

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 11, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on April 11, 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 Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown Audrey Williams
Judy Gilreath Eric Beavers
Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Andrea Bradley, principal of North Whitfield Middle, introduced Albert Coley, 7th grade Language Arts teacher and choral director. He introduced the choral group, “Una Voce” who sang two songs as the inspiration. The students who participated are as follows:

Alex Rogers, Katie Caddell, Katie Vayens, Sylvia Esteban, Julia Galloway, Savannah Howard, Allison Swinnford, Sarah Mills, Kaylee Nichols, Tori Brown, Bailee Dashler, Jessica Burek, Hannah Jackson, and Marcus Thomas.

The students also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional Report – North Whitfield Middle

Seventh grade team teachers, Jill Ryerson and Shell Underwood, thanked the board members for the opportunity to present a snapshot of the learning happening in their classroom. Mrs. Ryerson emphasized that the engaging and profound learning would not be possible without the professional development and collaboration for teachers that occurs on a local, state and national level. She said the efforts of the board members have made a difference and that the concern and care is appreciated and needed. Mrs. Ryerson added students should be thinkers, active citizens and problem solvers.

Students Blakely Curtis, Austin Riddlebarger, Julia Gallaway, Dennis Carrier, John Kittle, and Issac Elrod presented a video that showed a snapshot of some of the activities and learning experiences the class had participated in. The students and staff had taken class trips to the Conasauga River and Cohutta Springs. At Cohutta Springs the class participated in the Ropes Course to develop team building skills. The students also used team building skills to build a marshmallow tower where the goal was to build the tallest free standing tower. The students had to collaborate with their other teammates and be creative while using spaghetti and a marshmallow to build the tower. The snapshot also showed the students using an Adina’s deck for small group advisement lessons. The students would draw a card to see who would go first. The students shared their ideas and answers. The Adina cards were also used to help students create complex sentences. They shared experiences about their river snorkeling trip where the students used standards while classifying organisms, water testing, etc. They also made field guides to help identify the species. The students shared how they were allowed to take fish from the U.S. Forestry Service to their classroom for them to observe. They also shared

how they had participated in the 16th annual cleanup of the river. They found ½ of a car, a table and six chairs. The students also helped with a tree planting on the Conasauga River to help prevent soil erosion and run off.

While the students were studying Asian countries, they did an Asian art form of Gyatauko where they painted fish and then placed it on rice paper. They also read Asian folk lore. The students dissected fish to observe the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. They also studied the lens of the eyeball and discovered it was foggy to help the fish maneuver the water. Austin also shared that teacher Mandy Coley had written for and received a grant, “Learn Like an Egyptian”, from the Whitfield Education Foundation where the students and teachers mummified a Cornish hen. They studied the organs and added salt to the chicken to help it mummify. During the process they measured and kept a lab sheet of the results.

The students also participated in a life science experience where they designed an experience using animal, plant, and bacteria cells. The students blew up the cells, which had to be in a 3D or edible model, into giant murals using a grid measurement. The students were also required to describe and identify the functions of the cells.

The teachers had also incorporated guest speakers in their studies. An employee with Petland brought reptiles for the students to observe as they were studying the rain forest. Don Cope with Dalton Utilities compared local water facilities to those in Asia and Africa. Mr. Pickard, an expert on the rain forest and father of one the students shared information with the students, while another parent and martial arts expert, Mr. Mullis shared Korean cultures. Jeff Riddlebarger, a United Way volunteer, shared ways the students could impact the community. They also had visitors from the Humane Society and the Whitfield County Animal Control who discussed ways to help animals in the community.

The students had the opportunity to participate in a project “Fish Frenzy” which incorporated science standards. They shared information about the watershed in America and the endangered species. Using language arts standards they read a lot of articles and debated what they had learned in class. The students made Haiku’s on recycled paper based on the information they had gathered during the learning process. They developed a “Sturgeon Bill which will be debated by the students and several members of the House of Representatives and Senate. The students ended by saying they enjoyed the good mixture of learning that combined test taking, classroom work, and projects.

Language arts teacher Samantha Bacchus shared how she worried about being a part of a two man team. She said after doing an Asian unit with the students that integrated all four disciplines and after seeing how much more the students learned she was excited. She shared that the two man teams allowed for flexibility and opportunities to get to know the students and their learning needs. Mrs. Bacchus shared that at the end of the standards rich and vigorous unit, the class test score average was 90%.

