

MINUTES OF MEETING
September 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on September 12, 2011. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
Eric Beavers Richard Schoen
Kelly Johnson Kenny Sheppard
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

Whitfield Career Academy student Yuleyka Nunez led the Pledge of Allegiance. Student Courtney Revels shared how being enrolled in dual enrollment had been a great experience. She described how she had a job to help pay the bills and how she would not have been able to take the college classes if the tuition and book fees had not been waived. She said her teachers had encouraged her to take the dual enrollment classes and had guided her through the enrollment process. She stated that for her it meant that she could possibly have an associates degree which meant the world to her. She thanked Georgia Northwestern Technical College and the Whitfield County School System for the opportunity. Lillian Sanchez stated that she was enthused to have the opportunity to explain the Move on When Ready Program. She said she did not want to attend a traditional high school and with principal Tim Fleming's encouragement, she was attending college full time through the Move on When Ready Program. She said in the program you can't withdraw or fail and that it had been a big financial relief to know she would be able to graduate high school with an associate's degree. She said she tries hard and is ready to keep going and that anyone who sets their mind to get a degree can do it. She added it's all about the effort and had been a great experience. Rebecca Cope said she was also dual enrolled at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and the high school. She said she got involved by taking the Asset test. The test indicated she was ready to take college Algebra and English. She said she met with Mr. Fleming because she was so nervous and wanted to make sure she could manage those classes. The teachers were welcoming and accepting. The Whitfield County School System provided the books and calculator. Ms. Cope said she hopes to graduate in 2014 with a high school diploma and an associate's degree.

Instructional Report

Mr. Fleming said the success of the students is the story of the Whitfield Career Academy. He said eighty students from across the school system were dual enrolled or in the Move on When Ready Program. Mr. Fleming shared that \$52,766 for eighty students was being saved by the partnerships with the local colleges. Whitfield County provided \$8000 in books and \$3000 in book fees were waived by Georgia

Northwestern Technical College. He explained that to be enrolled in the Move on When Ready Program students needed to pass all four core areas on the Access test. To participate in dual enrollment students needed to score high in two areas. The high school teachers are encouraging students and helping with their college needs. Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Fleming to explain about how the school system had paid for the books. Mr. Fleming explained the school system obtained \$7300.00 in grants to pay for the books and Georgia Northwestern split the remaining \$700.00 cost. The out of pocket costs for 80 students to participate in college was a little more than \$300.00.

Welcome/Recognitions/Presentations

Andrew Teasley and Bethany Kittle – American FFA Degree

Board Chairman Louis Fordham presented Andrew Teasley and Bethany Kittle, on behalf of the Whitfield County Board of Education, a certificate of congratulations on having achieved the American FFA Degree. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree available to FFA members. Only 55 students out of more than 31,000 FFA members earn this high honor. They will also be recognized at the National FFA Convention in October.

WCA Pre-K National Association for the Education of Young Children Certificate

The pre-kindergarten class at the Whitfield Career Academy earned certification by the National Association for the Education of Young Children under the direction of lead teacher Kasi Hicks and assistant teacher Teresa Plavich. Ms. Hicks and Ms. Plavich were presented a certificate of congratulations from the Whitfield County Board of Education.

Early Childhood Industry Certification

The Whitfield County Board of Education presented Suzanne Mooney with a certificate of congratulations for helping the Early Childhood Education Program earn industry certification. Programs who receive this distinction have undergone rigorous reviews by leaders from business and industry.

2010-2011 Leadership Academy

Caroline Woodason, teaching and learning coordinator, said the Leadership Academy brings together staff members from Dalton Public Schools and Whitfield County Schools. She said this year there were seventy participants from Whitfield County Schools. She introduced two participants to share their experiences.

Jamie Calhoun

Ms. Calhoun, a counselor at Eastside Elementary, thanked the board members for the investment in the staff members and for the opportunity to grow. She said it spoke volumes of their commitment to the system's vision, mission, and beliefs. She said she gained more than she could have hoped for and that her passion grew with the innovative thought. The leadership skills transferred to the school and were most evident in her action research project which was to do a school-wide beliefs assessment which included all stakeholders. It improved the school beliefs and out of that came "School to Go". Staff members, two times a month, go into the neighborhoods where their students live. While there they help students with homework, play games, develop relationships with parents, and provide the families with a snack. Ms. Calhoun said that Leadership Academy made it possible and she thanked the board members again for the opportunity.

