

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 18, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on July 18, 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 Chair
Bill Worley

Board Members Rodney Lock and Gary Brock were absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Kenny Sheppard
Judy Gilreath Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown 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

Mary Ellen Kinsey, director of the Whitfield Education Foundation gave the inspiration. She shared that she was inspired by school staff members going out into area neighborhoods after school to assist students with homework, to play games and provide a snack which results in building trust and relationships with parents. She is inspired by parents who walk to PTA meetings pushing a stroller and holding hands of multiple younger children to support their students. Students who attended Vacation Bible School at her church inspired her by *expecting* to do a mission project. Mrs. Kinsey stated that the Whitfield County School System is helping build a better community. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 3-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Thomas Barton
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Judy Gilreath
Dusty Brown Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. He also asked that the agenda be amended to reflect the deletion of Item #2 under New Business. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Approval of Minutes – June 6 and June 22, 2011

Approval of Amended Agenda – July 18, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>
Cohutta Elementary Indigent Fund	Dinner and a Movie
Cohutta Elementary Counseling Dept.	Selling buttons
Cohutta Elementary	Fall Fundraiser (candy, cards, etc.)
Cohutta Elementary	Fall, Holiday, and Spring pictures
Cohutta Elementary	Box Tops for Education
Cohutta Elementary	School Spirit t-shirts
Cohutta Elementary 5 th Grade Students	Doughnut sales (Oct. 2011 and Feb. 2012)
Cohutta Elementary Media Center	Spring and Fall Book Fairs
Cohutta Elementary Media Center	Santa Shop
Cohutta Elementary PTO	Sell car magnets, grocery shopping totes, and key chains
	Candy sales, Four Chick-Fil-A- Spirit Nights, Candle Sales,
	Kiss a Pig Event, Spring Flings
New Hope Middle PTO	Catalog Sales
New Hope Middle Athletics	Concession Stands
New Hope Middle Band	Candy Sales – Worlds Finest Chocolate
New Hope Middle Athletics-PTO/Clubs	Monthly dances
New Hope Middle	Sell ice cream after lunch
New Hope Middle	Sell Dasani water from machines
Northwest High Cheerleading	Golf Tournament
Southeast High Marketing Education	SEHS Café
Southeast High Baseball	Cookie Dough Sales
Southeast High Baseball	BBQ Plate Sales
Southeast High GA Young Farmers	BBQ Dinner and auction
Southeast High Volleyball	Cookie Dough Sales
Southeast High Marketing Education	Stop-N-Shop Store
Southeast High DECA	Car washes, lollipop, muffin and cookie dough sales,
	fashion shows, band contest, club competitions, and balloon sales
Tunnel Hill PTO	T-shirt sales
Tunnel Hill PTO	Fall Festival
Tunnel Hill PTO	Kids Christmas sale
Tunnel Hill PTO	Candy sale
Tunnel Hill PTO	Catalog Sale
Tunnel Hill PTO	Grandparents Breakfast, Doughnuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom
Valley Point Middle Band and Chorus	Sell World's Finest Chocolates (8/15/11)
Valley Point Middle Band and Chorus	Smalentine pencil sales
Valley Point Middle Band and Chorus	World's Finest Chocolate sales (2/15/12)
Westside Elementary & WSE PTO	Pictures, ice cream, juice, bottled water, book fairs, school
	supplies, spirit items, Fall & Spring Festivals, Holiday Shoppe,
	Yearbooks, magazines, gift wrap, candles, and candy sales,
	coupon books, discount cards and cookbooks

Overnight Field Trip Requests

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>	<u>Date for Request</u>
Cohutta Elementary 5 th Grade	Burton 4-H Center, Tybee Island	March 25-28, 2012

Yearly Memorandums of Understanding/Yearly Contracts

Name of Group

Contract Request

Whitfield County Board of Health
Family Resource Agency of North GA
Family Resource Agency of North GA
Family Resource Agency of North GA
Family Resource Agency of North GA
Family Resource Agency of North GA
GSBA Risk Mgmt. Property & Liability
GSBA Risk Management Renewal

Four full time nurses, one half-time nurse
Transition Plan 2011-2012
Pioneer Head Start – Pre-School Exceptional Student Svcs.
Lease property on Brooker Road for Head Start
Procedure for delivering services to disabled Head Start students
Lease property and building for Westside Head Start
Property & Liability Insurance
Worker's Comp Services

