

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 1, 2010. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 6:55 p.m. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order.

Present were the following board members:

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

Present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance- Dawnville Elementary

Sherri Travisano, principal of Dawnville Elementary, read letters she had received from students. One of the letters was written by a student who was absent from school. He said he couldn't wait to get back to school and that he missed being there. Another student talked about how much they loved their teacher and talked about all the wonderful things the teacher did for them and asked for another great teacher next year. Mrs. Travisano said all the staff members at Dawnville focused everything they did around their "who". Students from Dawnville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – February 1, February 25, 2010

Approval of Agenda – March 1, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

New Hope Middle Soccer	Candy Sales
New Hope Middle 7 th Grade	Pie Day Bake sale
New Hope Middle 7 th Grade	Sham-grams (shamrocks with green suckers)
New Hope Middle 8 th Grade	Spaghetti dinner
New Hope Middle PTO	Sell lanyards
Northwest High Key Club	“Kiss a Senior” goodbye
Northwest High Golf	Discount cards
Northwest High Dugout Club	Yard sale and raffle of donated items
North Whitfield Middle 7 th Grade	Sale of jewelry
Southeast High Boy’s Soccer	Christian Soccer League will pay a fee for field use
Valley Point Middle 8 th Grade Georgia Studies	T-shirts designed to say bullying is wrong for sale
Valley Point Middle 6 th Grade PBL Carpet Project	Sell magazines designed and written by students
Valley Point Middle Band	Sell World’s Finest Chocolates
Westside Middle Football	Football donation drive
Whitfield Career Academy Student Government	Students charged \$1 admission to see a movie

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name or Sponsor

Activity or Event

Northwest High Choral Department	Heritage Music Festival
North Whitfield Middle 7 th Grade	“Around Georgia” trip

Hearing of Individuals

Rob Staples with Musco – lighting at Coahulla Creek

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

School Council Report

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, introduced Sherri Travisano. Mrs. Travisano said it was a pleasure to work with the Dawnville Elementary team. She introduced Angela Gentry, the school council vice-chair, who presented the school council report. Mrs. Gentry introduced the other school members that were present. She shared the school council had discussed the budget, the Title I Parent Involvement policy, as well as fundraising guidelines. She informed the board members of grants that had been received from Home Depot, Liberty Baptist, and Dollar General. Mrs. Gentry said they had participated in a business partner luncheon this year. She said Dawnville had been approved for a Pre-School Program next year.

Instructional Report – Dawnville

Dawnville students Caleb Reed and Alyssa Smith presented the instructional report. They demonstrated a news broadcast titled “Tiger Talk” they had written. The broadcast was focused around the great things happening at Dawnville.

The Dawnville staff then presented a video that showed the novelty, choice, and authenticity of the engaging work occurring at Dawnville. The video demonstrated how the teachers were focused on providing engaging work for their students and how much the students were enjoying learning.

Mrs. Travisano said she asked the staff members to name three things they would like for her to share with the Board. She also shared a saying she had heard that says “We know we can’t control the wind but we can control the sail”. The three items the staff members chose were as follows:

1. Dawnville is trying to stay student focused in everything they buy, do and say.
2. There is a team spirit and high morale among the staff.
3. They know their “who”.

Mr. Trew said he liked what he had seen in the presentation. He thanked the staff members for taking the time to be at the board meeting.

Mr. Barton said he was proud of the staff for wanting to know the “who” and said he liked the saying about not being able to control the wind but being able to control the sail.

Dusty Brown thanked the Dawnville teachers and administrators for their hard work and leadership.

2009-2010 School Calendar Revision

Dusty Brown said the 2009-2010 calendar had been amended to indicate a staff and student inclement weather day on January 8, 2010. Mr. Brown said the amended calendar was requested by the State Department of Education. Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the amended calendar as presented. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Report

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company presented the board members with the latest aerial photos of Coahulla Creek High School.