Mary Ann Fogle

Ms. Fogle described the camaraderie and collaboration she experienced while in the Leadership Academy saying it went beyond the school or grade levels. She added there is the same focus across the district which fosters a unity of purpose. The Leadership Academy is a platform to share best practices and correct things that are not working well. The Action Research projects allow you to step back from the school and

classroom. She described a few projects she had seen such as one that explored student's learning habits and the use of technology. She asked another Leadership Academy participant, Nihal Khote, a teacher at Southeast High School, to share information about his Action Research project. He did a study on the advisory time given to students to prepare them for post secondary education. He described how students were not receiving the support they needed for the leap from school to college. Most of the parents had not attended college and did not have the tools or money to help. He said his Action Research project focused on a 9-12.5 grade level with the goal being to help every child by the time they are in the 11th grade to have a portfolio of what they wanted to do in their future and give them the tools they needed. He emphasized that every child at Southeast High would have that support. Ms. Fogle said her project focused on getting the accurate knowledge of Phoenix to the public. Her project clarified what Phoenix provides for students and talked about the GACHE grant they had been awarded. With the grant they had the opportunity to expose students to a nutritionist, created a reality store, had Rita Fordham practice interviews with the students, and much more. When the results were evaluated and compared to prior graduation statistics, they saw an increase of 20%. Ms. Fogle thanked the board members for the wonderful opportunity. Mr. Fordham stated that in the 3-D projects he had read from the participants, he heard loud and clear how the staff members felt they were leaders after participating in the Leadership Academy. He discussed how he had heard from others that the teachers were spending too much time out of the classroom while attending the Leadership Academy. He said that is the challenge, but believed the Leadership Academy did add value. Mr. Fordham added that it's not productive, and you can become stale, if you stay in the same place. He added he had been surprised by the number of teachers that did not see themselves as leaders and that students and parents were dependent upon that leadership. He reiterated the letters indicated the participants had discovered that they were leaders. Mr. Fordham stated he had received great insight from reading the letters.

Presentation of Certificates

Caroline Woodason and Superintendent Hayes presented each member with a certificate. Mr. Hayes told the participants he was proud of their work.

Board Member Training Certificates

Mr. Hayes stated that Georgia law and state board rules require school board members to obtain a certain amount of training and certain kinds of training approved by the state board. He said the Whitfield County Board of Education members have completed that training for the current year of service. Superintendent Hayes presented the board members with a certificate congratulating them for their accomplishment. He said these board members work a tremendous amount of hours and are available for conversations nights and early mornings. He told the board members he appreciated their support.

Executive Session

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Richard Schoen
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 7:24 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. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – August 1, August 29, September 6, 2011

