

MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 6, 2010. Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order.

**Executive Session**

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel only. 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-Chairman  
Thomas Barton  
Jerry Nealey  
John Thomas

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 6:55 p.m. Mr. Trew called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

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  
Judy Gilreath     Audrey Williams  
Richard Schoen   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**

Valley Point Elementary students Jake Llewellyn, Torre Llewellyn, and Ashley Johnston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Parker, principal of Valley Point Elementary, gave the inspiration. He shared a story about a lady waiting for her flight in an airport. She had bought a packet of cookies to eat while she waited. She sat down to read next to a man who was also reading. She reached in the packet of cookies that had been placed on the table between them and took out a cookie. The man sitting next to her reached into that same bag of cookies and took one as well. She got angry at the man for his great nerve of eating her cookies. Each time she got a cookie out of the packet he got one as well. When there was one cookie left he broke it in half and gave her one of the halves. When she boarded the plane she reached inside her purse and realized the cookies that she

had bought were still there. She had been eating cookies that belonged to the man. She realized he had shared his cookies with a stranger without feeling bitter or angry. Mr. Parker said educators are often like the man with the cookies. He said they share their lives, talents, gifts, time, and hearts with students and their families. He added they do not share for fame, wealth, or recognition but in the hopes that one day the students will share their cookies. He also said there were four things we can not recover. They are as follows:

The stone after the throw  
 The word after it is said  
 The occasion after the loss  
 The time after it is gone

## **Welcome/Recognition/Presentations**

### Board Member Presentations

Outgoing board members, Jerry Nealey, John Thomas, and Tim Trew were presented plaques for their years of service and dedication to the students and the community of Whitfield County. Their family members made the presentation. Superintendent Hayes discussed the courage that the board members had demonstrated during their tenure. A video was shown to the music of Diana Ross, *Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand*. The video showed photos of board members that had been taken at board meetings, schools, school events, and in community meetings.

Board Member Gary Brock said that Mr. Nealey, Mr. Trew, and Mr. Thomas did reach out and did what was best for the kids. He added it had been an honor and a pleasure to work with them.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

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

### Approval of Minutes – November 1 and November 29, 2010

### Approval of Agenda – December 6, 2010

### School Fund Raiser Requests

#### **Name of Group or Sponsor**

#### **Activity or Requests**

Cohutta Elementary PTO  
 Cohutta Elementary PTO  
 Cohutta Elementary PTO  
 Cohutta Elementary PTO  
 Eastbrook Middle Soccer, Track  
 Eastbrook Middle Band  
 New Hope Middle Wrestling  
 NWHS Senior Activity  
 NWHS Beta Club  
 NWMS Cheerleading/Pep Club  
 NWHS Basketball Cheerleading  
 Southeast Girls Soccer  
 Southeast Golf  
 Southeast Chinese Summer Camp

Sell CES merchandise  
 Chick-Fil-A Family Nights  
 Pennies for a Piggy Kiss  
 Spring Fling/Fair  
 Sell candy grams  
 Sell citrus fruits  
 Sell candles and magazines  
 Sell Senior Signature T-shirts  
 Sell Christmas treats  
 Great American Opportunities  
 Dance after the NWHS basketball game  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Girls vs. Boys Exhibition game (1/31/11)  
 Donations from local businesses and community  
 Donations from businesses and civic groups, tickets  
 to Chinese culture events, Sell chopsticks, bookmarks,  
 Christmas decorations, homemade foods  
 JV Girls vs. Boys Exhibition Game (2/11/11)  
 Sell BBQ tickets  
 Teacher Jean Days  
 Sell Project Based T-shirts  
 Design and sell grade level t-shirts  
 Offer to schools/clubs to design and print t-shirts

Southeast Girls Soccer  
 Southeast GA Young Farmers  
 Valley Point Middle Team 802  
 Westside Elementary  
 Westside Middle Art  
 Whitfield Career Academy Graphic Arts

Whitfield Career Academy FCCLA&FEA  
Whitfield Career Academy FEA & FCCLA  
Whitfield Career Academy Student Government  
Whitfield Career Academy Student Government

Sell t-shirts & sweats  
Sell Stockings of Love  
Winter Festival  
Oscar's Dance, Fashion Show, Prom

#### Overnight Field Trip Requests

#### **Name of Group or Sponsor**

#### **Activity or Request**

North Whitfield Middle Chorus  
Southeast High Senior Band

Performance at St. John's Cathedral, NY  
Senior Band Performance, Cruise Ship Monarch  
of the Seas, Nassau, Bahamas, CocoCay  
Trip to Beijing, China

Southeast High (5) students

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations**

##### Instructional Report – Valley Point Elementary

Mr. Parker introduced students Ashley Johnston and Jake Llewellyn to present the instructional report. They presented the board with information on the Student Leadership Academy. They shared how students were chosen to be on the Student Leadership Academy by their answers to essay questions as well as their interview. The students said they had learned about developing character, had participated in team building games which helped teach them to work together, learned about the Raider 7 Characteristics, and learned determination. The students shared how they had also participated in many community projects such as visiting Morningside and working on a canned food drive.

