

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on August 1, 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 Kenny Sheppard
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

Lorijo Calhoun, director of special programs, gave the inspiration. She shared a story she had read about a young man who was picking up starfish on the beach and throwing them back into the ocean. A gentleman standing on the beach asked the young man why he was wasting his time picking up the starfish saying he couldn't possibly make a difference because there were too many starfish on the miles and miles of beach. As the young man picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean, he said he had made a difference for *that* one. She compared the story to what the teachers in the Whitfield County School System are doing for the students. Mrs. Calhoun said they work hard knowing they will make a difference in the lives of their students by providing them opportunities to learn. Mrs. Calhoun also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Judy Gilreath Dusty Brown
Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 7:20 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Hayes recommended the board amend the agenda to remove item #1, ALPHA Program, under Teaching and Learning. He also 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 – July 18, July 21, July 23, July 25, 2011

Approval of the Amended Agenda – August 1, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

| <u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u> | <u>Activity or Request</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Coahulla Creek High Volleyball | Team training camp |
| Coahulla Creek High Volleyball | T-shirt sale |
| Coahulla Creek High Volleyball | Team manager for a day |
| Coahulla Creek High Volleyball | Middle School Volleyball Clinic |
| Coahulla Creek High Yearbook | Sell t-shirts, yearbook ads, and other merchandise |
| Northwest High Cheerleaders | Homecoming Dance |

Purchase Order over \$25,000

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Parlant Technology | Parent-Link Package | \$29,571.00 |

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning

Chinese Delegation

Caroline Woodason, teaching and learning coordinator, shared information about a trip she, along with other Whitfield County School employees, Allyson Millican, Lorio Calhoun, and Cindy Dobbins took to China at their own expense. They were there for fifteen days and visited four cities and several universities. The educators there have moved away from a testing focus and are moving toward art and relationship building which they have modeled after schools in the United States. They have discovered that students are learning more, are more enriched and are less stressed. The Yangzhou University has an Early Language Learners (ELL) focus where English is taught from first grade. The students can read and write but can't speak the language because they have no one to speak to. They visited a Pre-Primary School modeled after American schools where kids learn through play and having fun. It is a great honor in China to be a pre-primary teacher. One of the interesting discoveries they made was that it was common for grandparents to take care of the children while the parents work. They participated in auditions of college students competing for the opportunity to teach in the United States. The students have to write papers and prove they are worthy. Mrs. Woodason said there was a strong desire to come to the United States and the students will do whatever is needed for the opportunity.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board members on several projects. He said the Southeast High School gravity main project would begin on August 5th and is projected to last 75 days. Work will not be done on a school day and will not interfere with school activities. The roof at Dawnville Elementary is presently not leaking but has leaked two times over the summer. Eastbrook Middle is on schedule, the decking is being placed, and more steel is being installed. At Coahulla Creek High School the track and tennis asphalt is curing and should be ready in three weeks. The fire marshal will inspect the concession stand this week. The field house may not be ready when school opens but will

be soon. Southern Management has begun their cleaning services at the school and is doing an excellent job. Owner training on the mechanicals is occurring. The science labs are complete and the furniture, fixtures, and equipment installation should be completed this week. Mr. Brock asked about the floors and Mr. Hayes informed him that M.B. Kahn has brought in a group and that a written report should be in soon. Mr. Fordham asked about a ribbon cutting and open house. Mr. Hayes said plans are to have it at the end of September or early October so visitors can see student work in the building. He added that he had taken many visitors to the school and everyone has been very excited and amazed about the building and the available opportunities for the students.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

2011-2012 Evidentiary Hearing Panel Members

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the 2011-2012 Evidentiary Hearing panel members. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. Mr. Fordham asked what was the standard panel size and Dr. Gilreath answered the standard panel size was three. The board approved 5-0.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, presented the General Funds report as of July 31, 2011 to the superintendent. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the General Funds report as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. This report is a part of these minutes.