Approval of Agenda – September 12, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>
Antioch Elementary PTO	Fall Festival
Antioch Elementary PTO	Sell Otis Spunkmeyer cookies
Antioch Elementary PTO	Sell school spirit t-shirts
Antioch Elementary PTO	Santa Shop
Antioch Elementary PTO	Concessions for field day
Antioch Elementary	Holiday, Individual/Group photos, Yearbook
Beaverdale Elementary	Sell cookie dough
Beaverdale Elementary PTO	School spirit store, Santa Store, Sell "Turkey Feathers", the staff member that receives the most gets a pie in the face
Coahuilla Creek High Volleyball	Sell magnets
Coahuilla Creek High Volleyball	Team equipment sponsorships
Coahuilla Creek High Baseball/Softball	Pre-game tailgate parties for students and parents, Sell spirit wear, Christmas Camp
Coahuilla Creek High Cheerleading	Sell fall and spring programs
Dug Gap Elementary	Sell Otis Spunkmeyer cookies
Dug Gap Student Leadership Academy	Dances, sell cookies and suckers
Eastbrook Middle Y-Club	Sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts
Eastbrook Middle	Sell candy bars
Eastbrook Middle Softball Team	50 Inning Game
Eastbrook Middle Band and Chorus	Sell cookie dough and jewelry
Eastbrook Middle Band and Chorus	Sell chocolate bars and other chocolate items
Eastside Elementary ALPHA	Sell "Boo Grams"
Eastside Elementary PTO	Santa Shop
Eastside Elementary	Monthly Hat Days
Eastside Elementary PTO	Eastside Penny Drive
Eastside Elementary Dance Team	Bake sale
Eastside Elementary Special Education	Donate \$3 to wear jeans
Eastside Elementary PTO	Fall Festival
New Hope Elementary	Sell ice cream, bottled water, t-shirts, pictures, yearbooks, paper, pencils, and erasers
New Hope Elementary Media Center	Cartridges for Kids
New Hope Elementary Media Center	Scholastic Book Fairs
New Hope Elementary Media Center	Birthday Book Club
New Hope Middle Wrestling	Hosting Wrestling Tournament
New Hope Middle 7 th Grade	Sell candy, hat days, sell country meat sticks
New Hope Middle Media Center	Sell school supplies
New Hope Middle Media	Sell snacks
Northwest High CBVI Exceptional Students	Coffee Shop

Northwest High FFA	Sell meat sticks
Northwest High Cross Country	Corn-hole tournament/chili supper
Northwest High Basketball Program	Hosting 5K Race at Edwards park
Northwest High Cross Country	Sell Brax spirit cups
Northwest High FBLA	Sell Chik-Fil-A biscuits
Northwest High Basketball Program	Sweetheart Dance
Northwest High Basketball club	Golf Tournament
Northwest High Basketball Club	Middle School Basketball Tournament
Northwest High Basketball Club	Pancake Breakfast
Northwest High Boys Basketball Team	Basketball Clinic
Northwest High FCCLA Family, Career, Comm.	Sell Bruin Sport bottles
Northwest High Swim Team	Doughnut Sale
North Whitfield Middle Girls Softball/Basketball	Sell blankets with NWMS & CCHS logo
North Whitfield Middle Girls Softball/Basketball	Pancake Breakfast
North Whitfield Middle Girls Softball/Basketball	Cookie Dough sale
North Whitfield Middle Girls Softball/Basketball	Golf Tournament
North Whitfield Middle Girls Softball/Basketball	T-shirt and sweat shirt sales
North Whitfield Middle Wrestling	Sell cookie dough
North Whitfield Middle Football	7 th and 8 th grade lift-a-thon
North Whitfield Middle 6 th grade	Spaghetti dinner, pancake breakfast, ceiling tile sales, hat day, spirit wear
North Whitfield Middle Band	Sell candy bars
North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade	Sell eco-friendly bags
North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade	Sell tickets to pancake breakfast
North Whitfield Middle Football	Pre-Sale tailgating tickets
North Whitfield Middle Counseling Dept.	Spirit Store
North Whitfield Middle Administration	School wide dance once a month
North Whitfield Middle Counseling Dept.	Sell holiday grams
North Whitfield Middle	Photo club to take and sell candid photos
North Whitfield Middle Counseling Dept.	Sell Slush Puppies
North Whitfield Middle Administration	Holiday Bazaar
Pleasant Grove 5 th Grade	Sell Smencils
Pleasant Grove PTA	Peacock Candle sales
Pleasant Grove PTA	Fall Festival
Southeast High Cheerleading	Concert
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell Chick-Fil-A biscuits
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell spirit items at home football games
Southeast High Cheerleading	Seeking sponsors to be displayed at football games
Southeast High Cheerleading	Rent spaces in back parking lot for yard sale
Southeast High Baseball	Chicken Dinner at Oakwood Café
Southeast High ESS Department	Sell cookies
Southeast High Girls Soccer	Coffee and hot chocolate sales
Southeast High FCCLA	Sell snacks and drinks
Southeast High Wrestling	Varsity Wrestle-offs - \$1 to attend
Southeast High Wrestling	Bake sale during the SEHS Hoopfest tournament
Southeast High Wrestling	Raffle donated items
Southeast High Wrestling	Sell wrestling t-shirts
Southeast High Wrestling	Sell rubber Southeast Raiders bracelet
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell spots for yard sale
Southeast High Wrestling	Sell donated items
Southeast High Wrestling	Sell advertisements on wrestling board
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell shirts to raise money for breast cancer awareness
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell school magnets
Southeast High Drama Club	Sell 2012 calendar – students acting out scenes
Southeast High Drama Club	Face painting/balloon animal booth
Southeast High Baseball	Sign and banner sales for sponsorship

