

MINUTES OF MEETING
November 1, 2010

The regular session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on November 1, 2010. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Executive Session

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

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 11:55 a.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 Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Kenny Sheppard
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 said he had recently traveled outside of the United States and that he had a new found appreciation for the United States. He said it is wonderful that in this country every child has a right to a public education. He asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Donna Thornton, principal of Crossroads, shared a story about a fly that was at a window in a room desperately trying to find a way outside. The fly was using raw effort and had a lot of determination. A door to the room was opened but the fly kept trying to get out the same way. Someone asked, "Why won't

the fly try another approach because he is certainly going to die by doing more of the same.” Ms. Thornton said she enjoyed working with the Whitfield County School System because they were trying new and innovative ways to teach and were not trying harder to do more of the same. Crossroads student Daniel Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Trew said he was impressed with the effectiveness and professionalism that teachers in the school system have. He expressed his support for professional development and added it was necessary to maximize their skills.

Welcome/Recognition/Presentations

Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant Winner – Sam Presley

Mr. Trew and Gary Brock presented a certificate of congratulations to Sam Presley, a first year teacher at Antioch Elementary. Mr. Presley recently received a New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power. Dalton State College nominated Mr. Presley for the honor, which requires candidates to graduate in the top 25 percent of their class, be a first year teacher in Georgia public schools, and show a high aptitude for teaching. Mr. Presley said he was proud of Antioch and his co-workers.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

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

Approval of Minutes – October 4, October 25, 2010

Approval of Agenda – November 1, 2010

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Requests

Cohutta Elementary Counseling	Dinner and a Movie
Cohutta Elementary Counseling	Change Drive
Cohutta Elementary Counseling	Creative Discovery Museum Math Night & Dinner
Dawnville Elementary Yearbook	Yearbook sales
Dug Gap Elementary PTO	Picture with Santa
Eastbrook Middle Soccer	Candy Grams
Eastbrook Middle Winter Sports	Winter Sports Dance
Eastbrook Middle Athletics	Hat Days
Eastbrook Middle 7 th & 8 th Grade	Winter Holiday Dance (7 th) & School Dance (8 th)
Eastbrook Middle Girls Basketball	Teacher Turkey Feathers
Eastbrook Middle Wrestling	Chili or Spaghetti Dinner
Eastbrook Middle Wrestling	Sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Eastside Elementary	Sell spirit wear
Eastside Elementary ALPHA	Breakfast with Santa and Bazaar
New Hope Middle	Sell concessions during family movie night
New Hope Middle Drama	Talent Show
New Hope Middle 8 th Grade D.C. Trip	Celebrating Home Fundraiser
Northwest High School Bruin Girls Service Club	Sell bags of candy with attached Valentine card
Northwest High School Beta Club	Sell Halloween treat bags
North Whitfield Middle	Belk Department Store Charity Sale
North Whitfield Middle Cheerleading	Halloween Dance
North Whitfield Middle Washington Trip Grade 8	Sell Coahulla Creek High School t-shirts
North Whitfield Middle “Una Voce” Chorus	Great American fundraiser
North Whitfield Middle Baseball	Sell Enjoy the City coupon books

North Whitfield Middle Media Center
 Southeast High Baseball
 Southeast High Baseball
 Southeast High Tennis
 Southeast High Prom
 Southeast High Tennis
 Tunnel Hill Elementary PTO
 Valley Point Elementary Media Center
 Valley Point Elementary Music Dept. /P.E. Dept.
 Valley Point Elementary Media Center
 Valley Point Middle ALPHA
 Valley Point Middle Basketball
 Valley Point Middle Basketball
 Varnell Elementary Business Partners
 Westside Middle Band
 Whitfield Career Academy Student Council
 Whitfield Career Academy HOSA
 WCA Automotive Tech/Skills USA
 WCA Automotive Tech/Skills USA
 Whitfield Career Academy HOSA
 Whitfield Career Academy Senior Class