Purchase Order over \$25,000

Vendor

Description

Amount

Follett Library Resources

Media Center – Coahulla Creek HS

\$90, 261.08

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning

MAP Presentation

Laurie Grant and Amy Ballew updated the board members on the Measuring Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Mrs. Grant explained that the assessment was given three times a year in grades 3-8. She added the assessment is a measurement of student growth and is aligned to state standards. The report is ready within 24 hours giving the teachers immediate feedback which allows them to design their lessons around the needs of each student. The assessment is designed to let you know the weaknesses and strengths in each domain. Ms. Ballew said there was a wealth of information from the report. She uses the information for a student learning profile which highlights areas that the students need work which enables them to concentrate on those specific needs. She said the students want to progress and set goals. Ms. Ballew added that three questions on the CRCT assessment do not reflect what students know.

AIMSweb Presentation

Delicia Dalton and John Ford updated the board on AIMSweb. Ms. Dalton said it was used in grades K-8 in all schools and added the data is formative. Mr. Ford state the assessment is more skill based where the MAP assessment is more standards based. The assessment can monitor the progress of the students. The results help identify at risk kids which helps them be targeted for intervention and can be progress monitored as often as is needed. The MAP assessment takes 30 – 40 minutes to be administered and the AIMSweb assessment can be done individually in one minute and 3-8 minutes in a group. Ms. Dalton said the assessment can be substituted for gifted assessments because it does show percentile ranking. Mr. Ford said the MAPS and AIMSweb assessments look at growth. Ms. Dalton said the results can be used to target students that may need help with the CRCT assessment. Mr. Ford added the assessment helps with goal settings and in some cases motivates students to do more because they have a vested interest.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Randy Jones, director of maintenance, updated the board members on the ESPLOST projects. He said the State Fire Marshall and given Coahulla Creek High School the TCO and will come back on August 2nd to look at the field houses. He said furniture, fixtures, and equipment were being installed at Coahulla Creek High School as well. The science equipment would be installed and placed next week. The paving and striping in the parking lots were being done and they had pulled power to check the emergency system. At Eastbrook Middle they were setting steel, the slab was on grade, and concrete (the big pour) was being done at 3:00 a.m. the next day. He said the Eastbrook Middle project was ahead of schedule. The gravity sewer main project at Southeast High School had been put out to bid and was expected to be tied on during fall break.

Sale of Electronic Fingerprinting Systems

Mike Ewton, transportation and safety and security director, informed the board that they plan to sell two fingerprinting systems that the school system was no longer using to Eagle Advantage for \$3,100.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

Approval of WCS Attendance Procedure

Dr. Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, noted the changes in the procedure. After discussion of the attendance procedure, Mr. Fordham recommended the item be tabled until all board members could be present for the discussion and vote of this agenda item. The item was tabled until the July 25, 2011 Work Session.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund report as of June 30, 2011 to the superintendent for approval. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the General Fund report as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 3-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

Capital Projects Report

Mr. Sheppard said the Coahulla Creek High School project was nearing completion with three or four more months of payments. He presented the reports to Mr. Hayes for approval. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Capital Projects Report as of May 31, 2011 as presented. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0. This report is 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, and other support personnel changes in this action. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Previous Business

Coahulla Creek High School Update

Phillip Brown, principals of Coahulla Creek High School, informed the board they were still in the process of working on curriculum. He said the teaching and learning team would be helping set up the science equipment. On August 1st they would begin giving out schedules and parking passes and would begin with the seniors. He said on the fourth day the schedules would level out. The first week of August they would have football camp at

North Whitfield Middle School and there would be a scrimmage on Saturday. Volleyball players are at Northwest High School and softball players are practicing at an elementary park. They are expecting a lot of onsite traffic the first week in August. He said the teachers are designing the curriculum at the Whitfield Career Academy and Northwest High. The building should be available to be occupied soon. Mr. Fordham asked what is still being worked on at Coahulla Creek. Mr. Brown said the field house, and practice fields as well as the concession stands are still being worked on at this time.

