

## MINUTES OF MEETING

May 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on May 2, 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      Kenny Sheppard  
Dusty Brown      Richard Schoen  
Eric Beavers      Audrey Williams  
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 think about the people to the north of Dalton who were affected by the recent tornados. He said you often see the better side of people under the worst conditions. He also asked everyone to think about Dr. Gilreath's husband who was in the hospital at the time of the meeting.

### **Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance**

Eastbrook Middle student Rana Mashburn, in the character of Sally Brown from the play "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", questioned the "C" grade she had received. Rana said, unlike the character she had portrayed, she was a kind person and she thanked the board members for their service. Rana also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Instructional Report – Eastbrook Middle**

George Kopcsak, principal of Eastbrook Middle, shared that they had spent money on IPADS for students. He said they were a powerful technology tool that worked well for the students and allowed kids access to technology. Mr. Kopcsak said the students at Eastbrook drive their own instruction. He said the students are digital natives and the IPADS are not used as computers but as learning tools. Mr. Kopcsak presented a video on an IPAD Project. Students and teachers were asked how IPADS had helped with instruction. They answered that the IPADS helped with research, provided supplemental data for instruction, made learning more engaging, gave opportunities for hands on interaction, provided more educational opportunities, and were easier and fun. Mr. Kopcsak said the staff members at Eastbrook Middle were constantly evaluating and looking for the best ways to help students and are always putting the student's needs first.

### **School Council Report - Eastbrook Middle**

Kathy Mashburn, a parent member of the Eastbrook Middle school council, gave the school council report. She said the school was building relationships and a culture of school pride while focusing on work. She also shared that the staff members provided choice for the students and that the connections classes rotate. Athletes were provided new uniforms by the athletic program, the air conditioning unit was replaced, and

there was a volunteer clean up day where general repairs were made. Mrs. Mashburn thanked the board members for their support of Eastbrook Middle.

### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Hayes 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  
Thomas Barton  
Gary Brock  
Rodney Lock  
Bill Worley

Also present was Superintendent Hayes.

### **Return to Regular Session**

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Fordham made a motion to reconvene to regular session. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. All of the board members were still present.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below: Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – April 11, April 20, and April 25, 2011

Approval of Agenda – May 2, 2011

### **School Fund Raiser Requests**

<b><u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Activity or Request</u></b>
New Hope Middle Baseball	Silent Auction
New Hope Middle FCA	Bible Read-A-Thon
New Hope Middle Band	Sell World's Finest Chocolate
Northwest High Boys Basketball	Basketball Camp
Northwest High Boys Basketball	Car Wash
Northwest High Swim Team Booster Club	Swim Stroke Clinic
Northwest High Volleyball	Volleyball Clinic for New Hope Middle
Northwest High Lady Bruins Basketball	Car Wash
Northwest High Volleyball	Volleyball Clinic for Westside Middle
North Whitfield Middle Cheerleading	End of the Year Dance
Southeast High Yearbook/Journalism	Spring Technology and Training Food Drive, Mother's Day Truffles, Year-End Block Party, Pajama Friday
Southeast High Quarterback Club	Host a Golf Tournament
Southeast High Quarterback Club	Lift-A- Thon
Southeast High Quarterback Club	Youth Football Camp June 21-23
Southeast High Athletics	Physicals \$15.00 per students – time donated by AOSM
Valley Point Middle Student Leadership	School Dance
Valley Point Middle Cheerleaders	Back to School Dance
Valley Point Middle Cheerleaders	Winter Dance
Valley Point Middle Cheerleaders	End of the Year Dance

Valley Point Middle Cheerleaders  
Whitfield Career Academy FCCLA

Sell T-Shirts  
Frisbee Game

#### Overnight Field Trip Requests

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

#### **Activity or Request**

Skills USA National Competition  
FCCLA

Nationals Competition in Kansas City, MO  
STAR Events Competition, California

#### Bus Requests

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

#### **Activity or Request**

Family Support Council  
Girl Scouts

Transportation to Camp Aim  
New Frontiers Day Camp at Lake Marvin

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

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

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

##### Northwest High School – Business Education

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, introduced Northwest High School teacher Lindsay Douglas. Mrs. Douglas thanked the board for the invitation to the meeting. She said that as a marketing and business education teacher, she felt the students would benefit from speaking with individuals from business and industry. She contacted the marketing department at J&J Industries. After a visit to Northwest High School to speak to the students, several ladies from the J&J marketing team invited the students to visit J&J Industries. While there the students viewed the making of a product line from beginning to end. The J&J Industries marketing team challenged the students to name a product line. The students designed presentations that were presented to the marketing team. Mrs. Douglas said the students had learned so much more through this experience than they could have learned in a classroom. Mrs. Douglas added that J&J Industries CEO, David Jolley, said it had been a great experience and they would like to do it again next year.

