

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 7, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 7, 2011. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham – Chairman
Thomas Barton – Vice Chairman
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Amendment to Agenda

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended an amendment to the agenda to include under the Welcome/Recognition/Presentation portion of the agenda an update on the possible city/county merger. This was voted on in the approval of the agenda under Consent Agenda Items.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Mr. Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Southeast High School principal Brian Satterfield introduced senior Shawn Self who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Shawn also presented the inspiration. He stated he was a drama student and described how he led the other students during drama class to join in a circle and recite the following: Shawn stated that one day those same students he is leading would also become leaders.

We are a team.

We love each other.

We respect each other.

We understand that all things take work.

He compared the class leadership to the leadership occurring at Southeast High School. He said Southeast High School is moving in all regards to more specific classes.

Instructional Report – Southeast High

Mr. Satterfield also introduced teacher Tom Appleman. He informed those in attendance that Mr. Appleman had recently been appointed as a member of the Governor's Advisory Board. Mr. Appleman said it was an honor to represent Southeast High School and the Whitfield County School System. He described how Southeast High School teachers were using a new approach to teach concepts by using team work and projects. He introduced teachers Ben Oliver and Marvin Kirkpatrick. Mr. Appleman said the students had completed five projects and were working on their sixth project. Students Kristina Sandoval and Katie Waters described their project which was centered on the process of buying a car. They said it

was a hands-on project which had helped them have a better understanding of the materials. Kristina shared how they had used exponential functions to help them with the project. She said their goal was to buy a new and used car for \$35,000. The process included finding insurance, making a down payment, and all other real life situations that are involved. Mr. Hayes said he had attended an event at Southeast and had listened to Kristina and Katie describe the process and that he was impressed with the amount of knowledge they shared such as understanding the appreciation and depreciation involved in buying a car. He said he had personally gained information from listening to their presentation.

Student Victoria Cline described how she designed, made a prototype and built a functioning project. She built a suitcase that she actually uses. During the process she had to solve equations with “X” being the height and she had to solve the depth. She also described a project where a city was built using graphing matrices in 3D.

Freshman student Nick Stuart shared that his team was given the task of designing a carnival game that would make the most money. He said they designed a blindfold bean bag game. The team members’ goal was to design something that looked easy but was challenging. They used a 25 grid to represent the dollar amounts that could be made and had to find expected values. He said the project was very successful.

Clifford Miles shared how he had designed his project around an IPAD. He said before, his book bag was full of folders but learned how to put all of his documents on the IPAD. He encouraged teachers to upload assignments to the internet for easy accessibility.

Mr. Appleman said the students were asked to work within groups to help them learn group dynamics and added that a presentation of the project was required. He said the goal was to teach math and other skills.

Mr. Fordham asked Mr. Appleman how he evaluated the work. He responded by saying he used traditional tests and a rubric that let the students know what was required and had to be accomplished in order to make a certain grade.

Mr. Satterfield said Southeast High School is also a service oriented school and described how the Art National Honor Society was doing projects with Southeast High feeder elementary schools. Art students Robin Hayes and Pam Freichs shared how they were teaching art to after school care students. They shared how eight members of the group were divided into two groups of either three or five which allowed each team to have five students in their groups. They stay at the school between 45 minutes and one hour and meet once a week. The students teach basic art concepts which allow the students to express themselves through art. They incorporate into their teaching a focus around the seven elements and the four characteristics of art. The students added that they are looking forward to teaching the students how to mix primary colors to get secondary colors. Robin and Pam shared how they had learned the stresses of being a teacher. They described how they have to design lessons around each student to maintain their attention and added that they need to be organized. Mr. Fordham asked the students if they were planning on a career in teaching. Robin said she would like to become a teacher and Pam said she preferred a career creating art.

School Council Report – Southeast High

Debbie Sosebee, chairman of the school council, gave the board an update. She said the school council had reviewed student enrollment this year. She stated that at the time they were reviewing the student enrollment there were 458 freshmen, 246 sophomores, 358 juniors, and 262 seniors at Southeast. The council also reviewed information about Raider Nation. She shared that a movie night was scheduled for May 13th. Mrs. Sosebee also shared how successful the athletic teams had been this year and added they anticipated that success to continue in the future as well.

