

MINUTES OF MEETING
October 4, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on October 4, 2010. Board Vice-Chair Gary Brock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel only. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock – Vice Chairman
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 Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Brock called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

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 Kenny Sheppard
Richard Schoen Judy Gilreath
Dusty Brown 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. Brock asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Megan Manis, a student at Phoenix High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Fred Toney, principal of Phoenix High School presented the inspiration. Mr. Toney shared a humorous story about slowing down or coming to a complete stop at a stop sign. He compared the story to students who attend Phoenix High

School. He said a lot of their students slow down in the educational process but they don't stop. He said the staff members at Phoenix try to instill in their students that no matter what setbacks and hardships they may encounter, it shouldn't keep them from receiving a good education and from obtaining honorable and desirable work.

Welcome/Recognition/Presentations

2009-2010 Leadership Academy Participants

Mr. Hayes discussed how Leadership Academy was an investment in teachers and leaders. He said they learn aspects of leading from where you are and take that knowledge and use it in their schools and classrooms. Mr. Hayes emphasized that Leadership Academy has representation from every school and is open to every Whitfield County School System employee.

Several Leadership Academy participants shared what the Leadership Academy experience had meant to them.

Fatima Piresson

Ms. Piresson shared that she was a teacher in the 21st Century Learning Academy at the Whitfield Career Academy. She thanked the board members for the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Academy. She said she grew as a person and was better equipped because of the experience. She described her life while living in Portugal and how her family members were beaten by members of the secret police. At age thirteen her family immigrated to the United States where she and her family were allowed to read without fear. Through her experience she decided she wanted to make a difference serving students and changing the world. Bureaucracy got in the way of changing the world but she felt empowered by being a part of the work being done by the students. Ms. Piresson said she felt our school system allowed staff members to take risks without adverse consequences which allowed for the best growth opportunities and full development potential. In Leadership Academy relationships are developed between the Whitfield County and Dalton Public School Systems which allows for collaboration. She added that her Action Research Project was relevant to her school and was being used. She ended by saying the Leadership Academy was the best professional development opportunity to grow to full potential and that the real beneficiaries were the students.

Stacey Street

Mrs. Street, a data and attendance clerk at North Whitfield Middle School, expressed appreciation for allowing support staff the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Academy. She said as a student she at times had struggled trying to find a connection to the work. The Action Research Project was meaningful to her and enabled her with the opportunity to visit other schools to see the wonderful work the students were doing. She said she was proud of what the Whitfield County students were doing and being able to see the whole picture was empowering. To her the most important part of the Leadership Academy was watching the video clip by the Honda Corporation which described failures and successes. She said she worked hard but struggled in school so she gave up and didn't pursue anything else because she felt like a failure. In the video a light bulb comes on and all the others go off. The video spoke about the movement toward success and how we must give students the opportunities to be successful. She spoke of grace and forgiveness and understanding that there are no failures and that we need to turn on every light bulb. She thanked the board again for the enrichment.

Jennifer Schneider

Ms. Schneider expressed appreciation for the most beneficial opportunity of her career. She said participating in the Leadership Academy had inspired and challenged her to make a difference to kids. She added she had gained a deeper understanding and was able to think outside the box and outside her comfort zone. She learned through the academy the danger of complacency, the importance of persistence, and to focus on the possibilities. She said that through her Action Research Project, staff members at Antioch had

seen positive changes after going into the community to develop relationships. They had empowered parents by teaching them how to read to their students. Ms. Schneider shared a story that on her first visit to the community she met a parent who shared that she had dreamed of becoming a teacher but didn't think she could get her GED and be able to go to college. Ms. Schneider told her she believed in her and knew she could achieve her dream. She met her again and was told that she had enrolled in the GED Program. On their last visit, the parent shared that she had completed her GED and had enrolled in Dalton State College. Before the community visits, the students were withdrawn and wouldn't smile when they met their teachers in the hallways at school. She said there had been a transformation in the students and they were excited about learning and that their enthusiasm was contagious. The students asked for homework packets to do during Spring break and shared they would rather be at school. The Action Research Project had changed staff, students, and families and had made them feel they could accomplish anything. She ended by saying the Leadership Academy was a great investment that had shaped her into the person she was today and had impacted everyone around her.

