

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on February 1, 2010. Board Vice- Chairman Gary Brock called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Executive Session

Superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 3-0. Board Chair Tim Trew came in just after the vote and board member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew- Chairman
Gary Brock- Vice-Chairman
Thomas Barton
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Katie Brochu Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 11:55 a.m. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew- Chairman
Gary Brock – Vice-Chair
Thomas Barton
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Present were the following staff members:

Katie Brochu Judy Gilreath
Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Kenny Sheppard
Eric Beavers Richard Schoen
Janie Osborn

Also present:

A list of the public attending is a part of the back-up minutes.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Mr. Trew asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance – Westside Middle School

Kaitlynn Kubin an eighth grade student from Westside Middle School did the inspiration. She shared she felt her teachers truly teach about things she can use in her life, they challenge students, and make the students not only smarter but better. She said teachers are also profoundly impacted by the lessons they teach. Ms. Kubin then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome/Recognitions/Presentations

School Nutrition Program – High Student Participation

Several Whitfield County schools were recognized for having earned state recognition for the high percentage of students choosing school breakfast and lunch during the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Trew presented the school food service managers a certificate from the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program. The schools receiving the recognition were as follows:

High Percentage of Lunch

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Antioch | Beaverdale |
| Cohutta | Valley Point Elementary |
| Tunnel Hill | New Hope Elementary |
| Eastside | Pleasant Grove |
| Dawnville | New Hope Middle |

High Percentage of Breakfast and Lunch

Eastbrook Middle
Whitfield Career Academy
Valley Point Middle

State Academic Awards

Mr. Trew presented certificates to four Whitfield County Schools for being recognized by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement for earning recognition under the Single Statewide Accountability System, which reviews test scores and Adequate Yearly Progress status. The schools are as follows:

- Cohutta Elementary School earned the Silver Award for making the greatest gains.
- Northwest Whitfield High School earned the Bronze Award for performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test
- Southeast High School earned the Platinum Award for greatest gains
- Whitfield Career Academy earned the Gold Award for greatest gains.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda Items listed below. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – January 6, January 25, 2010

Approval of Agenda – February 1, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Beaverdale – Vanoy's 3/4 class | Students donate toys to be sold for funds for Haiti |
| Beaverdale Elementary | Sell Enjoy the City coupon books |
| Dug Gap ALPHA | Donation Campaign for funds to send to Haiti |
| Eastbrook Middle Cheerleaders | Sell heart shaped Valentine candy |
| Eastbrook Middle Band | Sell chocolate bars |
| Northwest High Bruin Girls Service Club | Sell candy bags with paper Valentine card attached |
| Northwest High Band | Sell Domino's Pizza cards |
| Northwest High Golf Team | Golf Tournament |
| Northwest High Lady Bruins Basketball | Sponsor 4 day camp for grades 1-9 |
| Northwest High 7 th Inning Club | Rec League Softball Tournament |
| Northwest High Band | Sell Coca Colas and Cheesecake |
| Pleasant Grove PTA | Pre-Sale cases of Coca-Cola products |
| Pleasant Grove PTA | Miniature putt-putt golf course in gym |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pleasant Grove PTA | Sell various spirit-wear t-shirts |
| Southeast Volleyball and Athletic Program | Dalton Volleyball League to use gym for a fee |
| Southeast Tip Off Club | Concession Stand during 11-12 year old basketball tournament |
| Southeast Track | Sell tickets for flat screen TV and other donated prizes |
| Southeast Golf Team | Students ask for donations from businesses and community |
| Southeast Golf Team | Putt-a-Thon |
| Valley Point Elementary | Jump Rope for Heart |
| Valley Point Middle Football | Pancake Breakfast, Silent Auction, Yard Sale |
| Valley Point Middle Football | 7-9 & 9-10 year old softball tournament |
| Valley Point Middle Football | Dixie Highway Yard Sale |
| Valley Point Middle | Sell nuts, candy, etc. with United Service Associates |
| Varnell Third Grade | Sell gourmet lollipops |
| Westside Middle Renaissance/Spirit Club | School Dance |
| Westside Middle Art Program | Create grade level t-shirt to sell |
| Westside Middle School | Fundraiser with Great American Opportunities |
| Whitfield Career Academy Student Govt. | Valentine Grams will be sold and delivered to students |

Overnight Field Trips

Name or Sponsor

Activity or Event

Fifth Grade Gifted Students
SEHS Band

Ebenezer Alive, Rincon, Georgia
Perform at the Magic Kingdom

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Instructional Report – Westside Middle

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, introduced Dr. Stan Stewart, principal of Westside Middle School to do the instructional report. Dr. Stewart shared Westside Middle was working on implementing Project Based Learning for sixth grade students. He said the students were showing positive results. Dr. Stewart said in his opinion these were the best days in education for students, parents, and teachers. He said he is receiving great comments about the Project Based Learning. He said the kids are excited and discipline is less. He said next year Westside Middle would implement Project Based Learning in the seventh grade level as well.

