

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 3, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on May 3, 2010. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Executive Session

The superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu, recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. John Thomas 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 Richard Schoen
Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 12:10 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

Also present were the following staff members:

Katie Brochu Kenny Sheppard
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
Eric Beavers Richard Schoen
Danny Hayes 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

Tunnel Hill Elementary students Emma Franklin, Abby Neises, Reese Brown, Hallie Harrison and Morgan Bellflower read stories they had written about Indians. The students presented the board members with bracelets they had made. The students are in Jennifer Leaderer's ALPHA class. The students also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome/Recognitions/ Presentations

Valley Point Middle – Bullying Bill

Students in Ms. Amber Croy's history classes, while learning how a bill becomes a law in Georgia, decided to write a bill about bullying. The students presented the bill to Representative Roger Williams along with principal Britt Adams and Dr. Brochu. The class received a letter from Governor Sonny Perdue recognizing their work. Students Serena Ramsey, Cassandra Parsons, Nick Stuard, Lily Pimental, Kayla Curtis, Emily Newberry, and Esther Lovingood presented a video of the "Bullying Bill" to the board members. Mr. Trew, on behalf of the board, presented Ms. Croy and her students a certificate of congratulations for their great work.

Whitney Cruz – New Georgia Encyclopedia Award

Mr. Trew presented North Whitfield Middle School student Whitney Cruz a certificate of congratulations for earning the New Georgia Encyclopedia Award while representing North Whitfield Middle at the state social studies fair. The honor is only given to one student in the state and was presented by Sarah McKee, the editor of the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* published by the University of Georgia Press.

FCCLA State Winners

Northwest High School students Mary Ann Gutierrez and Chelsea Ledford won first place at the state level in Chapter Showcase Manual. Wyatt Miracle along with Haley Riddleburger also won first place at the state level in Chapter Showcase Display. These students were all presented a certificate of congratulations from the board.

FBLA State Winners

Mr. Trew presented Northwest High School students Jeremiah Stevens and Mary Beth Salguero a certificate of congratulations for earning a first place finish at the state FBLA competition in the Global Business category.

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 – April 12, April 16, April 17, and April 26, 2010

Approval of Agenda – May 3, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Cohutta Elementary	Sell concessions at field day
Dawnville Elementary Drama	Change \$2 admission for "Wizard of Oz"
Northwest High School Lady Bruins Softball Team	Lady Bruins Softball Summer Camp
Northwest High Lady Bruins Softball Team	Golf Tournament and sell corporate signs
Northwest High Lady Bruins Softball Team	Pancake Breakfast
Northwest High 7 th Inning Club	Coupon Books
Northwest High 7 th Inning Club	T-shirt sales
Northwest High Tip Off Club	Sell tickets Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
Northwest High Tip Off Club	Sponsor a 5K race
Northwest High Tip Off Club	Sell corporate board signs and ads in the program
Northwest High Tip Off Club	Sponsoring a car wash
North Whitfield Middle Cheerleading	Great American Opportunities jewelry sales
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell advertisements
Southeast High Athletic Program	Dalton Volleyball League use of fields for a fee
Southeast High Volleyball	Youth Volleyball Camp June 23-25, 2010
Southeast High Volleyball	Individual Skills Volleyball Camp July 12,13,15,16
Southeast High Volleyball	Summer Play Day
Southeast High Volleyball	Team Camp at SEHS July 27-29
Valley Point Middle Football	3 on 3 basketball tournament

Funds Investment

Recommendation to invest \$8 million with Alliance National Bank for a period of 15 months at a rate of return of 1.65% APY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Instructional Report – Tunnel Hill Elementary

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, introduced Tunnel Hill Elementary principal Bert Coker. Mr. Coker said Tunnel Hill was continuing the Working on the Work philosophy. He shared the school was integrating the standards with project based learning and that student work was being displayed in the school. Mr. Coker added there was a new computer lab and that the school was using the Measuring Academic Progress testing to diagnose student deficits or areas of success. He added this knowledge helped the teachers specifically address the needs of each student. Mr. Coker said professional development and training was important to Tunnel Hill Elementary adding the staff members had read *Heart of Change* and *Teach with Your Strengths*. Mr. Coker praised staff members at Tunnel Hill for winning the National Blue Ribbon Award and expressed it was affirmation that the Working on the Work philosophy had positive outcomes.