School Council Report – North Whitfield Middle

Lisa King, a parent member of the school council, updated the board about the school council’s progress and goals. She discussed how hard the school council had worked along with the school staff, to bring the community together and to have a better understanding of Coahulla Creek High School. She described how they had brainstormed to find ways to get involved and had promoted the selling of Coahulla Creek High School t-shirts, having spirit Fridays, and posted their tour of Coahulla Creek on the website. She added they had helped develop a facebook page which would be used as a source of information for parents and the community as well as the posting of a link to digital portfolios. They had tried to facilitate excitement about the new high school by arranging various speakers such as Lieutenant Lee Stewart who brought artifacts and discussed various traditions of the Native American culture. Mrs. King said the council had also discussed the mid-year progress report, test preparation, math initiatives, and a focus on writing. They also participated in a very informative in-service for bullying, discussed zoning issues and academics. A Booster Club is in the development stages with the bylaws being discussed.

Welcome/Recognitions/ Presentations

Anastaza Coleman and Josh Maddox – All State Chorus Six Years

Mr. Fordham presented Anastaza and Josh with a certificate of congratulations for being selected for the All State Chorus for six years. Chorus teachers Dale Thomas and Carla Carroll were also recognized for their encouragement and support of these students. They said it was rare for students to perform consistently at this level. To be selected for this honor, students are required to have two auditions that include performing a

prepared solo, sight reading, singing the major, minor, and chromatic scales acapella, and a written test of terminology and musical notation.

Executive Session

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Thomas Barton moved approval and Gary Brock 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
Judy Gilreath Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m. All board members were still present.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

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

Approval of Minutes - March 7, March 28, 2011

Approval of Agenda – April 11, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Beaverdale Elementary
Eastbrook Middle
Eastbrook Middle Y-Club
Eastbrook Middle
Eastside Elementary 5th Grade
Eastside Elementary School 2Go
Northwest High PTSO
Northwest High FCA
Northwest High FCA/Cheerleaders
Northwest High Girls Basketball Program
North Whitfield Middle 8th Grade
North Whitfield Middle 7th Grade
Southeast High FCA
Southeast High Cheerleading
Varnell Elementary PTA
Whitfield Career Academy FCCLA

Sell coupon books
Sonic Spirit Night
Sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts
Spring Carnival
Collect coins to defray costs of published book
Sell t-shirts
Hat Day
Collecting slightly used shoes for a needy country
Girls Powder Puff game/ Boys Cheerleading
Camp of Champions
Sell sport water bottles
Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
Sell tickets to hear David Green speak
Sell coupon books
Spring Carnival and Raffle
Sell popcorn and slim jims

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Eastbrook Middle 7th Grade

Atlanta – New Echota site, Fernbank, Museum, Zoo,
Stone Mountain Park

Eastbrook Middle 8th Grade
Eastbrook Middle Band and Chorus
Southeast FFA
SEHS & NWHS Agriculture Class

Burton 4-H center, Tybee Island, GA
Performance at the Dogwood Arts Parade, Knoxville
State FFA Convention, Macon, GA
CDE Horse Evaluation, UGA

Yearly Contract Renewals

<u>Name of Group</u>	<u>Contract Request</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Northwest GA Family Crisis Center	Provision of services for victims of domestic violence	No fee
Hamilton Sports Medicine – SEHS	HSM will provide certified athletic trainers	\$5000.00
HSM– CCHS & NWHS	HSM will provide certified athletic trainers	\$2500.00 each school

Purchase Order over \$25,000

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pacific Outsource, Inc.	Technology for WSM	\$25,200.00

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning

Class Size Resolution

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning recommended the adoption of the class size resolution to the superintendent. The superintendent recommended approval. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0. The resolution is a part of these minutes.

Waiver Approvals - 160-5-1-.29: Minimum Direct Classroom Expenditures, 160-4-8-.05: Guidance Counselors, 160-5-1-.22: Personnel Required

Mr. Brown recommended approval of the waivers saying they would help the school system set the budget. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the three waivers as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Mr. Fordham confirmed that the school principals would decide how to use the waivers in their schools.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, updated the board on the ESPLOST projects. He informed the board that at Coahulla Creek High School the field house slab on grade was completed, the block work was underway, the kitchen equipment was being installed, the gym floor installation was almost complete, all the ceiling tiles in the classroom wings were in, the track, fire lane, and top coat of asphalt was scheduled to begin at the end of the month, and the punch list for the second floor would begin on April 28th. For the Eastbrook Middle project the FEMA flood study had been completed, the Whitfield County Recreation Department has dismantled and moved all of the items they wanted which included the sports lighting, the grading contractor had been mobilized and the site work had begun.

