

Superintendent's Overview

District Accreditation
Southern Association of Colleges & Schools
Whitfield County Schools
November 10-12, 2008



Welcome!

◆ Dr. Emma Bass

◆ Mr. Charles Dailey

◆ Ms. Diane Kornegay

◆ Ms. Traci Dami

◆ Dr. JoAnn Moss

◆ Mr. Gerald Boyd

◆ Dr. Lisa Landrum

◆ Dr. Tom Higgins

◆ Dr. John Barge

◆ Ms. Rita B. McDonald

Our Story

Vision

We envision a responsive school district that is focused on students and that is valued and respected by the community.

Mission

Our mission is to increase student learning by providing students and staff with meaningful, challenging and engaging educational experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

Five Beliefs

Belief One

We believe in our school district having an innovative unified focus resulting in it being responsive to the needs of students, parents, and the community at large.

Belief Two

We believe that our core business is providing students with engaging, challenging, and meaningful work.

Belief Three

We believe that the role of teacher is leader and designer of engaging, challenging, and meaningful learning experiences for students.

Belief Four

We believe that all of our personnel, parents, and other community members are vital to the education of our students whose attention and commitment must be earned.

Belief Five

We believe that all of our students, personnel, and parents deserve a safe, inviting, non-threatening learning environment where they are treated with dignity and respect.

*Big Changes
in a
Short Time*

1993: Jerry Nealey was a new board member

Total Enrollment:	10,060
% Hispanic population:	2.76%
% Free & Reduced:	31%
System Budget:	\$46 million

2007: John Thomas was a new board member

Total Enrollment:	13,450
% Hispanic population:	33%
% Free & Reduced:	58%
System Budget:	\$99 million

Six Goals

Goal One

- ▶ **Developing a Focus on Students** — Throughout the school district there is a clear focus on students and on the quality of the work provided to students — work that students find interesting, challenging, and satisfying and that results in students learning what is expected by schools, parents, and the community.

Goal Two

- ▶ **Patterns of Engagement** — Nearly all classes are highly engaged, and when they are not, teachers make every possible effort to redesign the pattern of activity in the classroom so that more students are engaged.

Goal Three

- ▶ **Student Achievement** — Parents, teachers, the principal, and the board of education, as well as others who have a stake in the performance of the schools, are satisfied with the level and type of learning that are occurring.

Goal Four

- ▶ **Content and Substance** — Teachers and administrators have a clear, consistent, and shared understanding of what students are expected to know and to be able to do at various grade levels. This understanding is consistent with such official statements of expectations as state standards and standards established by local boards. Teachers and administrators also have a reasonable assessment of student interest in the topics suggested by these expectations and standards.

Goal Five

- ▶ **A Safe Environment** — Students and parents feel that the school as well as each classroom is a physically and psychologically safe place: success is expected and failure is understood as a necessary part of learning, there is mutual respect between and among faculty and students, and the fear of harm or harassment from fellow students and demeaning comments from teachers is negligible.

Goal Six

- ▶ **Staff Engagement** — Teachers, administrators, and support staff employed by the school district are satisfied with their work and they understand how their roles contribute to the district's direction.

We hope you enjoy
our story during
your visit to
Whitfield County
Schools