New Business

Board Policies JGCD, BHB, GBA, IHA, JAA, GAEB, JCAC, GAAA, JBD

Dr. Gilreath updated the board on the changes and additions of board policies JGCD: Medication, BHB: Nepotism, GBA: Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts, IHA: Grading Systems, JAA: Equal Educational Opportunities, GAEB: Harassment, JCAC: Harassment, GAAA: Equal Opportunity Employment, and JBD: Absences and Excuses. The superintendent recommended the board approve the first reading of all the policies with the exception of JBD: Absences and Excuses. Board Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses was tabled until the July 25, 2011 Work Session. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Board Member Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 21, 2011

A called joint meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Dalton Public Schools Board of Education was held on Thursday, July 21, 2011. Whitfield County Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Board Member Gary Brock was absent.

Also present were the following Whitfield County School System staff members:

- Superintendent Danny Hayes
- Judy Gilreath
- Dusty Brown
- Eric Beavers
- Kenny Sheppard
- Audrey Williams
- Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

Amendment of the Agenda

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board amend the agenda to move item #3, Hearing of Individuals to item #4 on the agenda and to move item #4, Board Member Comments to item #3. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

ESPLOST Resolution

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the ESPLOST Resolution of the Whitfield County Board of Education imposing the continuance of a one percent sales and use tax. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0. The Resolution is a part of these minutes.

Board Member Comments

Thomas Barton said the school system needed to explain why the ESPLOST is needed to help get the public behind it. He added the ESPLOST is a win-win situation.

Louis Fordham said it was a significant decision.

Hearing of Individuals

Mary Thelma Norris – Opposition to the ESPLOST

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 23, 2011

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a Board Retreat at the Whitfield County Central Office on July 23, 2011. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 8:37 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
Janie Osborn

Also present:

A list of the public attending is a part of the backup minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hayes discussed and reviewed with the board the following:

- Mission
- Beliefs
- System Priorities
- Challenges
- The school system's responsibility to prepare school for children

Mr. Hayes stated we should be teaching “why” instead of “how” and providing students with experiences so that they may know what their future may hold. The focus is designing work for each student.

Mr. Fordham said we need to maximize technology. Mr. Hayes wanted everyone to know that the school system no longer receives money from the state for technology from lottery funds.

Teaching and Learning

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent of Teaching & Learning, updated the board on the following:

- Accomplishments
- Current Work
- Goals for 2011-2012
- Challenges
- Common Core Standards

Mr. Fordham stated there was a need for another metric or benchmark other than the graduation rate that can be tracked and promoted. Mr. Brown informed the board that the Georgia Department of Education has a Performance Index that measures Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). He added the Measuring Academic Progress (MAP) assessment measures student progress as well. Mr. Brown said there were also Reading Recovery statistics. Mr. Fordham suggested using those as a performance metric by comparing students on track in third grade as compared to the state.

Whitfield Career Academy Update

Tim Fleming, principal of the Whitfield Career Academy updated the board on the mission and action plan of the Whitfield Career Academy as well as the need for a Charter School. He also presented the board members with a hand out that indicated what would be needed for a student to receive a diploma in each pathway. He shared information about the partnerships between the Whitfield Career Academy and Georgia Northwestern Technical College and Dalton State College and the benefits those partnerships would have for our students and the community. Mr. Fleming said Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education classes would be developed around future job trends to develop a 21st Century workforce. He discussed the need to change the current charter. Mr. Hayes stressed to the board members that the change in the charter would relinquish authority from the Whitfield County Board of Education to the Whitfield Career Academy board. He said this was a state driven change. Mr. Fleming shared the possibility of receiving a Technical College System of Georgia Grant as well as a Utility Academy Grant. Mr. Fordham asked if there was a sustainable or environmental pathway opportunity from the grants.

Support Services

Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent of support services, discussed and reviewed the following information to the board members:

- Explained the responsibilities of the Student Support Services staff members
- Population/Demographics by County (Free and Reduced Lunch percentages were also included)
- Customer Service Improvements/Changes
- Technology
 1. Equal Access Technology Audit
 2. Needs identified through school survey/interviews/external audit
 3. Technology used for safety and security
 4. Gave comparisons on how technology infrastructure/wiring has improved technology availability
 5. Technology improvements in the schools and system
 6. ESPLOST - Process of determining what is needed
 7. Plan for the future

Instructional technology coordinator Vanessa Paluszcyk asked the board members to participate in an activity demonstrating the use of active slates. Mrs. Paluszcyk works with teachers to help them use technology to teach

their students. She said students are digital natives and learn through engaging hands on experiences. Mr. Hayes informed the board that all of the system's principals were very complimentary of the job Vanessa does.