Capital Projects Report

Mr. Sheppard presented the Capital Projects report as of June 30, 2011 to the superintendent. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Capital Projects report as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. 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, 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, Coahulla Creek High School principal, updated the board about Coahulla Creek High School. He said this was the first day for teachers and they were busy setting up classrooms. Cheerleading camp, volleyball camp, band, football practice, and softball practice were all occurring at this time. Seniors would get their schedules on August 1st from 9-12. The other schedules would be available this week and there would be a "Sneak Peek" on Thursday for all students. Football Camp is occurring at North Whitfield Middle with a scrimmage game scheduled on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. Enrollment at this time is 701 students. Mr. Fordham asked Mr. Brown about the technology and tablets being used at the school. Mr. Brown said the tablets were being used for original source documentation. He said that often textbooks are not accurate. The android tablets are readers that only take seven seconds to be accessed. There is also the ability to use a mouse and keyboard. Mr. Brown said they had joined a lot of open source consortiums which would allow them access to a lot of material. Tablets are also a better choice because books have to be disposed of. Mr. Brown said technology tools are becoming cheaper to buy and gave an example of when he purchased his kindle the cost was significantly more than it can be purchased for today. For the course management system, Coahulla Creek staff members will use Moodle which is free and everything will be hosted offsite. Teachers are using the standards as they are designing

and customizing their lessons. Twelve courses have been completed at this time. Teachers will design and customize their classes around the needs of each student. At this time they are trying to find a way to post and grade in Moodle and have it automatically go to Infinite Campus. The tablets will allow students and teachers to use project management software which will allow students to submit their projects to teachers for feedback and make the needed improvements. Mr. Lock asked Mr. Brown if the tablets would save money. Mr. Brown said the same amount of money would be used but it would be used differently. He assured the board members he would get as much bang out of the buck as possible. He said he sees a time where printing will be limited and everything will be digital.

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

Superintendent Hayes recommended approval of the second reading 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. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

Pool Rental Agreement with Dalton Public Schools

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the pool rental agreement with Dalton Public Schools which would allow Whitfield County swim team students to use their pool. The agreement was necessary because the pool that was being used by Whitfield County students at Dalton State College was closed. Rodney Lock moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board Member Comments

- Bill Worley asked the board members to collaborate on which schools they would be visiting on the first day of school.
- Mr. Fordham said Mr. Hayes had provided information identifying the role of board members at the Board Retreat. He said it was important for board members to have goals and one important goal was to take time to talk to the community and to be transparent. He also discussed the financial challenge and how it was important for everyone to be on the same page. Mr. Fordham shared that he had challenged the school system to identify measures and that the school system had been working on a Dashboard system which would be a report card about the school system. It will not only be used for measures but would also show what the school system is focused on. He encouraged the community members to contact board members or staff members with any questions or concerns they may have. He emphasized one of the roles of a board member is being a liaison to the community. He added they are working on doing a better job of getting information to them.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING August 29, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, August 29, 2011 at Pleasant Grove 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 | Kenny Sheppard |
| Dusty Brown | Richard Schoen |
| Judy Gilreath | 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

Richard Knox, Pleasant Grove Elementary principal, welcomed everyone to Pleasant Grove. Fourth grade students led the Pledge of Allegiance and inspired everyone by singing “Sarasponda”. They were led by chorus teacher Amy Lee.

Instructional Report – Pleasant Grove

Mr. Knox presented the board members with an information packet which contained Pleasant Grove’s demographics and attendance comparisons from 2005-2006 to present. The packet also contained information on the innovations that are occurring at Pleasant Grove, information on how staff members are monitoring student progress and addressing areas that need improvement, and the strategies that are being used to develop engaging lessons for students. Mr. Knox also showed a video that shared some of the ways Pleasant Grove staff members were working with the system goals. Mr. Knox said the best way to know what is occurring at Pleasant Grove is to visit the school and see the daily work that is happening. He also encouraged everyone to view the school portfolio to see some of the wonderful examples of meaningful, challenging, and engaging work that is being created for the students.

School Council Report – Pleasant Grove

Holly Ridley, school council parent representative and chair-person, reported the highlights from the 2010-2011 school council meetings. She shared that the school council had reviewed and approved the 2010-2011 school improvement plan. The council met with Superintendent Hayes who discussed the WCS Snapshot, the budgetary process and the need for the continuation of ESPLOST. The council met with Phillip Brown, principal of Coahuilla Creek High School, who conducted a tour of the facility and discussed the educational plans for the school. Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, met with the council and answered questions related to the new high school redistricting and the November ESPLOST. Eric Beavers, media and public relations specialist, shared information about the system’s new website. Mrs. Ridley said she was very excited about the things going on at Pleasant Grove. She said it was an excellent school with an outstanding and dedicated staff. She mentioned that Pleasant Grove had been able to meet Adequate Yearly Progress for seven years even with the changing demographics. She asked the board members to support Pleasant Grove’s success and to look for ways to reduce class size.