The product line name that was selected was presented by students Tiffany Kincaid, Katie Matthews, and Sydney Roberts. The name they chose was "To Infinity and Beyond". They said they chose that name because space is universally known as is J&J Industries, has endless possibilities, and that there was a lot left to explore. They said that looking at pictures of space influenced the carpet names of Aurora, Meteor Shower, Nebula, Milky Way, Comet, Eclipse, and Star Dust. The students thanked J&J Industries and their sponsors for a once in a lifetime experience.

Mr. Brown said there had been sixty students who had participated in this project. He said the competition had been stiff and he thanked the students and Mrs. Douglas for their hard work and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Mr. Fordham said this was the first time he had seen the presentation. He added he was amazed at the power and accomplishments of people and employees in the work place.

##### Common Core Standards Update in Mathematics

Caroline Woodason, teaching and learning coordinator, updated the board about the change from the Georgia Performance Standards to the Common Core Standards. She said the Common Core Standards would be implemented in the school year 2013- 2014. Training is mandated by the State of Georgia in the Winter and Spring but will be supplemented locally with small training group sessions already being planned. Mrs. Woodason said the system chose the integrated high school curriculum versus the discrete curriculum. She said administrators of the school system felt they were on track with the integrated curriculum and that it was the best for the students. She added that all area school systems chose to use the integrated curriculum. Mrs. Woodason also shared with the board members information about "Summer Express" which is a summer school for all juniors who did not pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test. She said it would be held at Northwest High School.

## **Operations Reports and Recommendations**

### Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, said things were progressing nicely at Coahulla Creek High School. He said the site work at Eastbrook Middle was in progress. At Coahulla Creek the visitor bleachers were complete with the home bleachers to be finished soon.

## **Support Services Reports and Recommendations**

### Student Discipline Procedure

The superintendent recommended the board approve the student discipline procedure. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

## **Financial Reports and Recommendations**

### General Funds

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund report as of April 30, 2011. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the General Fund report as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

### ESPLOST Report

Mr. Sheppard presented the ESPLOST report as of March 31, 2011. He said all of the current ESPLOST projects were within budget. The superintendent recommended the board approve the ESPLOST report as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

### ESPLOST IV Maintenance and Renovations Report

Richard Schoen presented the board with a list of maintenance and renovation needs listed in priority order to be considered, after the current debt is retired, if an ESPLOST IV is put on the ballot and passed by the voters. Mr. Hayes shared the need for additional technology funds as well. Mr. Fordham asked how much of the technology budget is directly tied to the General Fund and Mr. Sheppard responded that it is approximately \$500,000 or less in a year. He added that included hardware and software.

### 2011 Budget Amendment

Mr. Sheppard gave the board a handout with amended 2011 budget information. He asked that the current budget be amended because of positive budget variances, an improved state revenue picture, as well as mid year cuts from the state that did not come to pass. Mr. Hayes recommended approval to amend the 2011 fiscal year budget. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### Budget Update

Mr. Sheppard shared information about the processes for building a budget. The process started in the fall with a budget survey. Six building level budget teams were developed to help find cost savings. He described several of the recommendations made by staff members. One of those recommendations was moving the Phoenix program to the Whitfield Career Academy which would not only be a cost savings but would also be beneficial to students. Mr. Sheppard said the challenges continue to be seeking ways to do more with less without limiting the quality of student learning experiences.

### 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 board members also approved the re-employment recommendations for certified personnel for 2011-2012. 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 Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Previous Business**

#### Coahulla Creek High School

Principal Phillip Brown updated the board on the progress of Coahulla Creek High School. He said they were currently focusing on registering students. He said they had eleven sessions and were busy answering questions being asked by parents and students. Coaches are putting plans together and cheerleading and football tryouts will be next week. They have been busy putting together a master schedule with classes developed around student requests. Facebook, newsletters, and twitter are still being used as a communication resource.

### **New Business**

No items.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Mr. Brock said there was a lot of work to do to get the new high school ready.
- Mr. Worley said he appreciated our school system offering to help the Catoosa County School System as they recover from the tornado.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

### MINUTES OF MEETING

May 23, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, May 23, 2011 at New Hope Middle. 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	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**

New Hope Middle principal Joe Barnett welcomed everyone to New Hope Middle. He asked everyone to be sure to view the art in the media center. He said earlier this year students were surveyed to see what they would like to see more of and they responded that they wanted a designated space to display their work. The staff members provided a “Gallery of Beautiful Work” space for the students.