Right of Way Easements at New Hope Elementary – Parcels #15 & #16

Mr. Schoen informed the board of a request for a granting of right of way easements at New Hope Elementary on parcels #15 and #16 to Whitfield County for the improvement of traffic. In exchange the Whitfield County

government agreed to put 100 feet of tile across a ditch located on the property next to New Hope Elementary and to fill the ditch with the dirt that would be removed during the improvements to the roads. This would allow the school to have access to the field. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the granting of the right of way easements. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

Copier Contract

Dr. Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, informed the board that the copy machines in the school system were beginning to have problems which caused them to post a Request for Proposal for machine upgrades. After reviewing the submitted bids, Ricoh was chosen. Dr. Gilreath continued by saying the Ricoh contract will replace the Xerox contract and that Ricoh would buy out the remaining months of the Xerox contract. All the facilities would have new machines for a lower cost. Superintendent Hayes congratulated Dr. Gilreath on her great job of negotiating the contracts and recommended the board approve the contract with Ricoh. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and SPLOST Reports

Richard Schoen presented the General Fund and the SPLOST reports as of March 31, 2011 to the board members. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Rodney Lock 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

Mr. 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 Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Coahulla Creek High School Update

Phillip Brown, principal of Coahulla Creek High School, updated the board. He thanked North Whitfield Middle staff members for their support in helping get parents and students excited about Coahulla Creek. He shared how Stephen Vess had helped him launch a new website as well as setting up facebook and twitter accounts. On April 29th there will be a 7th, 8th, and JV football game played at CCHS. He emphasized that the students are the main focus as they move forward with their staffing of the school. Mr. Brown said the school will be engagement focused and personalized for each student with authentic standards based, student centric, community connected, experiences for the student. Teachers will be versatile, willing to use different learning tools for the design process, and have empathy for their customers. The students will also be designers, creators of knowledge, and community focused.

Mr. Vess shared that during a recent early dismissal day, several teachers went into the community to locate the needs of the community. They learned of the needs of the Humane Society, Prater's Mill, and other needs. They also had discussions of why businesses were leaving the community. The teachers asked what they could do to teach kids to create jobs instead of trying to find jobs. They also wanted to teach students of the need to identify problems before jumping to a solution. He emphasized there is power in student voices and they are looking for ways to impact the community.

Mr. Brown said students were using facebook, twitter, and the newsletter to gather news of the school. He added he had also included his email address in the newsletter and was receiving and answering many questions from students about Coahulla Creek.

Second Reading of Board Policy JCDAAG: Bullying

Mr. Hayes recommended the second reading of board policy JCDAAG: Bullying. Thomas Barton moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Coahulla Creek High School Options for Opening

Mr. Hayes recommended the board provide open enrollment at Coahulla Creek High School for the 2011-2012 school year for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. He also recommended that current eighth grade students zoned to attend North Whitfield Middle School must attend Coahulla Creek High School when it opens in the fall. In addition, existing Northwest and Southeast high school students may choose to continue attending their current school. Students and families may only choose to take advantage of open enrollment at Coahulla Creek High School for the 2011-2012 school year and out of district students must provide their own transportation. This opportunity will not be available to younger siblings in the future. After additional discussion, Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-1 with Gary Brock voting no.

New Business

Revision to April 25th Work Session

Mr. Hayes recommended a change to the beginning time of the April 25th work session from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 to accommodate staff and board members who may want to participate in the Whitfield Education Foundation. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Georgia School Boards Association Conference Delegate and Alternate

The board members designated Thomas Barton as the conference delegate and Rodney Lock as the alternate.

Georgia Schools Boards Association Legislative Positions

Mr. Fordham encouraged the board members to review the GSBA legislative positions.

Georgia School Boards Association Officer Nomination Process

Mr. Hayes said information was included in the board packet under this item if any board members were interested in being self nominated as an officer of the Georgia School Board Association.

Adjournment

There being no further business or board member comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 20, 2011

The Whitfield County Board of Education had a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on April 20, 2011. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present:

Danny Hayes Judy Gilreath

Eric Beavers	Richard Schoen
Janie Osborn	Audrey Williams

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Thomas Barton 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
Judy Gilreath	Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn	

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 7:31 p.m. All board and staff members were still present.

