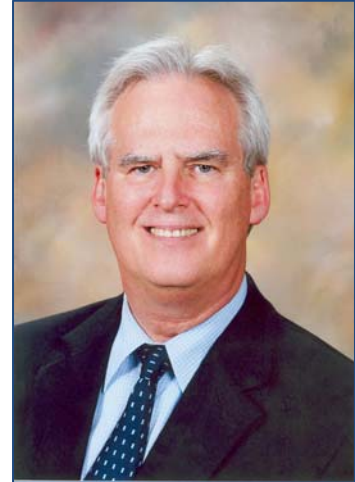


October 27, 2009

**NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
DR. STEVE WHATLEY'S RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

An item on the Superintendent's Recommendation of Personnel presented in Executive session which was just approved by the Board was the inclusion that on June 30, 2010, the Superintendent will retire. I included and recommended this action now so that the Board of Education can begin a thorough process of defining what it wants as a new Superintendent, post the position and interview for the impending vacancy, and employ a new Superintendent so as to have as smooth as possible a transition on July 1, 2010.



As we think and plan to address the multiple tasks related to improving both student achievement and the operations of this school district, after over 36 years as an educator, almost 21 of them in the central office of the Newton County Schools and almost four of them as Superintendent, it is time for me to move on to other challenges and interests.

I have dedicated myself over these years to the betterment of our students and employees as we, the Board and Administration work together to improve public education in Newton County.

I thank the Board for the opportunity and pleasure to serve the system and work with each of you.