

MINUTES OF MEETING
September 27, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, September 27, 2010 at Northwest Whitfield High School. Board Vice-Chair Gary Brock called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock – Vice Chair
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Board Member Tim Trew was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance – Northwest High School

Brody Crowder, a senior at Northwest High, gave the inspiration. He described why he was inspired by the girls' volleyball team of which he is the manager. He said they had in common a desire to win, shared the same goals, and worked as a team. He added the team had greatly improved from the beginning of the year, were focused and determined. Brody then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional Report – Northwest High School

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, introduced Britt Adams, principal of Northwest High School to present the instructional report. Mr. Adams said the staff members were coming together as a team. He quoted Bill Gates who said, "Change is inevitable. You can drive it or adapt to it". He said they were doing things at Northwest a little differently. Mr. Adams remarked that test scores were just one indicator that is being used to determine how to move forward. He said the graduation rate last year was 86.3% and that the End of Course Tests was above state average as well as the SAT scores. He strongly emphasized it was all about the journey and shared his excitement about how the students were taking ideas and creating something new they could be proud of. Mr. Adams informed the board members that Northwest was a little behind in technology but added plans were underway to improve in that area. He said there was a grassroots movement to do things differently. He ended by saying the goal should be to get close to the vision but that you should never be satisfied.

School Council Report

Ann MacKinnon, a teacher at Northwest High School and a school council member, gave the board an update on the school council. She shared that Mike Ewton, safety and security director, had joined the council for a meeting to discuss safety issues. Items discussed by the school council during their meetings were AYP, testing, budget shortfalls, technology, fundraisers, and parent concerns.

Archway Partnership

Melissa Lu, director of the Archway Partnership, described the process involved in creating a vision for the Dalton-Whitfield community which was scheduled to be presented at a public forum on October 26, 2010. She asked the board for their endorsement, participation, and leadership. She presented a handout and discussed how the community vision focuses on the following areas:

- A stable economy with industry diversification focused on current and potentially available resources.
- Enhanced educational services through the development of our strengths – Dalton State College, the public school systems, and technical education – and improvement upon our weaknesses.
- An aesthetically pleasing environment comprised of a vibrant downtown area, parks and greenways, and interconnected trails throughout the community. She added to achieve the goals it was decided the following was needed:

Economy

- Successful, Sustainable Industries
- Diverse, Forward Thinking Economy
- Hub for Knowledge-Based Innovation

Education

- Premier, Four Year Higher Ed Institution
- Technical Education Portal
- Community understanding of strengths & weaknesses across the birth-work continuum

Environment

- Vibrant Downtown
- Progressive Transportation Infrastructure
- Expanded Greenways, Parks, and Trails
- Inviting Interstate Destination

Mr. Brock said the board would discuss her request and let her know their decision, but added he was looking forward to working with her.

Superintendent Hayes thanked Ms. Lu for her leadership and added it was exciting for Dalton and Whitfield County to be on the way to putting the vision into action.

Review Board Agenda Items

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board the October 4, 2010 board agenda items.

Construction Update

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company gave the board an update on the ESPLOST projects and presented the board with a Monthly Progress Report. Mr. Burran shared that the construction documents were currently underway for Eastbrook Middle School and the Whitfield Career Academy wellness/fitness center. DD plans and specifications for these additions and renovations have been submitted to the Georgia Department of Education for approval. The first FF&E meeting was held on September 17, 2010 to review package requirements for classrooms, project labs, media center, cafeteria, band, chorus, and miscellaneous areas for Coahulla Creek High School. He also gave the construction status on Coahulla Creek High School.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Board Member Tim Trew was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:55 p.m.

Board Member Comments

John Thomas - Implementation of technology at Northwest High
John Thomas - Lights at the ballfields at New Hope Middle
Jerry Nealey – Desire for ball fields at Eastbrook Middle in the future

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING September 13, 2010

The regular session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on September 13, 2010. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. 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

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 6:49 p.m. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew
Gary Brock
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Kenny Sheppard
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen Audrey Williams
Eric Beavers 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 and Pledge of Allegiance – Varnell Elementary

Varnell Elementary students Olivia Mantooth, Ana Silva, Gabrielle Silva, Dawson Welsh, Kaysen Welsh, and Sam Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. For the inspiration Dawson Welsh read, Not a Box by Antoinette Portis, which was dedicated to children everywhere sitting in a box.