Todd Gearhart

Mr. Gearhart, an Early Intervention and Reading Recovery teacher at Pleasant Grove Elementary, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present to the board. He said prior to participating in the Leadership Academy he felt he had a good understanding but soon learned he was just "skimming the top". He said through his participation he gained an understanding of what leading from where you are truly meant. The profound learning and the sharing of ideas was a priceless experience. Mr. Gearhart shared that he and Lezlie Harris, another Leadership Academy participant, had designed professional learning for the staff members at Pleasant Grove. He described the Leadership Academy as the anchor for keeping the Whitfield County School System moving in the right direction and was the "Granddaddy" of support services. He added he was excited about participating in the reunion group. Mr. Gearhart emphasized that the students were the ones who truly benefited from this professional development. He charged the board to continue to support the Leadership Academy and added it had caused him to grow as a person and an educator.

Mr. Hayes and Mr. Brock presented certificates to the 2009-2010 Leadership Academy participants. Mr. Brock stated that the Leadership Academy was a positive experience and it showed the Whitfield County School System does care about the students. Mr. Hayes thanked the board members and the participants and said the participants were giving back to the school system through this investment.

Kenny Gowin – Georgia School Boards Association Partnership Commendation

Board Vice Chair Gary Brock presented Kenny Gowin with the GSBA Partnership Commendation. Mr. Gowin was selected to receive this commendation because of his many contributions to the Whitfield County School System such as his representation on the Whitfield Education Foundation Board since its inception twenty years ago. Mary Ellen Kinsey, the director of the Whitfield Education Foundation, stated that Mr. Gowin had served on the executive committee and chaired the annual golf tournament fundraiser. She added that he also is constantly looking for new fund raising ideas. Bert Coker, principal of Tunnel Hill Elementary, shared that Mr. Gowin had applied for a grant for sidewalks so students could safely ride their bikes or walk to school. He added that Mr. Gowin reads to students at Tunnel Hill during the "Read Across America" event and was instrumental in obtaining a plaque to honor Tunnel Hill Elementary for winning the National Blue Ribbon School award.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below noting the minutes from September 27th would be amended to indicate a change in a board member comment made by Jerry Nealey to say he desired to see ball fields at Eastbrook Middle in the future. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2010 and September 27, 2010 amended minutes

Approval of Agenda – October 4, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Requests