Book Fairs Nov. 11 & Nov. 19
 Raffle for Autographed Chipper Jones Bat
 20/20 Club
 Sell tickets for the film “Smash”
 Chick-Fil-A Family Night
 Nature’s Vision t-shirts, jewelry, etc.
 Sell tickets for a chance to win a used car
 Half Price Book Fair
 Santa Shop fundraiser
 Scholastic Book Fair
 Pancake Breakfast
 Shoot-A-Thon
 Basketball Tournament
 Sell Belk \$5 Coupons
 Taking donations at Concerts
 Halloween Boo-Grams
 Sell Daylight Doughnuts
 Sell candy
 Sell student designed t-shirts
 Dinner Theater
 T-shirt design competition

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Eastbrook Middle 7th Grade
 Northwest High Skills USA
 Valley Point Middle Team 802
 Westside Middle 8th Grade

Activity or Request

Universal Studios, Orlando, FL
 Skills Competition Atlanta, GA
 Trip to Washington, DC
 Trip to Washington DC

Purchase Order over \$25,000

Vendor

Nalley Motor Trucks

Description

Extended warranty on 26 – 2006 model buses

Yearly Memorandum of Understanding Renewals

Name of Group

DSC/University System of Georgia

Contract Request

Waiver of Liability Release for use of the DSC pool
 by NWHS Swim Team

Hearing of Individuals and/or Delegations

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Instructional Report – Crossroads

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, introduced Donna Thornton. She informed the board of a wonderful experience that had happened recently at Crossroads. She said the

historical society had decided to place a Civil War marker at the campus in honor of battles that had taken place at that site. The historical society invited students at Crossroads to be a part of the ceremony. The staff members used the ceremony to allow students to experience a leadership opportunity. Ms. Thornton said the students researched the event and incorporated social studies, history, language arts, math, and science. She explained that on the day of the event the students set up a diorama of what the site would have looked like during that time in history and boards displaying interesting items they had learned during their research. The staff members found out that Ambassador Andrew Young would be in attendance at the ceremony. They soon realized many of the students didn't know his historical contributions so they asked the students to research and create a biography for him. Blane Pickens, a former Crossroads student, through his speech class presented a speech he had written about Ambassador Young to the other students.

Student Daniel Anderson said he had learned that African American soldiers had fought at the site. He said he was proud to be an American because of the history.

Blane Pickens said he had learned a lot about Ambassador Young and that the experience had been neat. He said on the day of the ceremony he had passed around his speech for others to read. He handed the speech to Ambassador Young hoping he would sign it. Blane shared with the board that Ambassador Young stopped and took the time to completely read the speech and sign it. Mr. Pickens said it had been a lifetime experience for him.

Ms. Thornton added that Ambassador Young said there was something left out of the speech. He said that Blane had forgotten to write how he personally felt about the information he had written in the speech. She said Jean Ptak, a parapro at Crossroads, had been instrumental in helping the students put the diorama and the boards together.

2010-2011 Sex Education Committee

Superintendent Hayes recommended approval of the 2010-2011 Sex Education Committee members. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Mr. Hayes asked the board if they had any additional questions for Keith Burran, with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company. Mr. Burran had given a detailed update on the ESPLOST projects at the previous work session.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

No items.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Fund and SPLOST Reports

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund and SPLOST reports as of October 31, 2010. The superintendent recommended the board approve the financial reports as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. Mr. Trew noted that sales tax revenues were increasing. Mr. Sheppard agreed and added that there had been some improvement during the last few months. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Human Resources Reports and Recommendations

Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, leaves of absences, long term substitutes, extended day and other personnel changes. The superintendent also recommended the board approve support personnel recommendations, resignations, retirements, and other support personnel changes in this action. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business Reports and Recommendations

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

The superintendent recommended the board approve the second reading of board policy JGF (2): Seclusion or Restraint of Students. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy BH: Board Ethics Code

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the first reading of Board Policy BH: Board Ethics Code. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Nealey said the presentation by Crossroads showed that the students were being provided with engaging work and added you could tell the students enjoyed the work.