Javier Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by the National Anthem being played by the New Hope Middle Brass Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Rodriguez. The ensemble members were Luke Crawford, Noah Smith, Austin Coutts, Justin Smith, and Mr. Rodriguez filling in for a student on the trumpet.

Madison Gowin presented the inspiration. She spoke about how middle school years are full of fear and decisions. She shared how the teachers and staff members helped those fears and that there is a family atmosphere at New Hope Middle. She added there is a wonderful sports program, the drama “Disco Nights” received two standing ovations, the art teacher challenges her students, the school supports recycling, students and staff members are working to fund a well in Africa, and the test scores speak highly of the teachers.

Mr. Barnett said Madison did an outstanding job representing the school in her NASCAR presentation under the topic American Invention.

### **Instructional Report**

Mr. Barnett said sixth grade students led by teachers Mrs. Rosenberger and Ms. Young had an overarching theme this year. The theme was, “How are you going to make a positive change in the world”? The result was that the students were impacted by the lack of clean water in Africa. The students wanted to find a way to provide them with clean water. The teachers pulled together a project, “Man vs. Nature” that made the students aware of natural and man made disasters while incorporating the Georgia Performance Standards.

Students Diego Munoz and Lucas Chavez shared with the board that as part of the “Man vs. Nature” project they did research to make a decision on which would destroy the world first, Man or Nature. They shared how they applied information from science and social studies to help them make the decision. They learned about natural disasters, specifically Hurricane Katrina, and how it affected New Orleans where 20% of the marshlands were destroyed. They also discovered the affects of man-made disasters such as the nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl and the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The students then compiled a scrapbook, completed a research paper and presented to grade level teachers. Diego said he chose nature because the disasters occur more often. Lucas chose nature as well because the disasters had a deeper impact when they occurred. The students said the project made learning real for them.

New Hope Middle student Kimberly Thomas shared that as a result of the projects the sixth grade students put together a presentation to persuade the principal to allow a fundraiser to help build a well. The well would provide clean water for a community in Africa that would last for around ten years. The students

presented Mr. Barnett with over seventy letters, created a Public Service Announcement on the topic, “How Are We Going to Change the World” as well as a poster and brochure. The brochure committee reached out to local businesses for assistance. Lowe’s donated buckets to be used for the collection of funds and the students designed labels for the buckets. The students also designed and created a video named, “Change 4 Change”. The students learned that it would cost around \$5000.00 to build a well and at the time of the meeting the students had raised over \$1320.00. Mr. Barnett shared how the CEO of a water organization that is partnering with the students, SKYPED for one hour and fifteen minutes and answered many questions.

Student Emily Duvall presented to the board information about how the students used math standards in their project. They had to create a model of what a well would look like. The students used ratios and geometry to create a handle, spout, pump head, and pump rod. The students measured the length, width, and height of the cylinder or rectangular prisms. She said the measure for the width was the same as the height. They drew a rough draft of the shape and measured all sides. They also had to find the surface area and used ratios to find volumes.

Mr. Barnett said the eighth grade students also wanted to get involved in the community and were following the results of the recent tornado. The students researched newspapers and used the internet to find out the needs of the community and what they could do to help the victims. The students decided they wanted to become a collection center. They also collected 634 prom dresses in four days that was used by students in Dade County and other areas. Mr. Barnett said New Hope Middle was a part of the community family and the students exemplified that as well.

### **School Council Report**

Dana Holsomback presented the school council report for New Hope Middle. She said it was a privilege to be a part of the school council. She said she had served on the council with Mr. Barnett and Mr. Kopcsak and said there was a continuity of leadership with both principals. She shared how New Hope Middle had participated in the Interact Program through Rotary which teaches leadership. She said the members of the school council had toured the new high school. She remarked she was in “awe” of the school and was excited for the opportunity for the kids. She added the new high school was a positive addition to the community. Mrs. Holsomback also informed the board members that the students had participated in an extensive questionnaire that was used to let the staff know what was meaningful to the students. As a result of the survey, a display area was put in place which let the students know their work was valued and important. She ended by saying that parents are welcomed at New Hope Middle.

### **Cearley Easement**

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, informed the board members that the easement was needed to connect the Eastbrook Middle sewer to Dalton Utility sewer lines. Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the easement request. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Hearing of Individuals**

- Dan Rogers, Belinda Moisan, Marta Hannah, Randy Waskul – Requested the Board consider building a pool for Whitfield County students.