Instructional Report – Varnell Elementary

Lisa Jones, principal of Varnell Elementary, said out of the box things were going on at Varnell. The school design team produced a video to show and describe the great things happening at the school. The video described students as agriculturists, architects, actors, artists, authors, designers, environmentalists, innovators, technology savvy, and winners. Teachers were described as coaches, friends, facilitators, learners, directors, entertainers, helping hands, nurturers, financial advisors, chefs, and family. Parents were described as supporters, investors, participants, listeners, and stakeholders. The community members were described as buddies, mentors, resources, teachers, heroes, and readers.

Mrs. Jones thanked the board for being the system's leaders and for their hard work. She said to be a successful school it started with your faculty and staff all working together. She added that when you have that the students will achieve. She expressed how important it was for the staff members to have the freedom to design lessons that were tailored to the "who" to meet their specific needs. She ended by saying she was excited about where the school system was headed.

School Council Report – Varnell Elementary

Mike Wilson, a parent representative of the Varnell school council, gave the board an update. A few of the items he shared was that former superintendent, Dr. Katie Brochu, had given an update on the system to the school council at one of their meetings. He said they had received a presentation on the ESOL program. He

said Andrea Bradley, principal of North Whitfield Middle School, had discussed the transition to the middle school and gave them information about the 6th Grade Academy. He added that this year there would be discussion about the PE Program, the Coahulla Creek High School district lines, and the Intervention Program. He said Superintendent Hayes would be attending a meeting, and that Andrea Bradley would join a meeting to discuss middle school transition. Mr. Trew thanked the school council for their time and service.

Welcome/Recognition/Presentations

Board Member Training Certificates

Mr. Hayes presented the board members with a certificate from the Georgia School Boards Association for having completed their annual training requirement. Mr. Hayes described how the board members take their professional development seriously and the importance of the training to learn and build their capacity. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the students and the school system.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – August 2 and August 30, 2010

Approval of Agenda – September 13, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Requests

Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary
 Antioch Elementary
 Antioch Elementary PTO
 Antioch Elementary Kindergarten
 Antioch Elementary
 Cohutta Elementary
 Cohutta Elementary
 Cohutta Elementary
 Cohutta Elementary
 Cohutta Elementary Media Center
 Cohutta Elementary Media Center
 Cohutta Elementary Media Center
 Cohutta Elementary 1st Grade
 Dawnville Elementary First Grade
 Dawnville Elementary 5th Grade
 Dawnville Elementary Kindergarten
 Dawnville Elementary 3rd Grade
 Eastside Elementary
 Eastside Elementary PTO
 Eastside Elementary Media Center
 Eastside Elementary PTO
 Eastside Elementary

Candy Sale
 Pancake Breakfast with Santa
 Santa Shop
 Candy Sale
 Spaghetti Supper
 Individual and Group Pictures, Santa pictures
 Basket Ticket Raffle
 Sell school spirit t-shirts
 Sell school supplies and snack cakes
 Sell ice cream, sell paper and pencils
 Fall and Spring Pictures
 Collect Box Tops for Education
 School Spirit Shirt sales
 Doughnut sales
 Book Fairs
 Santa Shop
 Computers for Education
 Sell candy
 Sell snack items
 Sell baked goods
 Bake sale
 Bake sale
 Fall Festival
 Penny Drive
 Book Fairs
 Santa Store
 Sell stickers in vending machine

Eastside Elementary After School Care
 Eastbrook Middle Band and Chorus
 New Hope Elementary Media Center
 New Hope Elementary Media Center
 New Hope Elementary Media Center
 New Hope Elementary Media Center
 New Hope Elementary
 New Hope Elementary Yearbook
 New Hope Elementary Student Council
 New Hope Elementary Student Council
 New Hope Elementary