Testing and Accountability

Audrey Williams, executive director of assessment and accountability, updated the board on the following:

- Accomplishments
- Current Work
- Changes
- 2011-2012 Goals
- Whitfield County Schools Measurements
- Demonstrated the use of the new Dashboard accountability system

Community and Public Relations

Eric Beavers, community and public relations specialist discussed and reviewed the following:

- Role as communications specialist
- Challenges
- Accomplishments
- ESPLOST
- Goals

Mr. Hayes informed the board members that Mr. Beavers would be working with the attorney and managing deadlines for ESPLOST. He reminded the board members that the school system could not drive the campaign and added it would need to be driven by a committee. Mr. Worley said it needs to be stressed that this ESPLOST will be used to pay off debt and that there will be no new construction. Mr. Hayes said there are three choices if the ESPLOST does not pass; borrow funds, raise the millage rate, or cut personnel. He added putting the issue on the ballot gives everyone a choice in the decision on whether to continue the one cent sales tax or not. Mr. Hayes added he thinks the board has been fiscally responsible. The board members have been able to build two new schools with less local and state funding and have also lowered the millage rate. He said the school system ranks 153rd out of 180 school districts with per pupil spending.

Mr. Fordham said we need to improve educating our public and community. He suggested the preparation of information and marketing responses for ESPLOST begin soon and the committees for the ESPLOST be in place by mid August.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Hayes thanked the board members for their time and efforts. He asked the board members to give him feedback on the retreat to make sure all items were covered.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 25, 2011

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the inspiration. Mr. Sheppard has had cause to reflect upon his career with the Whitfield County School System. He said when he came to work for Whitfield County and for many years to follow, he was totally focused on the numbers. He said he was given the opportunity for growth and realized his job was about more than focusing on numbers. He said numbers don't lie, access performance, demonstrate fiscal well being, and in sports numbers separate winners from losers. He emphasized numbers can't be the only factor indicating success. In the beginning of his career with the school system the classrooms were foreign to him. He soon realized he also had an opportunity to impact a child's life. Mr. Sheppard learned the stakes were high but the rewards were great. He reflected that being a part of the Whitfield County School System had been a rewarding experience. He added he firmly believes we must assess our world and base instruction on that and understand that learning is personal. Mr. Sheppard said a great company focuses on providing worthwhile experiences and that happens for the staff and students of Whitfield County Schools. He ended by saying he is proud of his affiliation with the school system and their talented staff. Mr. Sheppard also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review Board Agenda Items – August 1, 2011

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board the board agenda items for the August 1, 2011 board meeting. He encouraged the board members to call him if they have questions as they review the agenda items and attachments.

Attendance Procedure

Mr. Hayes informed the board that the attendance procedure changes are a result of the changes to board policy JBD: Absences and Excuses. The procedure will change if the board approves both readings of the board policy.

First Reading of Board Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses

The superintendent recommended the board approve the first reading of board policy JBD: Absences and Excuses. Thomas Barton moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. Mr. Fordham said he had asked the item to be tabled at the previous meeting to allow all of the board members an opportunity to vote on this item. He said that after further conversations he understands that changing the policy is not about how the school system approaches absenteeism but that is the elimination of additional and redundant work for the principals and their staff members. He added the truancy policy will not change. The board approved the first reading 5-0.

RTE Power Supply Contract

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the RTE Power Supply Contract with North Georgia Electric to provide service to Coahulla Creek High School. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

None

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
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Kenny Sheppard
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 7:25 p.m.

Board Members Comments

- Mr. Brock said there was a lot of good things ahead of the school system and that he was excited about the opening of Coahulla Creek High School.
- Mr. Fordham thanked Mr. Hayes and his staff members for the time and effort involved in the Board Retreat. He said a lot of good and helpful information had been provided and it had given the board members an opportunity to focus on key areas.
- Mr. Hayes asked the board to give him input on the meeting. He said he needs the feedback to help him design the meetings to meet their needs.
- It was decided there was a need to have another Board Retreat in January 2012.
- Mr. Hayes asked the board to have discussions about the Georgia Visioning process because they would be asked by the Georgia School Boards Association to approve a resolution of support.
- Mr. Fordham challenged the board members to help coordinate opportunities to be in front of the public for ESPLOST discussion. He encouraged the board to be proactive and to give all a chance to participate, listen and understand.

Adjourned

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.