Welcome/Recognition/Presentations

Eastbrook Middle Art Students – Amber Perez and Francisco Hernandez

Eastbrook Middle students Amber Perez and Francisco Hernandez were recently honored by having their artwork exhibited at the 2011 Georgia Capitol Art Exhibit in Atlanta. The students were able to tour the capitol building and join a reception held to recognize their achievement. Representatives Tom Dickson and Roger Williams were also in attendance at the reception. They requested a permanent rotation of Eastbrook student artwork to be hung in each of their offices in the Coverdell building. The Board presented Amber and Francisco, as well as art teacher Kristi Harvey, a certificate of congratulations for their accomplishments. Greg Bailey, teaching and learning director, added that Kristi Harvey is a stellar teacher that embodies what we believe. He informed the board members that Ms. Harvey had presented at the state convention for the last four years. Mr. Bailey also informed the board members that artwork from Eastbrook Middle is currently on display at the Atlanta airport.

Attorney Stan Hawkins – Possible City/County Merger

Mr. Hawkins explained that the Whitfield County and Dalton City governments have been in discussions about a possible merger of governments. He said legislation had been drafted to create a commission to look at the plus and minuses and the ramifications of the merger. At the end of the two year study the commission would put together a plan that would be voted on by the public. If approved, the City of Dalton would cease to exist and a unified government would come into place. He emphasized that the Whitfield County School district is a separate entity but that the same is not true for Dalton Public Schools because according to the charter, they are a part of the City of Dalton. Several attorneys had studied the charter and concluded that if the City of Dalton government ceased to exist so would Dalton Public Schools. When the merger was first discussed, that information was not known. Mr. Hawkins said this information was important to the Whitfield County Board of Education because if the merger occurred, Dalton Public Schools would likely become a part of the Whitfield County School System.

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

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 8:05 p.m. Mr. Fordham made a motion to reconvene to regular session. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Mr. 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 – February 2, February 21, and February 28, 2011

Approval of the Amended Agenda – February 28, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Beaverdale ALPHA	Used book drive
Eastbrook Middle Football	Lift-a-thon, chocolate sale
New Hope Middle 8 th Grade	School Dance
New Hope Middle Girls Basketball	Basketball Camp
New Hope Middle Chorus	Take pictures at school dances
Northwest High Track & Field	Cow Plop
Northwest High Football	Sell discount cards
Northwest High Golf Team	Sell coupon books for area golf courses
Northwest High Football	Sell BBQ plates at the spring game
North Whitfield Middle Football	Doughnut sale
North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade DC trip	Sell eco-friendly reusable tote bags
North Whitfield Middle Grade DC trip	Sell Otis Spunkmeyer cookies
Pleasant Grove 5 th Grade	Sell smelly pencils and Belk Charity Sale cards

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Westside Middle 8 th Grade	Trip to Washington D.C.
Westside Middle 7 th Grade	Trip to Savannah, GA
Westside Middle 6 th Grade	Trip to Atlanta, GA
Whitfield Career Academy Vocational	State Leadership Conference Athens, GA
Whitfield County 5 th Grade ALPHA Students	Ebenezer Alive Trip, Effingham County

Hearing of Individuals

- Gary Sosebee
- Jason Reynolds
- Greg Joyce

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations

Resolution for School Year

Assistant Superintendent Dusty Brown recommended to the superintendent that the resolution for a 175 day calendar for students and a 180 day calendar for staff members be approved.

FY2011-2012 School Calendar

Mr. Brown recommended to the superintendent that the FY2011-2012 school calendar be approved.

Mr. Hayes recommended approval of the Resolution for School Year and the FY2011-2012 School Calendar. Thomas Barton moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0. The resolution is a part of these minutes.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, introduced Keith Burran of M.B. Kahn to update the board members on the progress of Coahulla Creek High School and Eastbrook Middle. Mr. Burran thanked the board members for the opportunity and the support. He reported that things were going nicely at Coahulla Creek High School and that they were picking up time. He said there would be an Eastbrook Middle pre-construction meeting this week and informed the board members that they had possibly found \$100,000 in additional savings on the Eastbrook Middle project. He added that all the lights in the Coahulla Creek High School gym had been hung and the bleachers would be put in soon. He said all of the casework was in place. Mr. Fordham asked if there were any concerns or problems with the fields. Mr. Burran responded that there had been no problems and that there had been absolutely no problems with water. Rodney Lock asked about the ballfields that were in the 100 year flood plain. Mr. Burran said the bottom slope of the ballfields was the only area effected by the floodplain and added that even in the worst rains the area had never flooded.