### **Review Board Agenda Items**

#### **Southeast High School Gravity Main**

Mr. Schoen discussed the need for a lift station at Southeast High School. Heath Harrison from Dalton Utilities informed the board members that the estimated cost was based on historical estimates with a 10% contingency cost. He added there was not a lot of “fluff” and that they feel they can get it under the estimated cost. Mr. Schoen said he strongly believed this should be taken care of before the current system

becomes unusable. Mr. Fordham asked if it needed to be done over the summer and would it affect ESPLOST IV funds. Mr. Schoen answered that it did need to be done over the summer and that the ESPLOST IV funds would be affected. Mr. Fordham also asked for the timeline and if it would be completed before the end of the summer. He was told the design would take one month and then the construction would begin. Mr. Hayes asked if it could be completed on weekends and Mr. Harrison said it could and that school would not need to be shut down.

#### Contract with Southern Management

Mr. Schoen said the school system was receiving fair pricing, good and responsive service from Southern Management. Mr. Fordham asked if staff members were happy with the quality of the work. Mr. Schoen responded by saying a survey had been conducted last year and the results had been positive. He said the school system had the option to opt out of the contract with a thirty day notice if they were not happy with the service. Mr. Lock asked if the principal's needs were taken care of at the schools. Mr. Schoen said Southern Management is included in the director's meetings to respond to concerns and to know the needs. Mr. Fordham asked if there was intensive summer cleaning. Mr. Schoen responded that they do extensive cleaning over the summer with the principal or his/her designee signing off when they are satisfied that the work has been completed.

#### School Nutrition Pricing Proposal

Iris Graham, director of food services, informed the board that the USDA has requested that all schools increase their lunch prices by ten cents to close the gap between those costs and the Free and Reduced charges. Mrs. Graham requested the state take a look and they agreed to a five cent increase. She said the breakfast charge had not changed.

#### Bus Video Purchase

Mike Ewton, safety and transportation director informed the board that there was a great need to replace the VCR's that are currently being used because they are getting hard to replace. He said they are expensive and hard to find and that the industry standard is now digital. The replacement would also have a GPS which would let the transportation department have information on the speed and idling time of the bus which was an extreme value-add and not expensive. ESPLOST III funds would be used for this purchase and the cost includes installation. Mr. Ewton said training would be provided to the principals as well which was another advantage. Mr. Lock asked about installing the bus videos on the aging buses. Mr. Ewton said they had looked at the cost both ways and said the videos could be pulled out for \$250 and used on a different bus.

#### School Bus Corner Stops

Mr. Ewton said the transportation department was making a lot of progress on the re-routing process. He said currently the transportation department is offering door to door service except in some areas where the buses can't go into. He said a combination of having designated stops instead of the door to door service and combined routes could save the school system \$50,000 a year in fuel savings. He said the trade off would be that people was accustomed to door to door service. He said they would not have designated stops on main highways. State law says it is ok to ask students to walk up to ½ mile to a stop. Mr. Lock asked what the longest distance would be and Mr. Ewton said it would be ½ mile in some areas. He added the state calls this the Parent Responsibility Zone where parents are responsible for getting the students to the bus stop.

#### Fuel Management System

Mr. Ewton said the computer that runs the pump for the Fuel Management System is on its last leg. He said there are three fueling sites in the county and that when the computer system goes out it will not be able to be patched back together. He said the current system is not reliable and can't give the needed data. Mr. Ewton said Estes Equipment Company had won the bid and the funds if approved by the board members



would be taken out of the current funding year operations budget. Mr. Lock asked about the warranty. Mr. Ewton checked into the warranty and the computer system would have a one year warranty.

#### Fuel Supply and Tank Maintenance Contract

Mr. Ewton said there had been critical times when the school system could not buy fuel. He informed the board that the transportation department had put out a request for proposal.

#### Construction Update

Richard Schoen updated the board on the construction projects. He said at Coahulla Creek High School they were sprigging the ballfields, the field house and bleachers were expected to be finished week after next, the logos were being placed on the gym floor and everything was expected to be finished on time. At Eastbrook Middle the rebar and concreting was underway. The Eastbrook Middle project was also on schedule.

#### Financial Reports and Preliminary Budget

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, gave the board an extensive update on the preliminary 2011-2012 budget and five year plan as well as the General Fund and ESPLOST Fund reports.

#### **Executive Session**

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Bill Worley 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      Audrey Williams  
Dusty Brown      Richard Schoen  
Judy Gilreath      Janie Osborn

#### **Return to Executive Session**

Mr. Fordham recommended the board return to executive session at 2:15 p.m. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Board Member Comments**

- Mr. Brock discussed the cracks in the concrete at CCHS
- Future meeting with DPS to discuss ESPLOST
- Mr. Worley praised Dr. Gilreath for the good job she does with parents. He said all the staff members do a good job.
- Mr. Fordham said our school lunchrooms consistently receive high 90's on the score card and he gave kudos to Iris Graham and her staff.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.