School Council Report – Tunnel Hill Elementary

Tony Stanley, a parent school council member, gave the board an update. Mr. Stanley remarked that he felt Tunnel Hill Elementary was the best kept secret. He said parents, staff and community members are very supportive. He reiterated the excitement about Tunnel Hill winning the Blue Ribbon award adding it is given to the top 10% of the schools across the nation. He said the award reinforces the need for Working on the Work. Mr. Stanley informed the board members of improvements that had been made to Tunnel Hill this year such as the new digital sign and the new shelter on the playground. He thanked the Parent Teacher Organization, community members, and board members for their support.

Project Search

Sarah Hoskins, director of programs for exceptional children, and Kathy Reed, coordinator for exceptional children, shared information about the Project Search Program. Ms. Hoskins said some of the most important work is the successful transition of students from school to work. She said thanks to the support and efforts of Cross Plains, Dalton Public Schools, Hamilton Medical Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, Whitfield County Schools, and the Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities, several exceptional students were given the opportunity to learn job skills. She added that Hamilton Medical Center provided a classroom on the second floor of the hospital and that Dalton Public Schools provided technology along with a job coach. Ms. Hoskins and Ms. Reed then showed the board members a video of the students performing their jobs at the hospital. The students rotated between laundry, food services, and maintenance and came away with references and job skills. One hospital employee on the video shared that Shawn had brought to the unit a sense of love and joy and that he had become a cherished member. She added it had been an outstanding experience and had touched her life for the better. Ms. Reed added it had touched her heart as well because the students had grown so much as a result of the experience. Program instructor Karen Hutchinson introduced students Aaron Field, Shawn Long, and Rebecca Crowley. Rebecca described how she wanted to be involved with this project because she wanted to get a diploma and a job. Shawn said he had gotten more job and people skills. He said he was glad to work at Hamilton Medical Center and added it was not only about working but helping too. He said he agreed with the Hamilton Medical Center motto that says "Whatever it Takes." Aaron said he really likes the Project Search Program. Student Tommy Jarvis was unable to attend the presentation because he was beginning his first day on the job at Hamilton Medical Center.

Waiver Request for School Calendar

The superintendent recommended the board approve the waiver request for the 2010-2011 school calendar. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Report

Dr. Brochu asked the board if they had any additional questions about the construction projects. The board members had been given an update at the previous work session.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

There were no items.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Fund and SPLOST Reports

The superintendent recommended approval of the General Fund and the SPLOST reports as of April 30, 2010. She said the school system is doing well under the most trying times in memory. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Human Resources Reports and Recommendations

Personnel Recommendations

The superintendent 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. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Naming of the New Superintendent

Mr. Trew said the number one duty of the board of education is to choose a superintendent. He wished Dr. Brochu well in her new school district. Jerry Nealey made a motion to approve Danny Hayes as the next superintendent of the Whitfield County School System and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Mr. Hayes said he was honored to help lead this great system. He added the Whitfield County School System had gone beyond a “diamond in the rough” and was now a “gem ready to be set.” Mr. Hayes shared it was time for the school system to be recognized nationally. Mr. Hayes emphasized it was not a one man show but added he was extremely excited about the opportunity.

Mr. Trew said the other assistant superintendents, who were also candidates, were remarkable and quality folks. He said together they make a great team. Mr. Nealey added he had been through many superintendent searches and that this one had been the most difficult because of having four excellent candidates. He said the school system couldn’t lose and added he was very appreciative of the other three candidates and thankful to have them on board. Mr. Brock said it was a shame all of them couldn’t have been superintendent reiterating his desire to see them all continue to work together. Mr. Thomas said any of the four candidates would have made a great superintendent and ended by saying the school system was blessed to have them all. Mr. Barton said it had been tough and that he was proud of all the candidates and added that everyone would get behind Mr. Hayes and get to work.

RIF Plan

Dr. Brochu asked the board members to approve the Reduction in Force Plan as presented. She explained that the attachment included a narrative of the plan and a copy of the Reduction in Force Policy, GAKA. She explained this was the toughest budget time in history and that the Whitfield County School System was projecting a shortfall of \$13.5 million. Dr. Brochu shared the board would be faced with making challenging decisions as a result of the state budget crisis. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Second Reading of Board Policies IHF (6): Graduation Requirements and THE: Promotion and Retention

The superintendent recommended the board approve the second reading of board policies IHF(6) and THE. John Thomas moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy JCDB: Student Dress Code, Student Discipline Procedure, and Board Policy GBRIB: Professional Sick Leave

Dr. Brochu recommended approval and the first reading of Board Policy JCDB and GBRIB and the Student Discipline Procedure. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Tour of Coahulla Creek High School

The board members, cabinet members, media personnel, and others toured Coahulla Creek High School to see firsthand the progress being made to the site and building.