Southeast High School Sanitary Sewer Extension Project Estimate

Mr. Schoen asked mechanical supervisor John Shaughnessy to inform the board members about the condition of the lift pump at Southeast High. Mr. Shaughnessy explained that the lift station had been built in the mid 70's. He said this lift station was not designed with a dry and wet well. He said to work on the lift station you have to enter the wet well. He said the original discharge force main was ok until the bypass had been built which had caused the sewage to have to be rerouted 40 feet uphill in a six inch line under the bypass. He said the lift station has all cast iron piping and that the gases in the lift station had eaten away on the pipes putting tremendous pressure on the lift station. He shared that now there is an option to tie on with Dalton Utilities to an all gravity line. Mr. Shaughnessy said that Dalton Utilities had told them that under today's codes you would not be able to build a lift station like this one today. He also informed the board that if the lift station is lost, school at Southeast High would have to be shut down because the water would be down or you would have to have a pump truck there pumping constantly.

Dawnville Elementary Roofing Replacement Project Estimate

Mr. Schoen informed the board about the poor condition of the roof in the 300 and 400 classroom wings at Dawnville Elementary. He said the roof also needed to be replaced in the kitchen and cafeteria areas of the school.

Mr. Hayes recommended approval of obtaining bids on the Southeast High School Sewer Extension and the two roofing projects at Dawnville Elementary. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

No items

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Fund and Capital Project Reports

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund reports as of February 28th and the Capital Projects Report as of January 31, 2011. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the two reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. These reports are a part of these minutes.

Human Resources Reports and Recommendations

Personnel Recommendations

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, leaves of absences, 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 Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Coahulla Creek High School Update

Phillip Brown, principal of Coahulla Creek High School, gave the board an update of Coahulla Creek High School. He said they were in the process of gathering and entering student course requests which would be helpful to the school system in knowing how to staff the building. Mr. Brown said he had recently met with 500 students and four parent groups to update them about Coahulla Creek. He said there were about 110 parents in attendance at the Thursday session and 125 at the Tuesday session. A new website is being launched that will contain all of the needed information and a newsletter is scheduled to go out on Wednesday. Mr. Brown shared that a 7th, 8th, and Junior Varsity football game had been scheduled for September 30, 2011 and that nine home games had also been scheduled. He added that fourteen baseball games had already been scheduled and that they were in the process of trying to pick up eleven more. He said they had scheduled six cross country meets. He said the tryout information would be included in the newsletter and was listed on the website. Mr. Brown stated that the curriculum will have traditional and product focused learning and will be based on the needs of the students. He emphasized that the work would be engagement focused.

Community Meetings Update

Eric Beavers, media and public relations specialist, gave the board a Community Meetings update. He said he was focusing on three different types of meetings; business and industry, a student lunch meeting, and a parent meeting. He said he has scheduled a meeting with Brian Anderson to discuss using the Chamber of Commerce facility for the business and industry meetings. Mr. Beavers informed the board that the first student meeting would be held at Westside Middle. His goal is to have the first meetings scheduled in March.

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy JCDA: Bullying

Dr. Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, informed the board that this policy was required by the state and that it had been reviewed by the school system's legal counsel. She said the school system would provide guidance to the schools. Dr. Gilreath added that the school system was already being proactive about bullying and had implemented the Olweus Project in many of the schools. The superintendent recommended the board members approve the first reading of board policy JCDA: Bullying. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Fordham asked for a motion to adjourn. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING March 28, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, March 28, 2011 at New Hope Elementary. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:
Louis Fordham – Chairman

Thomas Barton – Vice Chairman
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Maggie Linder led the Pledge of Allegiance. First grade student, Shayla Sandoval sang “My Friend” for the inspiration.

Instructional Report – New Hope Elementary

Brinda Clayton, principal of New Hope Elementary, welcomed the board members to New Hope Elementary and invited them to visit the school. She said she was proud of the work the students were doing and added that a lot of the student work was displayed in the hallways. Mrs. Clayton said, “At New Hope Elementary we feel we need to lead from where we are”. Teachers, Paige Buckner, Kathy Ford, and Mendy Mashburn shared that they had participated in the Leadership Academy. For their action research project they decided to celebrate student success by having a “Celebration of Learning” at New Hope. They had the celebrations in conjunction with the Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons. The teachers said the kids loved it and according to the parent surveys, they did as well. The parent participation was significant. Another “Celebration of Learning” is being planned for Awards Day. Several students described the items they had produced and displayed during the event. The work was all student generated with the students having choice and control according to the teachers. Henley Green said she worked with technology to help her with her project. She used the laptop cart to help choose photos and music to show the differences in food, clothing, and housing between Pilgrims, Indians, and people today. Stephanie Flanery said she had chosen to work on a project about George Washington. She said the most interesting fact she had learned was that George Washington had two birthdays. Chloe Hutchison read the Ann Frank biography. She said Anne Frank died at age fifteen. Her sister had been sent to a concentration camp and died from a disease. Her mother was killed because she was expecting a baby. She also shared that she had learned that Adolph Hitler preferred animals over people and that he was a vegetarian. Katelyn Hannah said that she and several other ALPHA students wrote a book about what happens in their ALPHA class. Katelyn said they had to come up with the idea, type, and illustrate the book. It was part of a scholastic contest. Brody Crossen wrote a story about his winter break. He said he wrote about going to a friend’s house and did illustrations to go with it. He also showed a wishing well he had designed for a simple machine project. He said it was made with a level pulley and screw. Henley Henderson described how she did a project where she had to find the circumference, area, and perimeter of each shape. Mrs. Clayton said this was just a taste of what had been done. She said the energy was unbelievable and that they would continue this process because of the great support of the teachers, parents, and students.