 New Hope Elementary PTO
 New Hope Elementary
 New Hope Elementary PTO

 New Hope Middle Softball
 New Hope Middle Band
 New Hope Middle PTO
 New Hope Middle PTO
 New Hope Middle Media Center
 New Hope Middle Media Center
 New Hope Middle Softball/Baseball
 New Hope Middle Baseball
 New Hope Middle Softball/Baseball
 Northwest High School FFA
 Northwest High Boys Basketball
 Northwest High Boys Basketball
 Northwest High Tip Off Club
 Northwest High Cheerleaders
 Northwest High Cheerleaders
 Northwest High Girls Soccer
 Northwest High Dugout Club
 Northwest High Lady Bruins Basketball
 Northwest High Tip Off Club
 Northwest High Wrestling Team
 Northwest High Broadcasting
 Northwest High FBLA
 Northwest High Swim Team Booster Club

 North Whitfield Middle Boys Basketball
 North Whitfield Middle Special Education
 North Whitfield Middle Football
 North Whitfield Middle Softball
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Cheerleaders
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Basketball Team
 Southeast High Athletic Department
 Southeast High Athletic Department
 Southeast High Cheerleading
 Southeast High Tennis
 Southeast High Boys Soccer

Sell candy and drinks
 Sell pizzas
 Birthday Book Club
 Book Fairs
 Tyson A+ Label Collection Program
 Cartridges for Kids
 Lifetouch Photography
 Opportunity to purchase a student photo yearbook
 Collect Box Tops for Education
 Holiday Lollipop sales
 Vending machines, ice cream, school supplies, water, cracker, and coke machines for staff
 Sally Foster Fundraiser, PTO T-shirts
 Hosting Game Night
 Sally Foster, Fall Carnival, T-shirts, Spirit Week, Silly Bands, Lollipops
 Sell Enjoy the City coupon books
 Sell World's Finest Chocolate
 Back to School Dance
 Candy fundraiser
 Sell snacks to teachers
 Sell school supplies
 Silent auction, autograph signing
 Sell Enjoy the City coupon books
 Outfield sign sales
 Sell beef jerky
 Online School Basketball Spirit Store
 Basketball Clinic
 Golf Tournament
 Hosting WC MS Cheerleading Competition
 Homecoming Dance
 Sell suckers
 Chili supper/BBQ sale/ Silent Auction
 Free Town-a-Thon
 T-shirt sale
 Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
 Sell Bruin Nation t-shirts
 Sell Chick-fil-A biscuits
 Sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts, sell lollipops, postcard requests for donations
 Coke sells
 Sell cookies
 Teacher Slime Contest
 Sell NWMS blankets
 Recreation Department using SEHS & EBM Gym
 Concession Stand sales
 Thanksgiving Hoopfest Tournament
 Sell concessions at the Lazy River Moto Cross Ranch
 Sell corporate banners
 Sell BBQ plates
 Sell memberships to the club
 Rent gym to Dalton Volleyball league
 Rent practice fields to Dalton Soccer league
 Sell Chick-Fil-A biscuits
 Sponsorships from local area
 Rent practice soccer field to a local soccer league

Valley Point Elementary PTO	Spirit Store
Valley Point Elementary PTO	Classic Cookie fundraiser
Valley Point Elementary PTO	3 rd Annual Spring Carnival
Valley Point Middle Football	Lift-a-Thon
Valley Point Middle Football	Pancake Breakfast
Valley Point Middle Football	Scrap Metal Drive
Valley Point Middle Football	Kids and Pros Football Camp
Valley Point Middle Team 801	Hold Costume Party School Dance for all 3 grades
Valley Point Middle Team 801	Pancakes with Santa
Valley Point Middle Team 801	Hat Days
Varnell Elementary PTA	Sell items to purchase patio tables and chairs, murals
Westside Elementary Spec. Ed. Dept.	Denim for Dollars
Whitfield Career Academy Class of 2011	Senior Fall Festival
Whitfield Career Academy Cosmetology/Skills USA	Cosmetology t-shirts and sweats
Whitfield Career Academy Spanish Club	Talent Show
Whitfield Career Academy Student Senate	Movie Day
Whitfield Career Academy Yearbook	Sell Yearbooks, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, candy, and raffle tickets
Whitfield Career Academy 21 st Century Learning	Sell advertising/name plaques
Whitfield Career Academy 21 st Century Learning	Sell food items
Whitfield Career Academy 21 st Century Learning	Sell school spirit item (dog tags)