Valley Point Elem. PTO
 Valley Point Elementary PTO
 Valley Point Middle
 Valley Point Middle Special Education
 Valley Point Middle Student Leadership Academy
 Valley Point Middle Football
 Valley Point Middle Softball
 Valley Point Middle Student Leadership Academy
 Valley Point Middle Student Leadership Academy
 Westside Elementary Special Education
 Westside Middle Cheerleaders
 Westside Middle FFA
 Westside Middle Cheerleaders
 Westside Middle Cheerleaders
 Westside Middle Cheerleaders
 Whitfield Education Foundation

 Whitfield Career Academy Culinary Arts

Believe Kids Fundraiser
 Spirit Store
 School Spirit Store
 Sell Otis Spunkmeyer cookies
 Sponsor three after school dances
 Sell ten stickers allowing staff members to wear jeans
 50 Inning fundraiser
 Sell lollipops
 Sadie Hawkins Fall Dance
 Contribute \$3 to wear jeans
 Raffle donated items
 Sell country meat sticks
 Raffle fundraiser
 Cheerleading Clinic at Tunnel Hill Elementary
 Two day clinic
 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament, Employee Jeans
 Day, Showcase of the Stars, Golf Tournament
 Sell Holiday food items

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Eastbrook Middle Art
 New Hope Middle 7th Grade

Work/Study trip to Washington, DC & NY
 Visiting Eco-Systems around Georgia such as
 Wild Animal Safari, Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia
 Sea Turtle Center, ocean at Jekyll Island
 Dairy Judging CDE, Tifton or Athens, GA
 Fall Leadership and Officer Retreat
 FFA Summer Leadership Camp – Covington
 GA FFA State Convention – Macon, GA
 Horse Judging CDE – Athens, GA
 Jr. GA Green Industry Assoc. Certification
 Gwinnett Convention Center or Athens, GA
 Livestock Shows
 National Convention – Indianapolis, IN
 Poultry Judging CDE's, Calhoun & Athens
 Region Rally 2011- Covington, GA
 Spring Chapter Leadership Retreat
 State Agriscience Fair – Macon, GA
 Woodworking – Macon, GA
 Trip to Washington D.C.
 "Around Georgia" trip
 Performance Disney World, Orlando, FL
 Georgia Theatre Conference Competition,
 Statesboro, GA

Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA

 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 Northwest High FFA
 North Whitfield Middle 8th Grade
 North Whitfield Middle 7th Grade
 Southeast High Band
 Southeast High Drama

Purchase Orders over \$25,000

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Manning Brothers	Walk-in Cooler/Freezer	\$40,483.00
Learning Labs, Inc.	Robotic Engineering Curriculum Equip.	\$25,495.00
Kesslers Team Sports, Inc.	Track & Field Equipment	\$52,038.05

Yearly Memorandum of Understanding

Name of Group**Contract Request**

North GA Family Crisis Center

Provision of services to victims of domestic violence

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**Teaching and Learning****Georgia Northwestern Technical College**

Tom Bojo, Dean of Academic Affairs of Georgia and Campus Manager of Whitfield Murray Campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College, updated the board members about the college. He said the reason Georgia Northwestern Technical College was in our community was for the opportunity to work with the school system to provide opportunities for students. He said classes were driven by our local industry. GNWTC showed their commitment to the community and schools by investing \$30,000 by waiving the tuition that was not covered by the Hope Grant and splitting the costs of books. The application process has been easy for students and the combination of high school students and traditional students in the classroom has worked out well. When talking to students and parents about the college, Mr. Bojo said he offers them a way to take classes through dual enrollment that may transfer to another college, or gives students who have taken a class that will not transfer an advantage of being ahead of the other students when they retake the class at another school. Students currently involved in dual enrollment through their high school and Georgia Northwestern Technical College are receiving a free education. He added GNWTC was happy to be here, had shown their commitment, and wanted to continue to grow. Mr. Fordham asked about the current enrollment. Mr. Bojo said currently there were 233 students taking 311 classes and that they hoped to gain around 100 students per semester. He added 54 of those students were from the Whitfield County School System. Superintendent Hayes thanked Mr. Bojo for the partnership and added he appreciated what the school was providing for the students.