Eastbrook Middle Project

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the scope of the Eastbrook Middle School project be revised to proceed with an instructional building, kitchen/cafeteria and administrative offices and to authorize the superintendent to make the necessary funding applications for the project to proceed. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Capital Outlay Application – Five Year Facility Plan

The superintendent recommended the board modify the current 5-Year Facilities Plan to place construction at Eastbrook Middle School as our number one priority and that we further revise the 5-Year Facilities Plan to reflect the board’s decision to phase out a majority of the existing classroom facilities at Eastbrook Middle School, excluding the gymnasium and three associated classrooms contained therein, and renovate, add to, and improve the remaining and existing facility with new classroom facilities. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

Coahulla Creek High School Options for Opening

Mr. Trew said the board members had decided to offer the option to attend Coahulla Creek High School to all juniors and seniors throughout the Whitfield County School System. Freshmen and sophomore students who live within the Coahulla Creek zone will also attend the new school. The school zone will be decided by a redistricting committee before the beginning of the next school year. Mr. Trew said junior and seniors will have the choice to attend the school which will be decided through an application.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and SPLOST Reports

The superintendent recommended the board approve the financial reports as of February 28, 2010 as presented. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Human Resources Reports and Recommendations

The superintendent recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive sessions 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 the action. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Second 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 second reading of board policies IFBG, EGAB, JR, and DO. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy GAKA – Reduction in Force

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the first reading of board policy GAKA. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Trew discussed Georgia School Board Association Legislative positions and the need to decide the Georgia School Board Association delegate and alternate.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING March 9, 2010

The Whitfield County Board of Education had a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 9, 2010. Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present:

Katie Brochu Judy Gilreath
Danny Hayes Janie Osborn

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the purpose of a student tribunal appeal. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present:

Katie Brochu Judy Gilreath
Danny Hayes

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Student Tribunal Decision

Board Member Jerry Nealey made a motion that the Board uphold the findings of the tribunal panel with modifications and recommendations made by the Board as discussed in executive session. Gary Brock seconded the motion. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Board Member Comments

- Varnell annexation
- The need to stay knowledgeable of the House Bills that are being discussed in the Georgia General Assembly
- Testing investigation

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes of Meeting
March 18, 2010

A called meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 18, 2010. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Board to Conduct Hearing under the Georgia Fair Dismissal Act

Present were the following board members:

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

Mr. Trew recommended that Mr. Thomas Cox be present during the deliberations to serve as the hearing officer to rule on questions of evidence and other legal issues. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

The board conducted a hearing of the Georgia Fair Dismissal Act as was requested by Whitfield County School System employees Brian Decker and Darlene Morgan.

Renzo Wiggins served as the attorney for Brian Decker and John Davis served as the attorney for Darlene Morgan.

Mr. Brian Smith with Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins, represented the Whitfield County School System.

Executive Session

At 4:50 p.m. after all the witnesses had been called and the testimony given, Mr. Trew recommended the board members move into executive session for deliberation. Jerry Nealey 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

Return to Regular Session

The board returned to regular session at 6:36 p.m.

Board Recommendation

Mr. Trew made a motion that the Board approve the recommendation as was discussed in executive session to suspend Mr. Decker and Mrs. Morgan for ten working days without pay starting on March 19, 2010 or that Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Decker could forego pay from the previous suspension without pay which would allow the staff members to begin work on March 22, 2010. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Correction to the Motion

Mr. Trew recommended on behalf of Mr. Cox the hearing officer, that corrections be made to the motion document to correct the name of the law firm of Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting
March 23, 2010

A called meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 23, 2010. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Trew made the recommendation to move into executive session for the purpose of personnel and a legal matter. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey 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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action returned to regular session at 8:15 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present:

Rachel Brown
Janie Osborn

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting March 27, 2010

A called meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 27, 2010. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Trew made the recommendation to move into executive session for the purpose of 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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:36 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

John Thomas

Also present:
Janie Osborn

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p .m.

