

## MINUTES OF MEETING

October 3, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on October 3, 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

Board Member Bill Worley was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes	Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown	Audrey Williams
Judy Gilreath	Kelly Johnson
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.

### **Amendment of Agenda**

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board amend the agenda to include two purchase orders over \$25,000 and to add another overnight field trip request under Consent Agenda Items. Gary Brock moved approval to amend the agenda and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance**

Northwest High School students Emily Moore and Kayla Herndon read a poem for the inspiration and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Instructional Report – Northwest Whitfield High School**

Students Ellison Beard and Charlesey Boyd shared their experiences with Georgia Virtual Schools. Mr. Beard said by using the virtual classes he was able to enrich his curriculum and be challenged. He said it was a good experience and that it gives him the opportunity to meet other folks from around the state and to see different views which helped him in forming opinions. He emphasized how amazing his Psychology and Spanish instructors had been. Mr. Ellison added that Georgia Virtual School works hard to make sure the students are getting weekly curriculum and that they use illuminate chat sessions as one of their teaching tools. Ms. Boyd said she liked the flexible schedule and the opportunity to do homework assignments ahead of time.

Advanced Placement teacher and Georgia Virtual coordinator, Rebecca Jenkins, added that she uses the virtual program to enrich work with her students. She said it is also helpful with class scheduling conflicts and helps students that move into the school system to get what they may need. Ms. Jenkins said over 150 students have taken a virtual class and that 99% of the students thought it was a very successful experience. Opportunities to expand and enhance foreign language offerings as well as student choice and flexibility were advantages to using the program. Northwest Whitfield High principal Britt Adams praised Ms. Jenkins saying she does a fabulous job and takes the time to know her kids and their needs. He added that he felt the virtual programs offered wonderful opportunities for students.

Mr. Adams said that currently there are twenty students who are dual enrolled and eighteen using the virtual program. He added there are sixty-five students in the Advanced Placement Program and they had

taken 117 AP exams. Many of them were AP scholars and four students had achieved the AP Scholar with Distinction. One student had achieved the status of National AP Scholar. Northwest Whitfield High School is an AP STEM School and has been honored with being a STEM Achievement School. He said they offer plenty of options for college entrance with 63 more students than in the past taking the SAT and 36 more taking the ACT. In November all seniors will take the Georgia Work Ready Assessment. They are currently working on the *High School and Beyond Plan*. Mr. Adams said he challenged his Design Team to find out how students are doing after they leave Northwest Whitfield. Many students expressed gratitude about the classes they had taken such as American Government as well as the chemistry and science classes and labs and how those experiences had helped them with their college classes.

### **School Council Report**

Orenda Gregory, chair person of the school council, said the school council at Northwest Whitfield was very active. She said they meet almost every month and serve as a liaison between the school and the community. They are informed on budget, staffing, the vision, school improvement and other issues. Mrs. Gregory stated that with the opening of Coahulla Creek High School, it has been wonderful to have lower teacher to student ratios. She emphasized that the staff and faculty members at Northwest Whitfield are wonderful.

### **Welcome/Recognitions/Presentations**

#### Lowe's Toolbox Grant – Southeast Whitfield High School

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$100,000 to Southeast Whitfield High School to build a literacy center inside the building. Principal Brian Satterfield said he felt honored that Southeast Whitfield had been selected. He added the school competed for the grant against schools from seven states. He introduced Southeast High School teacher Anne Childers who had written the grant. She stated that Lowe's had given the school the gift of hope by believing in them. She said in a recent survey given to students at Southeast Whitfield High School, they discovered that less than 50% of the students and their families had computers and internet access. With that knowledge, they had a vision of adding an annex to the media center that would be staffed by familiar and competent staff members who could help parents and family members of students in a welcoming and accommodating setting. Mr. Hayes thanked Mrs. Childers for taking the time to write the grant. He said it enabled the school to give to the community.

#### Lowe's Toolbox Grant – Eastside Elementary

Eastside Elementary counselor Jamie Calhoun shared with the board members that Eastside had received a grant from Lowe's for \$4300. She said that many of their students did not have a good place to study while at home. Ms. Calhoun stated the funds from the grant will be used to build an outside study area in a nearby neighborhood. The study area is still in the planning stages. The school will partner with high schools and the community to help build this area. Mr. Hayes said that learning goes beyond the four walls of a classroom and that he appreciated the hard work.