Board Member Comments

The board members discussed the beautiful site and view, the progress of the construction, the concept of the school as a 21st Century School, and how happy they were for the students who would be attending the new high school.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the site of Coahulla Creek High School at 2:55 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING May 13, 2010

A called meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at Cedar Ridge Elementary School. Board Chairman Tim 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

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Amendment of the Agenda

Jerry Nealey made a motion to amend the agenda to include *Hearing of Individuals* as item #1A. Thomas Barton moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

Dr. Lynn Murphy presented the board with a statement that requested the board give strong consideration to employees that have been RIF'd as positions become available.

Approval of Proposed 2011 Budget

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented information to the board about the 2011 proposed budget. Mr. Sheppard commended the board members for their support and for doing the right thing for the Whitfield County School System. Mr. Sheppard stated that since 2003 through the projected 2011 budget; Whitfield County School System has been under funded by the state education funding formula (Quality Basic Education) by \$37.7 million. Mr. Sheppard shared that a steering committee consisting of stakeholders from within the school system had weighed in on the budget process. All staff members of the Whitfield County School System had been given the opportunity to submit budget cost saving suggestions. The steering committee had used these suggestions in their budget recommendations.

Dr. Brochu explained that ESPLOST funds could not be used for teacher salary expenditures.

Mr. Sheppard shared information about the budget which included funding in the areas of general funds, special revenue, school nutrition, capital projects and debt service.

Mr. Sheppard recommended to Dr. Brochu the FY2011 Proposed Budget be approved for advertisement. Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the FY2011 Proposed Budget which would be advertised for a minimum of two weeks in the local newspaper. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded.

Mr. Trew discussed there was very little “wobble room” in the budget but that he had confidence in the staff. He explained how the school system, under Dr. Brochu’s tenure, had anticipated these tough economic times and had built the fund balance which prevented the cuts from going deeper. Mr. Nealey said it was impossible to budget all of the revenues. He added that like in your homes, you can’t spend your entire paycheck because there will always be unforeseen items that occur. Mr. Trew reiterated that every employee, including all administrators, would be affected by the cuts. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Amended 2010-2011 School Calendar

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, recommended to Dr. Brochu approval of the amended 2010-2011 school calendar. He explained that the number of days for student attendance had been reduced from 180 to 175 days and that teacher days had been reduced from 190 to 180 days. Dr. Brochu recommended the amended school calendar to the board for approval. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. Mr. Brown added that all of the seat time and instructional time requirements had been met and exceeded. The board approved 5-0.

Georgia Power Easement at Phoenix High School

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, shared that Georgia Power had requested an easement at Phoenix High School because of the possible widening of Airport Road. This would allow them to adjust the power poles as necessary. Mr. Schoen informed the board that the board attorney had reviewed the contract. Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the easement. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the purpose of personnel. John Thomas moved approval and Jerry Nealey 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

Dusty Brown Richard Schoen

Danny Hayes Judy Gilreath

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Brochu recommended the board approve the personnel recommendations as discussed in executive session with the exception of Donna Trew, Laura Nealey, and Amanda Thomas who are relatives of the board members and would need separate votes. The board approved 5-0.

Dr. Brochu recommended the approval of the personnel recommendation for Donna Trew. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0 with Tim Trew abstaining.

Dr. Brochu recommended the approval of the personnel recommendation for Laura Nealey. John Thomas moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0 with Jerry Nealey abstaining.

Dr. Brochu recommended the approval of the personnel recommendation for Amanda Thomas. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 4-0 with John Thomas abstaining.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING May 24, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, May 24, 2010 at North Whitfield Middle School. Board Vice Chair Gary Brock called the meeting to order.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock – Vice Chair
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Tim Trew arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order. Thomas Barton was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

A list of the public in attendance is a part of the backup minutes.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance – North Whitfield Middle

North Whitfield Middle School student Jackson Peden led the Pledge of Allegiance. Students Ulises Garcia and Wilbert Escobedo presented a video about a class trip to Washington, D.C. They shared information about many of their favorite sites they had visited while in Washington, D.C. North Whitfield Middle teacher, David Thacker, described how he was pleased to see his students grow this year. He said the trip had occurred for 27 consecutive years but that each year it was designed and redesigned to make it meaningful for all students. He said the teachers aligned the trip around the standards. Mr. Thacker shared that 105 eighth graders had been able to travel to Washington this year. He read a letter he had received from the management of a hotel in Maryland where they had stayed. The hotel manager described how courteous the students had been during their stay. Students Austin Riddlebarger and Cori Harolson presented the board members with t-shirts and invited them to the 21st Century Exhibition of Learning.