MINUTES OF MEETING March 29, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, March 29, 2010 at Southeast High School. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 11:30 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 Richard Schoen
Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Kenny Sheppard
Eric Beavers Judy Gilreath
Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance – Southeast High School

Southeast High School student Nick DiDonato did the inspiration, Jiro Guzman led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Estaban Gonzalez introduced Zack Callahan and Dylan Massingill who had produced a video of the school year.

Instructional Report – Southeast High School

A video of the accomplishments and highlights of the current school year was shown to the board members. Some of the highlights were as follows:

- A winning football season
- Third place in mock trials
- Volleyball team accomplished 105 wins the last five years
- Atlanta Falcons visited the school
- Baseball team went to the state playoffs
- FCCLA won many awards
- The women staff members and students created a “Wall of Women” which encouraged students to stay in school.
- Drama department presented *Peter Pan*
- Science labs were accomplished and feeder schools were invited to participate
- Track awards
- DECA had many accomplishments
- Instruction was engaging

- SEHS won the Platinum Award from the Governor's office of Student Achievement for greatest achievement

The video was produced in honor of Leisa Kay Smith, a Southeast High School teacher that passed away during the school year.

Wanda Phillips, interim principal of Southeast High School, mentioned a Memory Garden for Mrs. Smith in the front of the school. She said the dedication of the Memory Garden would be in May.

School Council Report

Bill Worley, a parent and business partner school council member for Southeast High School, gave the school council report. He said he was proud of the students and reported that Mrs. Phillips was doing a good job leading the school.

Mr. Trew said Southeast High School had brought respect and joy to the entire school system. He said the board appreciates the support and dedication of the school council.

Calendar and Budget Revision

Superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu asked Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, and Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning to share their recommendation for proposed furlough days. Mr. Sheppard said as a result of the actions of the legislature, the current budget would be reduced resulting in a need to designate further furlough days for the current school year. The recommendation to the superintendent was as follows:

- Two days designated as furlough days for food service workers, food service monitors, bus drivers, and bus monitors would be January 8th and March 2nd.

- For all other employees, January 4th, January 5th, and January 8th would be designated as furlough days.

Mr. Sheppard said the reduction of pay relative to these days would begin with the April, 2010 paycheck and would be pro-rated over the remaining checks in the pay cycle for the current school year. He reminded everyone that there had been a 7.8 million dollar decrease in state funds. The furlough days, conservative budgeting and the fund balance will help offset the mid-year decreases in state funding.

Dr. Brochu recommended this action to the board for approval. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded.

Mr. Nealey reminded everyone that the furlough days applied to every single employee per daily rate.

The board approved 5-0.

Review Board Agenda Items – April 12, 2010

The superintendent reviewed and discussed the April 12, 2010 board agenda items with the board members.

Turf for Coahulla Creek High School

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, gave an update on the advantages and disadvantages for using a synthetic turf on the fields at Coahulla Creek High School.

Construction Update

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company gave the board an update on the current construction projects. He said great strides had been made in the Eastbrook Middle design and a schematic design would be available soon. He said the Whitfield Career Academy gymnasium/health center design was ready to look at changes, if any were needed, to be within the budget. He said the Georgia Power site lighting contracts for Coahulla Creek High School were ready to be signed. He said at the Coahulla Creek High School site they were roofing, concreting, and putting up masonry walls. He said the underground roughing was complete and all of the mechanical rough-ins were finished on all three floors on the south

end. Mr. Burran shared there had been 41.8 inches of rain to date. He said there had been no flooding on the site. He said the Cedar Ridge Elementary project was in the final stages. He said the final warranty walkthrough would happen soon.

Mr. Trew shared that the Rotary club had visited Cedar Ridge Elementary for a meeting. He said there had been many positive comments about the school and the students. He thanked Dr. Brochu for bringing the group to Cedar Ridge.

Board Member Appreciation

Dr. Brochu said the Whitfield County Board of Education members were second to none. She said they give so much of their personal time to visit schools and attend school events. She said they were navigators of information. She thanked the board for the success of the school system saying they set the direction of the system and that they were the keepers of the vision. She pointed out the many items given by students and staff members that expressed their gratitude as well. She added the Whitfield County School System had a phenomenal board that goes over and beyond what is required each year with their training. Dr. Brochu then presented each board member with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Trew said the schools were very generous and added that he kept a collection of all the letters from the students and staff members each year. He said the leadership from staff members is second to none.