#### School Bus Safety Poster Winners

Dawnville Elementary student Samantha Garduno and Pleasant Grove Elementary student Emma Allen were presented certificates of congratulations from the Whitfield County Board of Education on their accomplishments of winning the system wide bus safety poster contest.

#### Make a Difference Day Grant – Valley Point Middle

Robyn Baggett, principal of Valley Point Middle, shared that the school had received a grant for \$1730 from United Way. She said when they were talking about their story they realized they had second, third, and fourth generations of students. They wanted to find a way to get families back into the schools. She asked the students what was important to them and how would they like to use the funds. The students decided they wanted to make upgrades to the gym because that is where the community visits the most. Upgrades will be made by painting the gym, locker rooms, and gym restrooms. The Make a Difference Days will be October 21-22, 2011. They have asked for 130 volunteers which will include members from the community, staff, and students.

## Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education

Phoenix High School counselor Dr. Beth Hayes stated that Phoenix High and the Whitfield Career Academy had received combined funds from the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education of \$14,500. She introduced Reggie Glaze and Shirley Davis from GACHE. Dr. Hayes said Phoenix staff members follow their students beyond graduation by using the National Student Clearinghouse. One of the ways they have used their funds is to get the students on college campuses. She added that Phoenix had received the grant two years in a row and that the Whitfield Career Academy had received the grant three years in a row. A video was shown that described the mission statement of the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education. Mrs. Davis stated their goal was to raise awareness of the importance of higher education. She added they were leaders in providing financial resources to schools to be used for that goal. Putting students on college campuses every year is huge in helping increase the graduation rate and the post secondary rate. Moving the finish line from high school to post secondary is critical. Wendy Hanson, Whitfield Career Academy counselor, said the funds are used to increase high school and post secondary graduation. To accomplish this goal they plan visits for their students to college campuses, have visits from business and industry leaders, sponsor an Apply to College Day, purchase test prep materials, have parent meetings, have a job shadow day, and have opened a Reality Store where students navigate real world costs. Mrs. Hanson stated that the Whitfield Career Academy had always had a dual enrollment focus and currently had 40 students that are dual enrolled. She said students do career and research projects to help them find their careers of interest and to find out which colleges provide what they need to pursue that career. She said they use the National Student Clearinghouse as well to track where their students are attending college, and how they are doing. She said the graduation rate has improved by 17% since 2007 and they are still making progress in that area. Phoenix staff member Mary Ann Fogle passed out a brochure outlining the plan used by Phoenix. She stated she felt there were two beneficial things that the two schools were doing and they are the field trips to college campuses and the Reality Store. Mr. Hayes stated he appreciates what GACHE does for students.

### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham  
Thomas Barton  
Gary Brock  
Rodney Lock

Bill Worley was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes      Audrey Williams  
Dusty Brown      Richard Schoen  
Judy Gilreath      Janie Osborn

### **Return to Regular Session**

At 8:07 p.m. Mr. Fordham recommended the board return to regular session having taken no action in executive session. Gary Brock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

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

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – September 12, September 26, 2011