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|--|--|
| Antioch Elementary | Yearbooks |
| Beaverdale PTO | Catalog Sales |
| Beaverdale PTO | Movie Night |
| Beaverdale PTO | Breakfast with Dad |
| Beaverdale PTO | Bake Sale |
| Beaverdale PTO | Turkey Feather Sale |
| Dawnville Drama, Music, ALPHA | Bake Sale |
| Dawnville 2 nd Grade | Bake Sale |
| Dawnville PTA | Sell Dawnville shirts |
| Dawnville PTA | Winter Santa Shop |
| Dawnville Media Center | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Eastbrook Middle 7 th Grade | Soccer Tournament |
| Eastbrook Middle 7 th Grade | Yard Sale |
| Eastbrook Middle 7 th Grade | Sell “soccer type” scarves with EBM logo |
| Eastside Special Education Dept. | Teachers can pay \$3 to wear jeans |
| Eastbrook Middle 7 th grade | Produce a play and charge admission |
| New Hope Middle Drama | School Dance |
| New Hope Middle | School Spirit Days |
| New Hope Middle | Silent Auction |
| New Hope Middle 8 th Grade | Chili or Spaghetti Supper |
| North Whitfield Middle 7 th & 8 th grade | Hat Day |
| North Whitfield Middle | School-wide dance |
| North Whitfield Middle Counseling Dept | School spirit store |
| NWMS Softball and Baseball | Concession stand |
| North Whitfield Middle Clubs | Holiday Bazaar |
| North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade | Sell pre-ordered biscuits |
| Northwest High Choral Boosters Club | Sell tickets for gift baskets |
| Northwest High Lady Bruins Basketball | One day clinic for grades K-12 |
| Northwest High Chorus Booster Club | Sell Heritage Candles |
| Northwest High Chorus Booster Club | Sell tickets for gift baskets |
| Northwest High Tip Off Club | Middle School Basketball Tournament |
| Northwest High Choral Department | Sell “Enjoy the City” coupon books |
| Northwest High Choral Department | Sell Premier Designs Jewelry |
| Northwest High Choral Department | Sell tickets for BBQ Chicken dinner |
| Northwest High Key Club | Sell tickets to Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast |
| Northwest High Basketball | “Pink Night” |
| Pleasant Grove PTA | Catalog Sales |
| Pleasant Grove PTA | Fall Festival |
| Southeast High FFA | Sell beef jerky |
| Southeast High Tennis | Sell tickets for the film “Smash” |
| Southeast High Cheerleading | Sell chance to win a massage from a GA Licensed Therapist |
| Southeast High Cheerleading | Sell Tasty Selections Bread & Cookies |
| Southeast High Wrestling | Middle School Wrestling Tournament |
| Southeast High Cross Country Team | Online store selling SEHS apparel |
| Valley Point Middle Golf | Flag Football Game (7 th vs. 8 th Grade Girls) |
| Valley Point Middle Basketball | Each player will send 20 letters requesting donations |
| Westside Middle 6 th Grade Academy | Sell candy |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Sell sheet sets from Simply Sheets |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Wake-Up-Coffee sales |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Powder-puff Football Game |

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| Whitfield Career Academy | Sell Carousel Lollipops |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Sell school shirts |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Teacher Luncheons, Tailgate Fridays, Sell Candy Apples, Cookies, Doughnuts, Muffins |

Overnight Field Trip Request

| <u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u> | <u>Activity or Request</u> |
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| New Hope Middle 6 th Grade | Mammoth Cave, Cave City, KY, Science Center, Planetarium, Zoo, Nashville, TN, Corvette Museum, KY |
| New Hope Middle 8 th Grade | Washington, DC |
| Northwest High Women’s Choral Group | Southern Star Music Festival, Atlanta, GA |
| Southeast High Junior and Seniors | Trip to Philadelphia, New York, Washington |
| Westside Middle 7 th Grade Intercession | River Ridge Environmental Education Program, John Knox Center, Ten Mile, TN |
| Westside Middle Intercession | Cohutta Springs, Crandall, TN |
| Westside Middle 7 th Grade | Tour of Historical Savannah, Savannah, GA |
| Whitfield Career Academy | Grad 2011 Night, Disneyworld, Orlando, FL |

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Instructional Report – Phoenix High School

Dr. Beth Hayes, a counselor at Phoenix High School, stated that Phoenix was all about relationships. She presented a powerpoint presentation to the board that listed several facts about Phoenix. Some of the facts were that Phoenix opened August 27, 1990 to help combat the dropout rate, enrollment the first mini-semester at Phoenix was 229 students, the schools is designated as a special purpose school, and that Phoenix is open four days a week and offers a longer school day to accommodate student schedules. Dr. Hayes said the motto at Phoenix is to “Finish What You Start”. She informed the board that she and Mary Ann Fogle, a teacher at Phoenix, had applied for and was awarded a \$7000 GACHE grant Mrs. Fogle said the grant will be used to increase post secondary enrollment by the development of a career center, financial education, career life studies, healthy living and college and career visits. It was stated that students choose to attend Phoenix because they can provide an accelerated education and credit recovery. Students can also work around their work schedules and childcare needs.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn stated the football field grass was being cut at the sod field and that the irrigation system was in place.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

No Items

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and SPLOST Reports

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund and SPLOST reports to the board as of September 30, 2010. Mr. Sheppard shared that all SPLOST projects were on budget and reminded the board that the tax bills go out on October 20, 2010. The superintendent recommended approval of the

financial reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 4-0. Mr. Hayes stated that the budget was tight and that everyone would need to stay focused.