Dr. Stewart shared the Measure of Academic Progress instructional plan. He said they were working on a plan in every grade level. He said MAPS takes into account where students are and uses that information to develop instruction.

Dr. Stewart also informed the board Westside Middle School was in the process of having electronic student portfolios. He said everything was in place and that Westside Middle School teacher David Crawford was working hard on this and that each portfolio would be password protected.

School Council Report – Westside Middle

Myra Sheram, a media clerk at Westside Middle and a business representative on the school council, gave the board an update. She said Westside Middle was working on acquiring score tables and batting cages for the field house. She said paving had been approved and they were waiting on good weather. She said they had discussed Title I with the Parent Teacher Organization members and other parents. She said they had a two to one student ratio with technology. She said they had also discussed Measuring Academic Progress testing, the CRCT, and the 6th Grade Academy. She said there would be another Exhibition of Learning in May. She discussed the field trips each grade level would be taking and shared that every student had the opportunity to attend.

School Calendar FY2010-2011

The superintendent recommended the board approve the school calendar for 2010-2011. John Thomas moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board members and Dr. Brochu discussed the possibility of having to amend the calendar depending on decisions made in the Georgia General Assembly. Dr. Brochu said she felt it was necessary to adopt the calendar at this time, but added amendments to the calendar could be made if necessary. The board approved 4-0.

Request to Adopt the State Graduation Requirements

Mr. Brown informed the board that he supported a request made by the high school principals to adopt the state graduation requirements of 23 units instead of the 24 units currently required. He said this would allow students more flexibility in course selection. The superintendent recommended the board approve the recommendation as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Pre-K Programs

Mr. Brown shared that the Bright from the Start Pre-K Program had selected schools around the state to provide Pre-K programs that would have a cultural emphasis on Chinese. He said the Whitfield County School System had been selected to have four teachers who would serve as paraprofessionals in Pre-K programs. He said these classes would be in addition to the Pre-K programs already in place and that there would be no additional costs.

Westside Middle Greenhouse Project

Dusty Brown presented the board with a proposal to purchase and construct a greenhouse at Westside Middle School. Information was presented to the board members that stated the Whitfield County School System had been awarded a CTAE Agriculture Construction Bond in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of the greenhouse construction. Mr. Brown recommended to the superintendent to proceed with Atlas Manufacturing as the vendor. A listing of the quotes is a part of the backup minutes. The superintendent recommended the board approve the recommendation. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Dr. Brochu asked the board members if they had any additional questions for Keith Burran, of M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company. Mr. Burran had given the board members an update of all projects at the previous work session. There were no additional updates.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

School Zone Request

The superintendent informed the board a letter had been drafted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, to be signed by the board chairman, which requested a formal review of the speed limit be conducted on the section of Georgia Highway 201 in the area of New Hope Road. The section of the highway in question is currently posted at 55 miles per hour without a school zone designation while on the west end of this stretch is a 45 miles per hour school zone that includes the highway in front of Northwest Whitfield High School. Also, approximately one mile east of New Hope Road, the highway speed limit is again reduced to 45 mph as it continues toward Georgia Highway 2.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and SPLOST Reports

The superintendent recommended the board approve the financial reports as of January 31, 2010 as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. Dr. Brochu said the ESPLOST collections continue to be healthy and added the average collections remain higher than the collections of

ESPLOST I and ESPLOST II. She said they were carefully watching the budget and added that Chief Financial Officer, Kenny Sheppard, does an excellent job making sure the cash flow is appropriate. Mr. Trew said the school system is doing more with less. He said the school system was adapting, improvising, and overcoming the challenges and hurdles. Dr. Brochu reminded everyone that the money from ESPLOST was earmarked for Capital Projects and could not be used for rainy day funds. She said there were other funds that could only be used for professional development and could not be used for salaries. The board approved the reports as presented 4-0.

Human Resources Reports and Recommendations

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, leaves of absences, long term substitutes, extended day and other personnel changes. The superintendent also recommended the board approve support personnel recommendations, resignations, retirements, and other support personnel changes in this action. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Previous Business

No items

New Business

First Reading of Board Policies IFBG – Internet Acceptable Use, EGAB – Life Insurance, JR – Student Records, and DO – Surplus Property

The superintendent recommended the board approve the first reading of board policies IFBG, EGAB, JR, and DO. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Barton remarked at how exciting it was when he saw students and teachers that are making a difference.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING February 25, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at Eastbrook Middle. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew- Chairman
Gary Brock – Vice-Chairman
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Also present were the following staff members:

Katie Brochu Judy Gilreath
Danny Hayes Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown Audrey Williams

Eric Beavers Kenny Sheppard
Janie Osborn

Also present:

A list of the public attending is a part of the backup minutes.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Eastbrook Middle student Aubrey Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rana Mashburn presented the inspiration.