Adoption of Amended Agenda – October 3, 2011

School Fund Raiser Requests

**Name of Group or Sponsor****Activity or Request**

Antioch PTO	Sell basket raffle tickets
Coahulla Creek Men's Basketball	Sell CCHS stadium seats
Coahulla Creek Men's Basketball	Free Throw-a-Thon
Coahulla Creek Men's Basketball	Basketball Clinic for grades K-8
Coahulla Creek Men's Basketball	Sell CCHS basketball apparel
Coahulla Creek Men's Basketball	Pancake Breakfast
Coahulla Creek Basketball	Sell corporate sponsorship signs
Coahulla Creek Golf	Sell hats, shirts, and golf towels, tournament
Coahulla Creek Food Nutrition & Wellness	Sell healthy snacks
Coahulla Creek Cross Country	Halloween Fun Run
Coahulla Creek Baseball Team	Host a Movie Night, concession stand
Coahulla Creek Wrestling	Sell sweatshirts, t-shirts, shorts
Dawnville PTA	Sell Dawnville t-shirts, Holiday Shoppe, Annual Basket Raffle
Dawnville	Bake Sales
Eastbrook Middle Visual Arts	Sell snack cakes
Eastbrook Middle Visual Arts	Michael Albert artwork prints
Eastbrook Middle Athletics	Hat Day
New Hope Middle Girls Basketball	Shoot-a-Thon
New Hope Middle 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sell Celebrate Home catalog sale items
New Hope Middle D.C. Trip	Sell Mixed Bag Design items
Northwest High Chorus	Sell Heritage Candles
Northwest High Chorus	Premier Designs Jewelry
Northwest High FCA	Sell spirit wear
Northwest High Chorus	Drawing for gift baskets
Northwest High Senior Activity	Sell Senior Signature t-shirts
Northwest High FCA	Pancake Breakfast
Northwest High Boys Soccer	Sell lollipops
Northwest High Boys Soccer	Kick-A-Thon
Northwest High Beta Club	Sell Halloween Treat Bags
Northwest High Beta Club	Sell Christmas Treat Bags
Northwest High Beta Club	Sell candy bars from Old Fashioned Candy Company
Northwest High Beta Club	Pennies for Patients Program
Northwest High Baseball Dugout Club	Alumni baseball game
Northwest High Tennis	Tennis Serve-a-thon
NWMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade/Cheerleading	Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
North Whitfield Middle Cheerleading	Halloween Dance
North Whitfield Middle Media Center	Book Fair
North Whitfield Middle Football	Pancake Breakfast
Southeast High Volleyball	Sell beef jerky
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	Collect memberships to the club
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	JV Basketball Tournament
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	Varsity Hoopfest Tournament
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	Concession stand
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	Banner sales and renewals
Southeast High Tip-Off Club	Free Throw Shoot
Southeast High FFA	Sell baked goods, beef jerky, etc.
Tunnel Hill Elementary PTO	Catalog Sale
Valley Point Elementary Boys Basketball	Dance
VPM Student Leadership Academy	Artist to help develop a work of art to sell
Valley Point Middle Track & Field	Halloween Dance
Valley Point Middle Raider Rev Student	Powder Puff Football Game
Valley Point Middle 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Hat Days
Valley Point Middle Cheerleaders	Sell goodie bags
Valley Point Middle Boys Basketball	Shoot-a-Thon
Valley Point Middle Boys Basketball	20/20 Club
Westside Middle Wrestling	Dance
Westside Middle Spirit Club	Car Show

Westside Middle 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip	Lock-in
Westside Middle 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip	Sell Sonic Cards
Westside Middle 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	Pie a Teacher
Whitfield Career Academy Culinary Arts	Sell student made food
WCA Cosmetology/Skills USA	Sell t-shirts and sweats
WCA Cosmetology/Skills USA	Candle fundraiser
WCA CTSO'S	Fall Dance, Music, Crafts, Activities

#### Overnight Field Trip Requests

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>
Eastbrook Middle	Fernbank, Zoo, Stone Mountain – Atlanta, GA
Northwest High FBLA	Fall Leadership Conference, Athens, GA
Southeast High Drama	GHSA Competition – GSA – Statesboro, GA
Westside Middle 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Walt Disney World, Orlando-, FL

#### Bus Request

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>
Georgia State Defense Force	Annual Training from Dalton to Ft. Stewart, GA

#### Purchase Orders over \$25,000

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dell Computer Corp.	35 Computers & Office Pro Plus	\$42,382.00
Dell Computer Corp.	25 Desktops and 1 Laptop	31,929.69

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

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

#### **Teaching and Learning**

##### Overview of Special Education Services – Sarah Hoskins

Sarah Hoskins, exceptional children services director, presented the board members with an overview of the exceptional services department.

#### **Operations Reports and Recommendations**

##### Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, informed the board members that many shipments of steel had been delivered for the Eastbrook Middle School construction project.