Approval to Advertise Millage Rate

Superintendent Hayes said the school system had been able to hold steady while receiving fewer funds by making adjustments. Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, discussed and reviewed the five year analysis of the tax digest and millage rate recommendation with the board members. Mr. Fordham said he had recently attended a Chamber of Commerce board retreat where there had been positive discussions about what was a fair investment per child to maintain the quality of education. He asked what would happen if the ESPLOST did not pass. Mr. Sheppard said the school system would be ok for a short period. Mr. Hayes said if the ESPLOST did not pass the property tax rate would have to be increased because there is no leeway in the budget for capital projects. Board Member Rodney Lock asked if the length of time for the ESPLOST could be lessened or be for debt only. Mr. Hayes said that if the ESPLOST did not pass, the school system would have to wait at least one year, maybe two, before another one could be placed on the ballot. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve that the Whitfield County School System be allowed to advertise, for the required two week period, the millage recommendation as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Review Board Agenda Items – September 12, 2011

Whitfield Career Academy Charter

Tim Fleming, Whitfield Career Academy principal, updated the board on the charter renewal. He said the information that is required and submitted spells out the charter needs and requirements. He said they were recommending a name change that would reflect the school being more of a regional school. He informed the board they were requesting a change from a two year term to a five year term. Mr. Fleming stated a charter sets the vision and with a longer term it gives you a greater opportunity to work towards that vision. Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Fleming to describe what serving kids in the region might look like. Mr. Fleming said that students from other areas would be allowed to pay tuition for a class they need instead of having to go back to their home school from their college classes. That would enable the students to have time to take the classes they need without the time constraints of driving back and forth. Mr. Fordham informed the group that the school would not be an AYP school and would not house full time students. He asked if there was a plan for the current full time students. Mr. Fleming said the 125 current seniors would graduate and that the goal is to get all the remaining students in dual enrollment. Mr. Hayes said if students enroll in dual enrollment they can get high school and college credit.

Construction Update

Mr. Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, presented the board with the ESPLOST monthly progress report. He informed the board that the state fire marshal has given a temporary occupancy to the field house at Coahulla Creek High School. He also said the materials for the track and tennis courts had been delayed because of the hurricane. Mr. Hayes said the asphalt on those courts had also had to cure for thirty days. Mr. Fordham asked if the lunchroom congestion had been discussed and addressed. Mr. Hayes said those discussions were taking place. Mr. Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Company said the changes in the routing and stacking of students had eased the congestion quite a bit.

International Bus Warranty

Mike Ewton, safety and security and transportation director, shared information about the need to purchase a warranty on the 2007 International buses. He reminded the board that the school system had previously purchased a warranty on the 2006 buses and it had been a cost savings for the system. Mr. Ewton stated he anticipated this warranty purchase would also save the school system money on the repairs and parts replacements for the 2007 buses.

Capital Project Funds and General Funds Report

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, updated the board on the Capital Project Funds and informed the board the General Funds report would be given to them before the September 12th meeting.

Kenny Sheppard

Mr. Fordham acknowledged that this would be the last board meeting for Mr. Sheppard. Mr. Hayes commended Kenny for his years of service to the school system. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Sheppard had used his skills and leadership ability to do a great job even in hard times. He added that Mr. Sheppard puts everything in layman's terms and that he would be missed tremendously. Mr. Fordham said he echoed Mr. Hayes' statement. He added it was a shame that so much time had been necessary to spend with Kenny because of financial issues instead of being able to spend that time on classroom issues. He described Mr. Sheppard's patience during those meetings and concurred that he would be missed.

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock 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 1:10 p.m. All board and staff members were still present.

Board Member Comments

- Mr. Fordham asked that all board members be given a copy of the Archway initiative.
- Mr. Fordham requested that a representative from the GSBA or GSSA present information to the board at a future meeting to discuss the Georgia Vision for Education.
- There was discussion about the cancellation of the annual Ebenezer field trip for ALPHA students.
- ESPLOST discussion

Adjournment

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

MINUTES OF MEETING September 6, 2011

A called joint meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Dalton Public Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at the City Hall Council Chambers. Whitfield County Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 Whitfield County School System staff members:

Superintendent Danny Hayes
Judy Gilreath
Eric Beavers
Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

Resolution Regarding ESPLOST

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve to rescind the ESPLOST Resolution of the Whitfield County Board of Education imposing the continuance of a one percent sales and use tax that was approved at the July 21, 2011 called board meeting. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. Mr. Fordham stated that the Whitfield County Board of Education planned to pursue a four year ESPLOST next

year. He said they would be looking at timelines and options and would work diligently with the Dalton Public Schools Board of Education to meet the timelines. Mr. Fordham said the board was making this change because of the economic conditions being experienced in the community. He stressed that with this change, the school system would have to delay some of their projects. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.