

January 7, 2011

Newton County School System to Host Public Meeting on Possible Budget Reductions

Newton County School System (NCSS) will host a public meeting on possible major budget reductions for the 2011-2012 school year on Thursday, January 13, at 6:30 PM in the Alcovy High School auditorium. All district stakeholders are invited to attend.

During the meeting, NCSS Deputy Superintendent, Dennis Carpenter will present an overview of the school district's past and present budgets. Superintendent Gary Mathews will then detail the process the school system will utilize to gain input from the district's stakeholders. Those in attendance Thursday evening will also have the opportunity to provide input and ask questions as a portion of the meeting will be dedicated to public participation.

Those interested may review the list of possible budget cuts in advance of the meeting as Dr. Mathews will release the list in the form of a stakeholder survey via the school district website

(www.newtoncountyschools.org) on Tuesday, January 11. The survey will accept only one survey per computer to prevent multiple submissions.

According to Dr. Mathews, he and his Executive Leadership Team tried to adhere to three main objectives when formulating the list of 2011-2012 potential budget cuts:

- 1. To provide the best education possible given significant changes in the school system's operations due to a substantial reduction in financial resources.*
- 2. To align the organization with available financial resources or revenue.*
- 3. To identify "educational opportunity" from "budget crisis" wherever possible using available data and/or research.*

District administrators will take into consideration survey results when they start the process of finalizing the proposed 2011-2012 school system budget for school board review.

"The survey results will be a valuable tool in gauging what is important to our employees and stakeholders," said Mathews. "We will also seek input from our school councils, parent teacher

Public Meeting Agenda

***Budget Overview, Deputy Superintendent
Dennis Carpenter***

***Overview of Input Process for Possible
Major Cuts, Superintendent Gary Mathews***

Audience Public Participation (Open Mic)

Closure, Superintendent Mathews

organizations (PTOs) and our Teachers Forum. We will take everything into consideration before recommending our final list of recommendations to the Board of Education in February or March.”

Mathews noted that while survey results are quite important, they will not necessarily be a “determinant” of the final recommendations.

For more information, contact Ms. Sherri Davis-Viniard, Director of Public Relations for Newton county Schools, at davis-viniard.sherri@newton.k12.ga.us.