#### **Support Services Reports and Recommendations**

No items

#### **Financial Reports and Recommendations**

##### General Funds and Capital Project Funds Reports

Kelly Johnson, finance director, presented the General Funds report as of September 30, 2011 and the Capital Projects Fund as of August 31, 2011 to the superintendent for approval. Mr. Hayes recommended

the board approve the reports as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 4-0. These reports are 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 Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **Previous Business**

No items

### **New Business**

No items

### **Board Member Comments**

- Georgia Vision for Education will be on the November 7<sup>th</sup> agenda

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF MEETING October 31, 2011**

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, October 31, 2011 at Westside Middle School. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes      Richard Schoen  
Judy Gilreath      Dusty Brown  
Eric Beavers      Audrey Williams  
Janie Osborn

Also present:

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

### **Redevelopment Power Plan – Dalton-Whitfield County Joint Development Authority**

Elyse Cochran, Dalton-Whitfield County Joint Development Authority director, presented a powerpoint explaining the Redevelopment Power Plan that will be on the November 8, 2011 ballot. She explained this plan would be a tool that could position the community to attract retailers which would create jobs and stop

the sales tax leakage that is going to other areas. Blighted areas would be redeveloped to attract businesses which would improve taxes.

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

Stan Stewart, principal of Westside Middle, introduced seventh grade student Amanda Jones to do the inspiration. He informed the board members that Amanda scored 98% in reading and language arts on the Measuring Academic Progress assessment as well as 88% in math. Amanda said that Westside Middle is a great place to learn and grow. She said they had a great band which she was a part of as well as the academic bowl. She added that MAP testing was fun and that she enjoyed the engaging lessons that were being taught. She said if you have any problems you can go to any staff member for help. Miss Jones then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Instructional Report – Westside Middle**

Dr. Stewart said Westside Middle was using the newest innovative teaching tool, 3-D. Students Amanda Jones, Alex Hooker, Montana Shadrick, Hannah Barry, and Isaac Lacle', along with teacher Christy Downey led a demonstration on how the nucleus, mitochondria, and chloroplasts are enhanced while using 3-D glasses. The students presented examples of fun projects they had produced such as cell models made of clay, videos, a cartoon children's book, and science magazines. One example of a fun project was a video featuring Montana Shadrick and Hannah Barry. Montana sings about cells to the tune, *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. Mr. Hayes asked the students if this type of learning made a difference in how they learn. Montana said lectures are boring and that hands-on learning is more intriguing. Another student said you learn more, especially when you are learning lyrics because you have to practice them over and over. Dr. Stewart explained that the 3-D team developed classes that were standards based. He said they were also designing classes using the common core curriculum. He explained how a company was interested in purchasing the 3-D designed classes for other school systems to use. Mr. Hayes congratulated the team and Dr. Stewart for finding creative ways to find revenue sources.

### **School Council Report**

Myra Sheram, a business partner and staff member, gave the school council update. She shared what technology equipment the school uses such as the five mobile labs, 93 computers plus ten additional new computers in the media center, flip phones in each classroom plus five more that can also be checked out in the media center and two 3-D machines.

### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

### **Review Board Agenda Items**

Mr. Hayes reviewed and discussed the board agenda items for the November 7, 2011 meeting. Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board members about the Eastbrook Middle project saying large quantities of steel had been received. Mr. Hayes said he would be pushing hard for EBM students to be able to go to school in the new building in the fall. Mike Ewton, transportation and safety and security director, gave the board information about the re-bidding of the fuel contract. Richard Schoen also updated the board about a company that would help sell the school system's mobile units. Mr. Hayes discussed the need to support the state effort with the Georgia Vision for Education Resolution.

### **Overnight Field Trip Request**

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve an overnight field trip request by North Whitfield Middle for students to be able to attend a Junior Youth Assembly, sponsored by the Y-Club on November 3-5, 2011. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Thomas Barton 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      Judy Gilreath  
Dusty Brown      Richard Schoen  
Janie Osborn

### **Return to Regular Session**

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:45 p.m.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Discussion of College Credit Now
- Reminder of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Coahulla Creek High School
- A partnership with Dalton State College where students can take Advanced Placement classes and also earn college credit. High school teachers would have to meet the required certification to teach the college classes. It is being piloted at Southeast High School.
- College and Career Summit
- College and Whitfield Career Academy applicant information meeting

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.