Welcome

Mr. Trew welcomed everyone and said he was excited about being at Eastbrook Middle School.

Tour of School – Instructional Report

Eastbrook students and staff members led everyone on a tour of the school. Mr. Trew thanked the students and staff members for the tour. He said it is enlightening to see what is taking place at the schools. He thanked the students and staff again for taking the time to lead everyone throughout the building and for sharing the great work that is happening at Eastbrook.

Presentation – Eastbrook Middle School Facility Information

Superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu, discussed the process of beginning to think about the possibility of adding to the scope of Eastbrook Middle. She said the school system had been able to do more with less with the other school renovations. She said during discussions of the renovations of Eastbrook Middle, they started the discussion of “what if” the scope of the project could be changed. Dr. Brochu said they asked folks who were the closest to the issue for input. She said they formed a design team group consisting of parents, administrators, teachers, support staff, and students.

Brian Satterfield, principal of Eastbrook Middle, introduced students Jacob Mashburn and Jessica Flores, who had been a part of the design team. They presented a video of the great work going on at Eastbrook Middle and the challenges of the building.

Rick Ott, executive vice president of M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company, presented a powerpoint presentation. Before the presentation, he pointed out the sagging ceiling tiles, the rusty air ducts, the rusted windows and steel beams, and the water stains on the furniture. He said they were a result of moisture in the ceiling and HVAC systems and flooding.

Mr. Ott said the State of Georgia changed the International Building Code several years ago and with that change, all of the funds set aside for the renovations at Eastbrook would be used to bring the school up to code. He said money spent on updates to get the school to code would not provide an impact on student learning. He said three options had been discussed. The first option would include air conditioning the gym, electrical upgrades, and expansion of the cafeteria. Option #2 included all of the items listed in Option #1 plus replacing the roof, replacing the HVAC, replacing the water main, revising the parking/drives, and renovating group toilets. The third option would be a change in scope. Mr. Ott recommended option #3 saying to do anything else would be “putting a bandaid” on the building. He reiterated the first and second options would not contribute to student learning. Mr. Ott said the estimated cost for Option #3 which would include the additions of parking and drives, sidewalks and canopies, administration and classrooms, food service and media centers, P.E. classroom and multipurpose room, science and fine arts and modifying the existing parking/drives, renovation of the existing gym, and other items would be \$23,700,000. Ott said the funding for the project would be from the original funding of \$4,171,000 plus the program savings from other ESPLOST projects of \$15,829,000 and possible Capital Outlay Funding. Mr. Ott suggested building the school on the high ground location of the site which would allow students to remain in the current building during the construction. He said if the current building was demolished and rebuilt back in the original site, it would cause the students to have to move to a “trailer city” which would cost an additional \$2 million dollars. Mr. Ott said the plan also calls for reuse of the existing performance gym.

Approval of Lighting for Coahulla Creek High School

The superintendent recommended the board approve the bid from Georgia Power for the sport site lighting of Coahulla Creek High School. Keith Burran of M.B. Kahn said money was in the scope for this expense and it would not be an additional expense. The bid was \$887,650.32. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded to get the motion on the table. During the discussion it was decided to include the alternate recommendation as well which would provide for four pole lighting for the practice fields. The cost for the additional lighting would be \$96,751.61.

Amendment of the Lighting for Coahulla Creek Recommendation

The superintendent recommended the board amend the original motion of approval of the sport site lighting of Coahulla Creek. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Amended Recommendation of Lighting for Coahulla Creek High School

The superintendent recommended the board approve to accept the bid from Georgia Power at a cost of \$887,650.32 for sport site lighting at Coahulla Creek and to also include a four pole site lighting for the practice field at a cost of \$96,751.61. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Review Board Agenda Items – March 1, 2010

The superintendent reviewed and discussed the March 1, 2010 board agenda items with the board members.

Overnight Field Trip Request

The superintendent recommended the board approve the overnight field trip request from the Northwest High School Academic Decathlon Team. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

Chuck Oliver – As a member of the community, he said the board had his support of the Eastbrook Middle Project.

Rob Staples of Musco Lighting – Discussion of a bid for the Coahulla Creek outdoor lighting

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew- Chairman
Gary Brock – Vice – Chair
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Also present were the following staff members:

Katie Brochu Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown Audrey Williams
Danny Hayes Judy Gilreath
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 2:10 p.m.

Board Member Comments

- Mr. Nealey discussed possible future annexation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.