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Cohutta 5 th Grade	Team Building Lock-in
North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade Students	Trip to Washington, DC
North Whitfield Middle 7 th Grade Students	Tour of Georgia, Various Locations
North Whitfield Middle 6 th -8 th Grade Students	Junior Youth Assembly, Macon, GA
Southeast High Ag Education Program	Covington, GA
Valley Point Middle Team 801	Trip to Savannah, GA

Bus Request

Name of Group

Activity or Request

Leadership Dalton-Whitfield	Participants to tour parts of the community for their Quality of Life Session
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Yearly Memorandum of Understanding Renewals

Name of Group

Contract Request

North Georgia Family Crisis Center	Provision of services to victims of domestic violence
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Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Introduction of the Pre-K Chinese Teachers

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, introduced Caroline Woodason. Mrs. Woodason is a part of teaching and learning, professional development, and the Pre-K program. She introduced four exchange teachers who are a part of the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University. She said they are co-teaching in Pre-K classrooms at Antioch and Cedar Ridge Elementary. The teachers teach the character of the language through songs and language. The teachers introduced themselves and gave both their Chinese names and their American names. They described how they love the students and are pleased to work with the teachers. One of the teachers described how many of the students could already count from 1-10 in Chinese.

Board Member Thomas Barton said he thought it was great how the Whitfield County students were being exposed to another culture.

Mr. Hayes added that the teachers were certified teachers in China. He thanked Dusty Brown and Caroline Woodason for hosting these teachers and described how a support group had been set up to assist the teachers.

Career, Technical, Agricultural, Education Budget

Phillip Brown, principal of Coahulla Creek High School, informed the board about the budget and intent of use for the Perkins IV Program Improvement fund allocation. Mr. Hayes explained that these funds were flow-through funds and recommended the board approve the request. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company updated the board about the progress of the Coahulla Creek High School. He said the football field was on grade and that the athletic sports lighting should be in place in three weeks. He added the site lighting was in place. He informed the board the sheetrock placement was progressing and the school should be in the dry the middle of October. He said he was pleased with the progress of the architects for the Eastbrook Middle design and that it was still progressing on schedule.

Capital Outlay Project Application

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, informed the board that the Whitfield County School System had been pre-approved for the amount of \$6,546,435 from the State of Georgia to be applied to the Eastbrook Middle project. He added the school system had been able to increase the scope of the Eastbrook project because of money saved from the other SPLOST projects. Mr. Trew remarked the school system should be able to fix it right. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Capital Outlay Program Application. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

Evidentiary Panel Members of 2010-2011

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the evidentiary panel members for 2010-2011 as presented. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund information to the board as of August 31, 2010. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the General Fund report as presented. John Thomas moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

ESPLOST Reports

Mr. Sheppard also presented to the board a summary capital projects report. The superintendent recommended the board approve the ESPLOST report as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

Approval of Millage Rate

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve to hold the millage rate at 14.756. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. Mr. Trew said it comes to times like this that in today's world it would make it easier and better if you raised taxes, but the heart of the board feels the property tax owners are paying their fair share. He added the state government is not paying their share and that a tax increase is not appropriate in this economy. He applauded the board for the decision and added the district continues to make great gains even in this economy. The board approved 5-0.

Automated Check Recovery Agreement

Mr. Sheppard said this agreement with Checkredi would replace the agreement the system had with FARS. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the agreement with Checkredi. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas 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. John Thomas moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business Reports and Recommendations

Second Reading of Board Policy CGPGB: Administrative Personnel Sick Leave

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the second reading of board policy CGPGB: Administrative Personnel Sick Leave. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

Coahulla Creek High Mascot & School Colors

Phillip Brown presented the board with the new school colors and a preliminary drawing of the school mascot. He described the process on how the school colors and mascot were decided. A group of students who would be attending the new school made the selection. Mr. Brown said they looked at different colors on shirts, cups, and so on before making the selection. There were 1408 responses with suggestions online as well. Navy blue and silver with white were the colors chosen for Coahulla Creek High School. The mascot selection was narrowed down to four choices; Spartans, Coyotes, Colts, and the Cowboys. Colts was the mascot that was selected. Mr. Trew said he was excited about the selection.

Georgia School Boards Association Partnership Commendation

The superintendent recommended the board approve the name chosen to be awarded the Georgia School Boards Association Partnership Commendation. The commendation will be awarded at a future board meeting. Gary Brock moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.