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 Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Previous Business

No Items

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy JGF (2): Seclusion or Restraint of Students

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the first reading of board policy JGF (2): Seclusion or Restraint of Students. He informed the board that this change was state recommended. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Board Member Comments

Thomas Barton said the Leadership Academy was very beneficial and that he was very excited about what he had heard from the staff members at the meeting.

Gary Brock said he heard the excitement from the teachers and stated the Whitfield County School System was doing a good job with Professional Development.

Jerry Nealey said he enjoyed seeing Phoenix have the opportunity to present and to see the number of kids they are helping.

Adjournment

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

MINUTES OF MEETING October 25, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, October 25, 2010 at Dug Gap Elementary. 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
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Dug Gap Elementary 5th grade student Lauren Allen, presented the inspiration. She described how although she was small in size, she could throw a great fastball and an awesome change-up. She said on the pitching mound you needed to stay calm and focused. Lauren stressed the importance of doing your best at school and to understand that if you make a mistake you needed to stay calm and focused because you could try again tomorrow. Lauren then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional Report – Dug Gap Elementary

Mandy Locke, principal of Dug Gap Elementary, shared with the board that a group of 4th and 5th grade students who had been chosen to be a part of a Student Leadership Academy would be doing the instructional report. She explained that ten students from Valley Point Elementary as well as ten students from Dug Gap had partnered with twenty students at Valley Point Middle to form the Raider Revolution Student Leadership Academy whose goal is the development of leadership skills that students can use now as well as when they enter middle and high school. Students Susie Lee, Jager Dickson, Alaina Thompson, Autumn Thompson, Porter Johnson, Christina Taylor, Wendy Hurtado, Kevin Villeda, Josiah Haste, and Lilibeth Lara shared a few of the questions they had been asked and the answers they had given that had helped them be selected for the Student Leadership Academy. The students also described the two day event that had been held at Southeast High School where they learned leadership skills such as communication, trying different things, collaboration, listening, having a plan, being optimistic, and never giving up.

School Council Report – Dug Gap Elementary

Wendy Miller presented the Dug Gap Elementary School Council update. She said the school council had helped with the Southeast High School parade, discussed changes in technology such as moodle, met with the student advisory council, been a part of the planning team for the renovations to Dug Gap Elementary, discussed testing, and had a visit from Lorijo Calhoun, special programs director who explained Title I, Title II, and Title III. Mr. Trew thanked the school council for their hard work.

Review Board Agenda Items – November 1, 2010

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board the November 1, 2010 board agenda items.

Construction Update

Mr. Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company updated the board on the progress of the ESPLOST projects. He said the sports lighting was up at Coahuilla Creek High School and that the football field had been sodded. He added progress had been made on the ball fields, sheet rocking was occurring inside the building, assurances had been obtained from Dalton Utilities that the sewer and gas would be ready in November, the school should be in the dry by December, the ball field emergency lighting was in place and that Georgia Power would do a metering test as well. He continued by saying the construction set of drawings for Eastbrook Middle had been submitted to the Georgia Department of

Education for their approval. He added the Whitfield Career Academy renovation plans would be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education in December.

Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, informed the board that after the first of the year a Bullying Policy would be submitted for board approval. She said that Mickey Brock had printed at his own expense a bookmark about bullying for every Whitfield County School System student. She added he had worked closely with the school system during the process.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Executive Session

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew
Gary Brock
Thomas Barton
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Richard Schoen
Judy Gilreath Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:27 p.m.

Board Member Comments

Tim Trew – Excitement in the community and schools about Coahulla Creek High School.

John Thomas – Visit with Ralph Swearingin with the Georgia High School Association to discuss the eligibility of students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities at Coahulla Creek High School.

Thomas Barton - Clarification of who needed Liability Insurance while using Whitfield County School System facilities.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.