Phoenix High School Transition

Mr. Hayes asked Phoenix staff members Jackie Bailey and Mary Ann Fogle about the transition from the previous location of Phoenix High School to their current location at the Whitfield Career Academy. They said it had been wonderful and that they loved being in their new location. They added the transition had gone smoothly. Mrs. Bailey said the kids feel that everyone cares and that having the equipment and cafeteria had been a nice addition for everyone. Ms. Fogle said it was evident in the student behavior how much they were enjoying being at the new location.

Career, Technical, Agricultural Education (CTAE) Consolidated Application

Mr. Fleming shared information about the Career, Technical, Agricultural Education Consolidated Application. He said one of the changes was that the budget had been adjusted. He said the application would help purchase new computers at Northwest High School for the engineering program. He shared with the board how they had been able to negotiate a new lift from a discontinued automotive program. He said the new lift would support 18,000 pounds as opposed to the lift they previously had that would support 3000 pounds. There are safety features that are built into the new lift. An adaptive kit had been purchased to allow front and rear alignment. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Career, Technical, Agricultural Education Consolidated Application as presented. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board on the construction projects. He said there were warranty issues at Coahuilla Creek High School, the floor was not down inside the field house at this time and they were pricing other alternatives. Mr. Fordham asked Mr. Schoen about the concession stand issues such as problems with the window and a sink that was too small. Mr. Schoen said that the window was to be replaced and he would make sure the sink was also replaced. Mr. Brock asked Mr. Schoen about the cafeteria issues that had been discussed at an earlier meeting. Mr. Schoen said there had not been a decision made at this time about that issue. At Eastbrook Middle there was a problem with the steel fabricator and the construction process had gotten a little behind schedule. He added it should be resolved soon and they should be able to catch up and be on time in the future.

2007 International Bus Warranty

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the 2007 International Bus Extended Warranty at a cost of \$57,400. Bill Worley moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Re-bid Gas Purchases

Mr. Schoen informed the board members that because of a delay in receiving gas from Mansfield, he felt they needed to re-bid.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

No items

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and Capital Projects Funds

Finance Director Kelly Johnson presented the General Funds report as of August 31, 2011 to the board. Kenny Sheppard presented the capital projects funds report as of July 31, 2011. 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 as 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 Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Dashboard Presentation

Superintendent Hayes informed the board members that Audrey Williams, Craig Paluszcyk, Eric Beavers, and Jim Fugate had been working day and night to produce a fine product called the "Dashboard" that indicated what we're doing in our school district. Mrs. Williams added the Dashboard was not complete and additions would be made throughout the year but as of the day of the meeting at 5:05 the product was live and able to be accessed. She said the Dashboard information resembled what was being looked at in the state department. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Beavers demonstrated how the information could be accessed by the district and individual schools in three domains; Student Profiles, Student Performances, and

Internal Processes and Operations. Mr. Fordham said he had seen the Dashboard on the Forsyth County website and had challenged the school system to be transparent by providing metrics or measures.

Archway Partnership

Superintendent Hayes informed the board that for the past fourteen months he and others from the Whitfield County School System had been working with the Archway Partnership. Many people from the community worked on economic, educational, and environmental areas and were ready to give the recommendations of the committees in October. He described how there had been support given by these groups but when asked if they supported SPLOST, especially the Performing Arts Center, they said they had to go back and ask their boards. Mr. Fordham said the Performing Arts Center is a community fit and was presented in an effort to get more professionals to locate here. Mr. Hayes added he felt that from an educational perspective, it was attractive because the students would have a nice place to display their arts and have performances. He said it was a plus for education. Mr. Fordham shared how Columbus had revitalized their town by using arts. He added the Performing Arts Center would attract a lot of resources. Mr. Hayes informed the board members that recommendations would be coming in October or November.