Hearing of Individuals

None

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-Chairman
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 1:24 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the board adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING March 30, 2010

A called meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield Career Academy on March 30, 2010. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Whitfield County School Design Team Presentation

Superintendent Dr. Katie Brochu informed those in attendance that the Whitfield County School System Snapshot and the brochure of Transforming America's Schools had been provided to everyone for their review. She said five years ago the Board had charged the administration to get clear about the directional focus of the school system. They wanted a common language and understanding of the direction and also wanted to see evidence of a profitable result. Dr. Brochu said test scores were one small piece of the evidence. She said the evidence you see in the Whitfield County School System Snapshot will indicate the accountability for the work that has been done. Dr. Brochu shared that a System Design Team was created, which included representation from every school and every role, to hold the system true to the system's core business. She said the board members were incredibly interested and willing participants to have this meeting with the System Design Team members. She introduced teachers Eric White and Leigh Ann Noll who facilitated the meeting for the System Design Team.

Why We're Here Tonight

Mr. White and Mrs. Noll thanked the board members for the platform. They explained the purpose for the meeting. They described the Design Team members as visionaries, forward thinkers looking at the big picture, and a diverse group of dreamers. They said there was a strong desire to continue the system's sustaining beliefs and described a candid conversation that occurred at the last System Design Team meeting. Capacity of staff, the benefits of the direction, and the crucial need for the Board to continue to support the journey were three important items that were discussed.

Defining the Direction

Mrs. Noll said you need a direction and focus to get anywhere. She indicated that collaboration between all schools as well as a change from a system of schools to a school system were some of the key changes that had occurred as a result of a common direction. As a history teacher, she had thought about a comment that had been made by President Reagan, "Are you better off today than four years ago"? She said if you ask the question, "Is the school system better off than today than five years ago", you can look at the Whitfield County School System Snapshot and see the answer is yes. She said the students are 21st Century learners and not just test takers.

Where We've Been

Brian Satterfield, principal of Eastbrook Middle, shared the history of the Whitfield County School System.

Where We Are

Jill Ryerson, a teacher at North Whitfield Middle School, shared with the Board that when she was a student in the 4th grade she hated school. She described herself as rebellious. She decided while in 4th grade that she would become a teacher so that her students would not be treated the way she had been. She said after she became a teacher she still seemed rebellious because she didn't feel as if her students needed to always be silent or in straight lines. She shared how she had seen a change from students being in the room for teachers, to teachers being in the room for students. She described how, after the direction of the system was in place, there was a shared vision and language. Mrs. Ryerson shared she had won an award that was given to 1% of educators. She stated just like actors can't win an award without a great movie, she could not have won the award without the system becoming a learning organization.

Rena Graham, a teacher at Antioch Elementary, described herself as a troublemaker in school. She said she made good grades, did the work, but still got into trouble. While in college she had a phenomenal teacher who paid attention to how she learned. Through that positive experience she decided she would be a teacher and repeat that positive experience with her students. She said she gets to know her students to help her be a better teacher and uses Project Based Learning. She said the Whitfield County Board of Education made it possible for her to get to know the kids and to help them succeed.

Angela Hayes, a teacher at Cohutta Elementary, shared that at the first Design Team meeting the book, Good to Great, by Jim Collins, was discussed and given to each member. She indicated that was the first time she felt she was viewed as a leader instead of always just being told what to do. She shared that she truly believes that you can lead from where you are. She said today teachers understand they are leaders.

She said it didn't stop with the teachers and shared how an experience had been designed for paraprofessionals. She said as a result, the paraprofessionals also understood their value and realized they could also make a difference. She also described a field trip staff members at her school had taken to try to define their "who". They soon realized the bus driver knew important things about the students that they did not know. As a result of that field trip, the bus driver got other drivers to meet parents on their routes. She said all staff members in the school system were leaders and that needed to continue. She thanked the board members for the direction. She shared a story of a trip taken to Tybee Island. She said the students learned how to use the compass and would always know which direction they were going. She said the school system's staff members were holding the compass along with the board members, and everyone knew the direction.