School Council Report – North Whitfield Middle

Brent Newsome presented the school council report for North Whitfield Middle School. He shared that the school council had discussed the school improvement plan, Project Based Learning, 6th Grade Academy, and the new high school. He said Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, had visited one of the meetings to share information about the reasoning for the selection of the location of the new high school. Eric Beavers, media and public relations specialist, had participated in a meeting to share information about public relations, and Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, had discussed the school budget and shortfalls with the council. Mr. Newsome said there had been concerns about the district lines. Mr. Trew explained that district lines were being reviewed and that the decision would be made by the beginning of the next school year which would give the community over a year to make plans. Mr. Trew added he appreciated the work of the school council. Andrea Bradley, principal of North Whitfield Middle School, said the school council members were great community leaders.

Instructional Report – North Whitfield Middle

North Whitfield Middle School teacher Stephanie Hungerpiller described the process involved in the presentation of the Holocaust Wax Museum. She said each year the students were excited about being involved in this project. She explained how reading and language arts were used to study the conclusion of WWI and the environment leading up to WWII. She added terminology is studied and videos are seen to promote dialogue. The students read The Diary of Ann Frank, with her words inspiring the students and helping expose historic accounts. The students also read Number of the Stars which addressed why people didn't fight back. Mrs. Hungerpiller said the students worked in groups where they chose and researched related topics for the Holocaust Wax Museum. She concluded by saying this was a learning opportunity that the students would never forget and that the students were being provided with profound learning opportunities. Students Jackson Peden, Alex Reynolds, Tylor Ferguson, Omar Sheikh, Ashley Cantrell, Rosario Barragan, Jessica Terrones, Ian Conway, Taylor Poteet, Megan Cross, Colbie Thomas, Whitney Morrow, Tara Canchola, Whitney Cruz, Makayla Lynn, and Miranda Helton participated in a presentation of the Wax Museum for the board and cabinet members.

Review Board Agenda Items

Superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu, reviewed and discussed the board agenda items for the June 7, 2010 board meeting.

Construction Report

Keith Burran, with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company, updated the board on the progress of the new high school.

Whitfield Career Academy Project

Andy Carlson with Carlson and Jones Architect Firm, presented schematic designs and renderings to the board showing plans for the wellness/fitness center at the Whitfield Career Academy. Mr. Carlson shared how they had collected information from members of a design team that consisted of staff members, students, and parents. He said they were asked to design open, flexible spaces that combined indoor and outdoor spaces.

Eastbrook Middle School Project

Barbara Crum, with Perkins and Will Architect Firm, shared a powerpoint presentation that showed the design plans for Eastbrook Middle School. She described how her team had also met with a design team that consisted of parents, staff member, and students. She said the group had expressed that they would like to see classrooms that were flexible, had natural light, built around small learning communities, had space to present student work, had unobstructed sight lines, and was conducive to Project Based Learning. She added the project labs would open to classrooms and to the outside areas which would help with the natural light and allow classes to easily use indoor and outdoor spaces.

Finance Reports and Recommendations

Dr. Brochu shared how the finance team and members of the district had been involved in budget discussions since October 2009. She explained how a survey had been sent to each employee of the school system which encouraged opportunities for input and suggestions about the budget. She said a presentation

had been made to all teachers and staff members and that the school system had been very transparent about the budget.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Tim Trew moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

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

Board Member Thomas Barton was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Trew, on behalf of the board, presented Dr. Brochu with a plaque thanking her for her dedication to the students of Whitfield County. Mr. Trew said her five years in Whitfield County had been very productive and beneficial to the students.

Dr. Brochu said it had been an honor and privilege to be a part of the Whitfield County School System. She said she knew the system would continue on a great path and added the progress would be second to none. She added that students were being challenged with great work that was getting stronger each year. She thanked the board for the opportunity.

Mr. Brock thanked Dr. Brochu for five years of service and for building capacity in staff members so the work would continue.

Mr. Nealey said it was an honor to have worked with Dr. Brochu the last five years. He said a true measure of success was leaving something several notches above the way you found it.

Mr. Thomas said Dr. Brochu had surrounded herself with the right people and that the school system would continue on the right path because of her guidance. He added Mr. Hayes would do a great job.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.