New Business

Discussion of New Career Academy Charter

Mr. Fleming introduced two members of the Whitfield Career Academy Board of Directors, Larry Harrison and Brian Cooksey. He said they, along with the other board members, had been working on the charter a long time. He said the grant they had been working on looked outstanding and they were very proud of their work. He informed the Whitfield County School Board members that the Whitfield Career Academy Board of Directors had voted to change the name of the school to be indicative of a regional Career Academy. The name change was included in the Career Academy Charter application. The new name will be Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy. Mr. Hayes said he had attended the meeting and that there had been great discussion about what the name should be. Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the New Career Academy Charter as well the name change. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. Mr. Fleming said Shaw Industries was working with the school to help design a logo. Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Fleming to share information about the Memorandum of Understanding that would allow students from other area schools who are dual enrolled at their high schools and Georgia Northwestern Technical College, to take a class at the Career Academy. Mr. Fleming said the school would not be an AYP reporting school and that students who chose to take a class at the Whitfield Career Academy would have their scores reported to their home school. The Whitfield County School System would receive funding for the segment. Mr. Fordham said it was a strong recommendation from the Career Academy Board of Directors that if barriers were created it would defeat the purpose. Mr. Fleming said that *all* of the students in our community are our students and the school system was working to break down boundaries. He said the Career Academy board was committed to make it a community school. Mr. Hayes added that it would not cause an additional cost to our school district. He said it would fill classrooms and that the school system would be able to collect those funds while benefiting students. Mr. Lock asked how much more capacity was available at the Career Academy. Mr. Fleming said the school was not full at this time. He said they wanted a safe environment and were working to create space by getting students enrolled at Georgia Northwestern Technical College. Mr. Fordham thanked Brian Cooksey, Larry Harrison, and Tim Campbell for their efforts.

Board Member Professional Development

Caroline Woodason, presented a powerpoint presentation detailing the changes to board member professional development and the timelines. New board members would be required to take three hours of local district orientation with one of those hours focusing on school finance plus five hours of school finance and budgeting, four hours of coursework on the new state standards, and three hours of whole board governance team training for a total of fifteen hours. Board members with one or more years of service will be required to complete six hours of coursework on the new state standards as well as three hours of whole board governance for a total of nine hours. Mrs. Woodason asked that each board member

complete and turn in by Monday a governance leadership team self-assessment checklist as well as an ethics assessment.

ESPLOST

Mr. Hayes presented the board members with a preliminary referendum schedule outlining referendum schedules for February 7, 2012, July 31, 2012, and November 6, 2012. He shared with the board members his reasons for recommending the board wait until March of the following year to put ESPLOST on the ballot. If the board voted on a February 7th ESPLOST it would not be holding up the agreement with the community to wait a year, July is a presidential primary, and the presidential election is in November. He said the school system would still have time to make the payment on the bonds if it waited until next March and that he would recommend a five year instead of a four year ESPLOST.

Freeport Tax

Mr. Hayes said the Freeport Tax has not had an increase in the reduction since the 20% increase years ago. The local governments are saying that part of our problem in attracting businesses is because of the Freeport tax. The fear is we will not attract new businesses if we are not at the level as the other surrounding communities. Mr. Fordham said when conversations were occurring about postponing ESPLOST and how the sales tax would affect existing and new industry by keeping companies out of this community, the school board worked to help the community. He added now they are saying Freeport Tax is the key. He said the school board needs to see everything when having to make decisions. Mr. Lock said we need to educate folks that the school system is already \$34,000,000 in debt and that we have maintenance issues such as leaking roofs.

Reapportionment

Eric Beavers, media and public relations specialist, presented the board with a handout that contained a population summary report. Every ten years, after the census, districts have to be reevaluated and updated to see if district lines need to be changed. There was not a significant change in district lines.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Fordham said the presentations had been good.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING September 26, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, September 26, 2011 at Antioch Elementary. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and thanked Antioch Elementary for hosting the meeting.