Vanessa Ellison, New Hope Middle School Instructional Specialist, talked about the beliefs of the system that discuss our core business and the role of a teacher as leader and designer. She said she has been amazed at what she has seen the last five years. She shared information about the sixth grade 21st Century Learning Academies. She said she is seeing teachers understanding their roles as leaders and designers each day. She said they are excited about the work and are not only concerned about grades. Ms. Ellison said the collaboration between schools has been amazing. She said it's a great experience to learn from other teachers. She said with 21st Century skills, the students will be better citizens in life and in the community. The students are learning to speak in front of adults and are learning to work well with others. She thanked the board members for their leadership and decisions. She ended by saying the school system is seeing the fruits of the labor and that every decision that is made affects the kids.

Lorijo Calhoun, Title I Director, shared that she is joyous about what is going on in the school system. She said great strides were being made. She said students are having learning experiences that are not measured by test performance but by the wonderful products they are producing. She thanked the board members for supporting teacher professional development. She said we're all working together. She shared that at the latest Central Office Conference, roles were explored and that there were discussions about how support staff affect student learning. She said students can only be concerned with learning as a result of the work of support staff. She said they keep the wheels running and reiterated that their work is important to student learning. She also shared that while she was at a Title I Conference, the speaker discussed the benefits of providing students with engaging work and focusing on students. He made the statement that was what was occurring in Whitfield County and that every school had made AYP. She said five years ago the school system had six needs improvement schools and that today that is not the case.

Where We're Going

Britt Adams, principal of Valley Point Middle, said the future lies with many of the students that are coming through the Whitfield County School System. He shared that at Valley Point Middle they recently had 100 student led conferences. As he stepped into the classrooms, he heard students explaining to their parents about the projects they were doing. He said one of the students was so proud of his work he started crying. Mr. Adams reiterated that the future is with the students. He said the school system has a common language. He said he heard one of his students saying, "We do not do junk". He said that's what it is about. He said the school system is leading kids to be successful at work and to do the best they can. He asked the board to keep supporting the direction along with the mission, vision, and beliefs.

Eric White said that five years ago the System Design Team developed the direction of the system. He said at the last Design Team meeting there was also discussion about what the group felt were qualities a superintendent would need to possess to keep the school system moving in the system's direction. Some of the qualities discussed are as follows:

- Someone who can keep up the momentum of the system
- Shared values and beliefs that the students are the system's core business
- A moral leader
- An active listener
- Fiscally responsible
- A capacity builder
- A helping hand who pulls along the way and doesn't just push

Mrs. Noll said at Leadership Academy they had a discussion about launching your leadership. They discussed how on a space mission there is a point it is said that the critical systems are now controlled by the onboard computer. She said the school system has built capacity by focusing on professional development. She said the school system is in the middle of a transformation. Mrs. Noll said the

Leadership Academy is a wonderful tool where you are encouraged to lead from where you are. She said capacity is being built with students as well and that they are taking responsibility for their learning. She said you can't buy education you have to earn it and that happens when students take ownership of their learning. She shared that tests are no longer stressful because the students are confident in what they know. Mrs. Noll said there is an urgency to keep moving forward.

Mr. White said it is an exciting time. He said this time will be remembered as being an information and technology revolution. He said it is challenging as an educator and that content is not enough. He said teachers are needed to help students develop their much needed creative, critical thinking, effective communication, and problem solving skills. He said it's amazing to see the capacity that students have built and that they are *also* considered producers and designers. He said it is critical that teachers continue to be designers of work that challenge students. He said it is the right and moral thing to do and asked that the board members continue their support.

Mr. Trew recalled a work session in February of 2005 where a group started the conversation of a vision. He said an idea was formed at that time. He thanked everyone for the presentation and for their attendance.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.