School Council Report – New Hope Elementary

Allison Crossen, the school council chairperson and parent, gave the board an update on the New Hope Elementary school council. She expressed her pride in New Hope Elementary and said the teachers, staff, and administrators encouraged parent involvement and participation. Mrs. Crossen stated that there were six new members this year and there were ten parent members. She said the council discussed safety and security items and reported that steps had been taken to improve safety such as the removal of shrubbery, a relocation of the receptionist area, speed bumps, a change in the early bus and car rider location, and a plan

for future security cameras. She informed the board members that the school was involved in the Fish Program, school wide intervention, a community pilot texting program and the recognition of students by awarding them the distinction of “Grizzly Growl students”. Mrs. Crossen did express concerns such as a lack of training for new school council members, the possibility of a city/county merger, and the budget.

Review Board Agenda Items – April 11, 2011

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board the April 11, 2011 board agenda items.

Options for Opening Coahulla Creek High School

Mr. Hayes informed the board members that this item would be added to the April 11, 2011 agenda. There was additional conversation later in the meeting about the possibility of allowing choice for all Whitfield County Students except current eighth grade students who are zoned for Coahulla Creek High School. The Georgia High School Association had tabled classification decisions at this time. Mr. Hayes said there had been interest from students not zoned for Coahulla Creek. Mr. Fordham said he liked the idea that the decision would be a choice and not mandated. He asked for guidelines and encouraged the other board members to contact Mr. Hayes if they had any questions.

Class Size Waiver Resolution and the Approval of Waivers

Mr. Brown gave the board members information about the waivers on the agenda for approval. Mr. Fordham asked how the waivers would be implemented if approved and if there would be consistency from school to school. Mr. Brown said each individual school would need to take a look at their needs and make the decision. Mr. Hayes added that the class size waiver would be implemented across the school system. Mr. Brown said the waivers are needed to give the school system flexibility in case changes are needed.

Construction Update

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn updated the board on the ESPLOST projects. He presented the board with a handout detailing the progress of the projects. He said the high school project was progressing nicely. He added the tours of the school were being well received with positive feedback from parents and students. Mr. Burran shared that progress was being made such as the underground rough-ins being underway, site lighting on the bridge and handrails being installed, the wood flooring being acclimatized in the gym, the gym lighting was being installed, the reception desk area was underway, marker boards were up, and that there was column wrap installation in the commons area. Mr. Burran added he was hopeful that by making some changes, they would be able to use sod on the softball and practice fields which would allow quicker use of the fields. At Eastbrook Middle, the contractor should mobilize this month. The Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department were in the process of taking items they could use. Steps had been taken to help secure E-Rate funding. Bids were expected to go out soon for the roof at Dawnville Elementary and conversations had taken place with Dalton Utilities in regard to the sewer at Southeast High.

Financial Reports

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, updated the board members on the financial reports. He said the ESPLOST projects were all within the project budgets. Mr. Fordham asked when there would be specific ESPLOST IV. Mr. Hayes responded that plans were to have discussions in June with a decision to be made by the first of August.

Hearing of Individuals

- Jason Reynolds
- Chris Williams

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham- Board Chairman
Thomas Barton – Vice Chairman
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

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 made a motion to return to regular session. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board Member Comments

- Options for Opening Coahulla Creek High School
- Financial Concerns involved with the Options for Opening of Coahulla Creek High School
- Girls' Soccer Team at Southeast High School

Recognition for Diane Sheppard

Mr. Fordham recognized Diane Sheppard, a New Hope Middle staff member, by reading an email he had received from a parent. The parent shared that Mrs. Sheppard kept parents informed by sending them weekly emails on what was happening at the school. The parent stated that all parents really appreciated receiving the information and the efforts made by Mrs. Sheppard.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. at 1:25 p.m.