students also filmed the highlights of the Annual Appreciation Dinner for the Mayor. They also host monthly tapings of the Chat Room and Catch 22; programs that are both featured on the local cable network.

Ground Hog Shadow Day on February 1st is a joint initiative for seniors with the Chamber of Commerce. The Career Expo for juniors and seniors is tentatively scheduled for March 5th at DeKalb Technical College.

The Annual Newton County Spelling Bee will be held at the NCSS Board Room on Wednesday, January 30th at 9 a.m. School level winners from each elementary and middle school will compete.

School Messenger training will take place on January 10-11. This is a telephone based communication program that will allow parents to receive many different types of notifications from the school; such as discipline infractions, absences, money due, etc. This system has multiple features that can be used school wide or system wide.

The Youth Apprenticeship Program currently has 11 students participating in the "Teaching as a Profession" program. These students participate as teacher interns, which will prepare them for future employment as teachers, thus encouraging them to return to Newton County for employment.

CPR classes will be conducted for bus drivers and bus monitors by the County Health Nurse. Training will be provided for approximately 100 drivers and monitors during the day so that the training will not interfere with their daily transportation routes.

StudentTrack remains a very popular online parent access program.

PreK Teachers successfully completed their first scheduled parent conferences using the Georgia PreK Assessment Developmental Checklist. Flexible schedules were provided to accommodate parents' needs.

The second FTE count, known as the December 1 Federal Child Count of Special Education, was recently completed. This count shows that 2,602 students with disabilities currently are receiving special education services in our system.

Enrollment

Total enrollment as of January 4 was 18,937. A copy of the detailed enrollment report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

The following item was discussed under old business:

- **Presentation of Suggested Names for New Schools** Dr. Whatley presented to the Board for review names as suggested for the new elementary school #13 and new middle school #5. The list given should be narrowed to no more than six names. At the regular meeting on January 15th, the Board will take action in naming both schools. In polling the Board members; the following list of names will be reviewed before the next meeting; Dr. Bates – Mills Creek Elementary and Mills Creek Middle; Ms. Dobbs – Mills Creek Elementary, Salem Camp Elementary, Timber Ridge Middle School, Tall Oaks Middle School; Mr. Corley – Salem Elementary, Salem Middle School; Mr. Turner – Salem Heights Elementary, Salem Elementary, Mills Creek Middle School; Mr. Smith – Mills Creek Elementary, Timber Ridge Middle School.

NEW BUSINESS

The following items of new business were discussed and action will be requested at the Board's regular meeting on January 15th:

- **Requested Board Action Relative to Agreement with Retriever to Manage Meal Pay Plus**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Certificates of Completion – Additions to Clements and Cousins**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Proposed 2008-2009 Budget Calendar**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Proposals for Custodial Supply and Green Cleaning Program**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Bus Bids and Bus Purchases**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Contracting with Speech Pathologist**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to 2008-2009 Meeting Dates; February 2008 – January 2009**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Quarterly Planning Meeting**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Revised Policies: GBRIB-Illness and GBRID – Military Leave**
- **Requested Board Action Relative to Election of 2008 Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Executive Session Dr. Donald Dunnigan, 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, seconded by Ms. Dobbs, and all voting in favor. A copy of the personnel report is attached.

With there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Dobbs, seconded by Dr. Bates, and all voting in favor.

Superintendent, Newton County Schools

Chair, Newton County Board of Education