Personnel

The superintendent recommended the board approve the personnel recommendations discussed in executive session. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF MEETING April 25, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, April 25, 2011 at Beaverdale 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
Dusty Brown	Audrey Williams
Judy Gilreath	Kenny Sheppard
Eric Beavers	Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

Welcome

Mr. Fordham welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Beaverdale Elementary staff members for hosting the meeting.

Amendment of the Agenda

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board approve amending the agenda to include items # 7, Dalton Shrine Club Bus Request, and item #8, Fundraiser Request from New Hope Middle. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Beaverdale student Eliza Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Carter Ledford read, "Whose Child is This" for the inspiration. Kindergarten students in Sharene Ledford's class sang two songs for the board members. The names of the students are as follows:

Damian Bell, Eliza Bell, Jada Bramlett, Phillip Butts, Alexander Crider, Jack Defalco, Wyatt Elrod, Adrian Fraire, Payton Gordon, Raylee Hankins, Jake Harris, Henry Hernandez, Michael Johnson, Taylor Jones, Madison Lowery, Faith Randolph, Laci Smith, Adriona Stokes, Benton Talkington, Brianna Torres, and Savannah Whaley.

Instructional Report – Beaverdale Elementary

Cheri Mahan, principal of Beaverdale Elementary, informed the board that the enrollment had been consistent and was currently 478 students. She said they had changed the classrooms from multi-age groups to single grade classrooms. She said they were preparing to group together grade levels in the school next year to help with grade level collaboration. Later in the meeting Mrs. Mahan showed a video that had been written by Beaverdale students. They asked teachers and students what was their favorite part of being at Beaverdale and the responses were hands on work, the kids, experiments, students ready to learn, awesome students, singing, moving around, learning a lot, teachers and staff members that care about students, special games, engaged students, students having a voice, knowing the student's needs, teachers taking ownership, students taking care of each other, and fun and kind students.

School Council Report – Beaverdale Elementary

Erik Hurt, a parent member of the school council, updated the board about the school council. He said the council had discussed personnel changes, AYP indicators, PTO fundraising items, system budget information, testing dates and definitions, and updates about Coahulla Creek High School. He said as a parent he was pleased that the school was meeting the needs of his children.

Review Board Agenda Items – May 2, 2011

The superintendent reviewed and discussed with the board the May 2, 2011 board agenda items.

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board about the ESPLOST projects. He said at Coahulla Creek High School the tours were going well and that they were receiving positive feedback, the field house would be ready around the first of August, the visitors bleachers would be completed the day of the meeting, installation would begin this week on the home bleachers, trees were being planted, sod would soon be installed at the softball field, the scoreboard installation begins this week, and all parts of Coahulla Creek had conditioned air. At Eastbrook Middle the footers would soon be in place, there would only be minimal site work needed, and storm water approval had been acquired at the end of last week.

Discipline Code Procedure

Dr. Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, said the changes to the procedure were indicated in red print. She also informed the board there were no changes to the student dress code this year. Mr. Fordham asked how the information would be communicated to the students and faculty. Dr. Gilreath explained that all students receive a printed copy and that the students and parents are required to sign a statement that they have received and reviewed the document. Mr. Lock asked about the items that were listed as at the discretion of the principal. Dr. Gilreath said that was recommended by the school attorney to allow the principal to use their knowledge of the circumstances to make decisions.

Personnel

Mr. Hayes informed the board members that contracts were due by May 15th.

Overnight Field Trip Request

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve an overnight field trip request from Valley Point Middle School boys' and girls' track teams. The request is for the students to travel to Georgia Middle School Track and Field Championships in Atlanta on April 29-30, 2011. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Bus Request- Dalton Shrine Club

The superintendent recommended approval for the Dalton Shrine Club to use three buses to transport students to the Shrine Circus in Marietta on April 30th. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Hope Middle Fundraiser Request

Mr. Hayes recommended the board members approve a fundraiser request from New Hope Middle School. The students will be collecting change to contribute funds to dig a well in a remote village in Africa. Bill Worley moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

James Caldwell, Stoler Industries - Requested to be a part of Eastbrook Middle renovations.

Executive Session

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Thomas Barton 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 11:20 a.m.

Board Member Comments

Board Members discussed how they were hearing comments from the community about how excited students were about Coahulla Creek High School.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.