Mr. Trew said he was excited about the program and hoped it continued. Mr. Parker said other schools had contacted him with an interest in beginning a similar program in their schools.

##### School Council Report

Demetra Souther, chairperson of the Valley Point Elementary school council, gave the board an update. She stated her son was a member of the Student Leader Academy. She said he was excited and was enjoying the book studies and field trips. She said some people are born leaders and some just need a chance to be a leader. She said every student had a chance to express interest and apply to the Student Leader Academy. Mrs. Souther continued by saying she was proud of the progress being made at Valley Point Elementary. She discussed the tremendous outreach and greater sense of community that was being developed with events such as the Raider Revolution bonfire where the kids were excited to have their names called out. She said the students and families are proud of who they are. Mrs. Souther shared how teachers openly reward their students for successes such as being able to walk down the "green carpet" and academic parties. She ended by saying the students and families know they belong and that they matter.

Mr. Parker said as the last principal to address this sitting board, he wanted to wish the outgoing board members the very best.

Mr. Trew said the ingredients being put into children's education are priceless.

##### Then and Now and the Whitfield County School System's Snapshot

Mr. Hayes discussed with the board the *Then and Now* sheet that was presented to the board members and the Whitfield County School System's Snapshot. Mr. Hayes stated that **all** students are our students.

##### District Accomplishments of Teaching and Learning

Lorijo Calhoun, director of Federal Programs, gave the board an update on the Teaching & Learning department's accomplishments and challenges. Mrs. Calhoun said it was a great experience to be on a team of folks devoted to the school system who are always asking how they can support the students.

Audrey Williams, executive director of assessment and accountability, updated the board on system accomplishments and challenges in assessment. Mrs. Williams stressed the current graduation rate of 83.6%, which is above the state average.

## **Operations Reports and Recommendations**

### Construction Update

Rick Ott, executive vice president of M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company, gave the board an update and overview of all ESPLOST projects. He also shared with the board additional building needs.

### District Accomplishments of the Operations Department

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board on the accomplishments and challenges of the operations department. School nutrition, transportation, and maintenance are a part of the operations department.

## **Recess**

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. Trew called for a five minute recess.

## **Return to Regular Session**

Mr. Trew called the meeting back to order at 9:05 p.m. All board members were still present.

## **Financial Reports and Recommendations**

### General Funds Report

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund report as of November 30, 2010 to the board. Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the General Funds report as presented. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

### ESPLOST Reports

Mr. Sheppard presented the ESPLOST reports to the board for approval. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the ESPLOST reports as presented. John Thomas moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. Mr. Trew said the board will walk out of the door with an estimated 10.4 million deficit in ESPLOST collections. He said that is not doing the Eastbrook Middle and the Whitfield Career Academy projects. He said he felt those projects needed to be done but that decision should be left up to the new board. He added all students deserve to have better facilities and it was the right thing to do. Mr. Thomas said the board members had been good stewards of ESPLOST funds. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

### District Accomplishments – Finance Department

Mr. Sheppard updated the board on the accomplishments of the finance department.

## **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.

#### Personnel Information

Mr. Hayes updated the board on the accomplishments of the human resources department. He said he appreciated all of the Whitfield County School System employees for the jobs they are doing.

Mr. Trew said he felt the school system had not been able to do proper staff development with recent budget cuts. He said he was concerned it would affect us in the long term.

#### **Previous Business**

##### Second Reading of Board Policy BH: Board Ethics

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

#### **New Business**

##### Board Member Presentation

The board members were presented with a notebook of thank you letters from students and faculty members.

Mr. Trew said being a board member was a calling. He said it was a good system and that opportunities were in place. He asked the new board members to vote with their conscious and their heart. He said it was not a popularity or political contest.

Mr. Nealey said he felt sincerely blessed to have had the privilege to work with great folks. He said the kids were in good hands.

Mr. Thomas said different personalities make a board great. He said the kids need to remain the focus. He said God knows what we need and added that leaders need to do God's will.

#### **Adjournment**

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

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Chairman

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Secretary