Mr. Hayes stated there were 35 displays at the ceremony that had been prepared by the students. He added the students were like curators at a museum because they knew all of the details and enjoyed sharing the information.

Mr. Trew said that public education nationwide was making great strides. He said he was proud of the endeavors and accomplishments of the Whitfield County School System that were making our community a better place to live.

Mr. Barton said he could tell the students had learned more from having the opportunity to meet Andrew Young. He said it was exciting for the kids to be able to come to the forefront.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF MEETING November 29, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, November 29, 2010 at Valley Point Middle. 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:

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance – Valley Point Middle

Valley Point Middle student Gauge Cross led the Pledge of Allegiance. Robyn Baggett, principal of Valley Point Middle, introduced special education teacher Heather Cox and student Luke Holt. Mrs. Cox shared how facilities coordinator, Ronnie Morgan and maintenance director, Randy Jones had gone above and beyond in helping paint and tile the special education classroom. Ms. Baggett and Mrs. Cox presented them with a gift and thanked them for their contributions to the school system. Mrs. Cox also shared how they had befriended Luke and how he enjoyed seeing them.

Instructional Report – Valley Point Middle

Ms. Baggett said a group of six grade students put together a video for the instruction report. The video showed students participating in product based learning. Students were asked to describe Valley Point Middle and several of the responses were as follows: Valley Point Middle is caring, successful, great, amazing, family, awesome, teamwork, strong, challenging, enjoyable, and ok to take risks, students are encouraged to express themselves, safe and welcome, teachers push the students to succeed, fun projects, no junk, different learning styles, everyone is involved. Students Chelsea Elrod, Chloe Noland, Wesley Hagan, Dylan Graham, and Gauge Cross answered questions after the video. Mr. Trew asked the students if participating in product based learning made them think about what they would like to do in the future. One student said the project made him think about being a scientist. Mr. Nealey spoke to the students and asked them to start thinking about what they wanted to do in the future and to seek out things they enjoyed and then seek a job in that field.

Scott Houston, a teacher at Valley Point Middle, shared information about the student leadership academy. He said there was great interaction between fourth and eighth graders. He said the students felt a sense of urgency to lead after they were selected to be on the student leadership academy. He said the exercises they did gave the students a sense of what it took to be a leader. He shared how each student received a book, Other Places You Will Go, by Dr. Seuss. He said he was touched to see one student so excited to have the book that she hugged it. Mr. Houston said he was excited to see how the experience had made a difference in the students, the school, and the community.

School Council Report

Kim Greene, a parent member of the school council, gave the board the school council report. She stated she had been moved and was full of gratitude for the things she had observed as a parent. She said she was proud to say her child attended Valley Point Middle. Mrs. Greene described how at the “Make a Difference Day”, which was made possible by a donation from Mohawk Industries and the United Way, the students, parents, and staff members had painted, cleaned, hung pictures, and had invested their time in the school. She added the students and their families had the liberty to paint whatever they wanted on the walls which gave the students self esteem. She discussed the Raider Revolution and how leaders were born out of having to apply and be interviewed to earn their place on the leadership team and that it gave the students pride and self esteem. The Raider Nation Parade was an important event with all the feeder schools that will be attending Southeast High School coming together. A bonfire kicked off the community event which brought the community together and helped build pride and tradition for the students and families. She said she is proud as a parent to watch the leadership of the staff members who are being

positive role models and earning respect from the students. Mrs. Greene added students need to know that we believe in them. She pointed out that the framed pictures of students on the walls in the hallways showed students that their efforts were appreciated and that they were important. She ended by saying that pride had been restored in the schools and community.

Mr. Trew thanked Mrs. Greene for sharing her heart with the board. He added the staff at Valley Point Middle was showing respect to each other and to their students.

Review Board Agenda Items

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board the December 6, 2010 board agenda items.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Executive Session

Mr. Hayes 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
Gary Brock
Thomas Barton
Jerry Nealey
John Thomas

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:48 p.m.

Board Member Comments

- Request to add to the December 6th agenda the district accomplishments
- Timeline for staffing at Coahulla Creek High School

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.