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	Judy Gilreath
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.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Tami Dodd, principal of Antioch Elementary, welcomed everyone to Antioch. She introduced fifth grade students Briana Reyna, Michelle Hernandez, Trevor Ponders, and Mason Vanwert, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jennifer Schneider, a counselor at Antioch Elementary, discussed the profound effect that the right words, the belief in a student, and the tools to help them overcome obstacles could be life changing for students. She then shared a story about the effect on a student's life that a teacher had made once she had taken the time to discover and understand the student's obstacles and the difference it had made in the way she taught and viewed her students.

Instructional Report

Mrs. Dodd gave the following statistics about Antioch Elementary:

Enrollment	524 students
Free and Reduced	473 students
EIP	232
ESOL	197
Special Education	59
Gifted	19

She said the pressure to achieve had never been greater. Mrs. Dodd stated that staff members at Antioch Elementary used different tools to make informative decisions and to drive instruction. She said Antioch did make Adequate Yearly Progress but added the CRCT test and AYP do not tell Antioch's story. She then asked several students unrehearsed questions that would tell Antioch's story.

What do you like about Antioch?

Hope Grant said she liked that the teachers and students work together.

What are some of the things your teachers do to help you learn?

According to Shelby Hearn, the teachers help you by giving you the help you need.

Do you think your teacher takes the time to get to know you? How?

Logan Pulliam said teachers help students individually.

What can we do at Antioch to help you be more successful?

Melanie Lopez responded that Antioch could be more successful if more teachers could come into the classroom and there was more group work.

What do you wish was different about this school?

Kaylee Silvers stated that she would not change anything because she likes everything.

How do you feel you learn best?

Trevor Ponders responded that he learns best with extra support from teachers and friends.

Shayla Mulkey said all teachers are nice and you can count on them.

School Council Report

Bart Ponders, a parent member of the school council, said that Antioch is still in mourning from the loss of paraprofessional Kathie Cochran. Mrs. Cochran, expecting to return to school, had asked him to share with the students that she loved them and would see them soon. He emphasized how Antioch staff members offer leadership, warmth, and had big hearts. He stressed it was hard to see the spirit of the school from the outside because of a leaking awning and uninviting landscape but once inside the school you could see a great heartbeat and a school that gets needs met quickly. He asked the board members to give the building a long look and mentioned other challenges inside the building that he felt might be spirit threatening.

Georgia Vision for Education

Dr. Stanley DeJarnett, director of the Georgia Vision for Education project, presented information on the project to the board members. He shared with the board members that after two years of meetings and discussions, a group made up of fifteen school superintendents and fifteen board members representing twenty five school districts, was recommending seven components which included forty- five recommendations. Each school system has been asked to adopt a resolution to show a coalition of support. He said at the time of the meeting 123 school boards had adopted the resolution. He explained that in the past when conversations occurred with legislators and others, there was more knowledge of what school systems were against instead of what they were for. The goal was to present a document as general as possible that could transform education. A few of the items he discussed was the value of birth through age five education, the personalization of learning environments for kids, the importance of online programs and virtual learning to help stretch human capital, the need to investigate how educators are compensated, the need to change outmoded funding formulas, the election instead of appointment of the state school board who would appoint the state school superintendent, and the need to review and revise Title 20 of O.C.G.A.

Adoption of Millage Rate

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the millage rate to remain at the current 14.756 mills. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board of Education Professional Development

Caroline Woodason, teaching and learning coordinator, informed the board that after reviewing the compiled assessments of the board members and the superintendent, strategic planning was the number one item that needed to be addressed. She said the required nine hours of school board training would be facilitated by the Schlechty Center and would occur on January 27-28, 2012 at a location in Dalton. Other area school systems would also be invited to participate in this training. Mr. Hayes recommended the board members adopt the training strategy. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Review Board Agenda Items

The superintendent reviewed and discussed the October 3, 2011 board agenda items with the board members. Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board on the construction and renovation projects.

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	Richard Schoen
Judy Gilreath	Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown	Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board members having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 1:10 p.m. All board members were still present.

Board Member Comments

- Common Core Standards
- Georgia Vision for Education

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.