

MINUTES OF MEETING
November 7, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on November 7, 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
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Board Member Gary Brock was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Richard Schoen
Judy Gilreath 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

Crossroads principal Donna Thornton gave the inspiration and student Jeremy Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional Report – Crossroads

Students Jeremy Green, Daniel Paloma, and Selena Azua shared information about a periodic table of elements project they had designed. Mr. Green and Miss Azua said class members used math skills to build the board which was used to display the names and descriptions of each element. They used a super hero activity when choosing the elements they wanted to research. They said the project was fun and not boring.

Superintendent Hayes asked the students to describe the difference in instruction they had received from middle school to high school at Crossroads. Miss Azua said the middle school classes included four or five different subjects and that the high school classes were mostly done by computer.

Mrs. Thornton said Crossroads was small but housed a middle and high school. She said that for the first time they had started the year with all four grades. She added that all of the students were using the E2020 math program. Crossroads teacher Mrs. Brock has pulled out Math I kids to give them personal instruction. They are then worked back into the E2020 program. Uniforms changed this year from white shirts to black shirts. She described another math concept they are using that allows students to practice their skills and compete with other students from around the world. She said the competition is exciting and keeps the students engaged and striving to improve. The schedule has been redesigned to allow math and reading remediation. Using the E2020 program helps the students home school teachers know what the students need and what they have covered while at Crossroads. Crossroads has designed a parent/student handbook that summarizes the program and how it works. They have also redesigned the behavior point sheets which encourage students to stop and take notice of where they are and what they are doing. The students start with 30 points each day and at the end of the day they add up their points to see what level they will start in the next day. Students are encouraged to be accountable for their behavior. At the time of the meeting Crossroads had 50 high school students and 20 middle school students in the building. The school is equipped to handle 120 students. Mr. Fordham asked if the adjusting process happened pretty quickly.

Mrs. Thornton replied that the students adjust quickly to the dress code and that many do well at the academy because of the smaller classes. MAP testing is done immediately to customize the needs of the students.

Welcome/Recognitions/Presentations

Carson Aft – Commended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program

Southeast High School senior, Carson Aft, was presented a certificate of congratulations from the Whitfield County Board of Education for earning a Letter of Commendation for high test scores in recognition of his outstanding academic promise.

Holly Kinsey – Semifinalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition

Northwest High School senior, Holly Kinsey was presented a certificate of congratulations from the Whitfield County Board of Education for her accomplishment of being a semifinalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Holly Kinsey – Selected for the 2012 United States Army All American Marching Band

Miss Kinsey was also congratulated for being selected as one of 100 students from 1500 candidates to participate in the United States Army All American Marching Band. The United States Army sponsors the competition and will pay for all of Holly's expenses to travel and perform in the All American Bowl Game in San Antonio, Texas. Holly has been drum major for two years for the Northwest High School Sound of the Blazing Blue Marching Band.

FCCLA Knowledge Bowl Winners

The board members presented students Taylor Hadden, Hannah Coffey, Courtney Bailey, and Abby Gonthier with a certificate of congratulations for having earned 1st Place at the statewide General Knowledge Bowl competition at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia.

State Student Advisory Council Members – Colter Creswell & Erica Manis

Colter Creswell and Erica Manis were presented with a certificate of congratulations for being selected to serve on Georgia School Superintendent John Barge's Student Advisory Council. Colter Creswell, a senior at Northwest High and Erica Manis a sophomore at the Whitfield Career Academy are two of 50 students across Georgia who will get to meet with Dr. Barge two times this year to share advice about how state policies are impacting their classrooms.

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Employee Recognition

Ben Hunt, principal of Eastside Elementary, introduced Amy Martin who has been placed at Dawnville Elementary and Whitley Coppock who is at Eastside Elementary. VISTA is a national service program specifically designed to fight poverty. It is funded by the United Way of Northwest Georgia.

Amendment of Agenda

Superintendent Hayes recommended the agenda be amended to include under Operations Reports and Recommendations, as item # 4, Adoption of Agreement with James W. Buckley & Associates, Inc. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded the amendment. The board approved 4-0.

Executive Session

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Thomas Barton
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Gary Brock was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen Janie Osborn

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 7:24 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

The superintendent recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – October 3, October 31, 2011

Approval of Amended Agenda – November 7, 2011

School Fundraising Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Beaverdale Elementary	“Wildcat Family Recipes”
Beaverdale Elementary	Sell magnets and window clings (school spirit)
Beaverdale Elementary	Parents Night Out, Tenchi Family Karate
Eastside Elementary	Sell popcorn and fruit drink after lunch
New Hope Middle Drama	Premiere Jewelry sales
New Hope Middle Baseball	Silent Auction
New Hope Middle	Southern School Services Catalog sales
New Hope Middle Drama	Candy gram
Northwest High Band	Sell fruit and cookie dough
Northwest High Band	Sell Chick Fil-A calendars
Northwest High Swim Team	Sell caps, goggles, bungee goggle straps, t-shirts, cookies,
Northwest High Tennis	Sell advertising sponsorships
	cupcakes, towels, and crafts
North Whitfield Middle Track	Sell Cookie Dough
North Whitfield Middle 8 th Grade Students	Sell Chick-Fil-A calendars
Pleasant Grove Musical	Sell Hershey bars
Southeast High Band	Sell candy
Southeast High National Honor Society	Turkey Teacher
Southeast High Boys Soccer	SHS vs. Dalton Alumni Soccer Game
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell candles
Valley Point Elementary Chorus/P.E.	Santa Shop
Valley Point Elementary Hospitality	Bake Sale, sell lollipops and t-shirts, Jeans Week
Valley Point Elementary Media Center	Buy One Get One Free Book Fair
Valley Point Elementary Media Center	Scholastic Spring Book Fair
Valley Point Middle Boys Basketball	Pancake Breakfast
Valley Point Middle Girls Basketball	Pancake Breakfast
Valley Point Middle Girls Basketball	Candy Sales
Valley Point Middle Girls Basketball	Shoot-a-thon
Valley Point Middle Girls Basketball	Mixed Bag Design Sales
Westside Middle Band	Donation drive at Holiday Concert

Westside Middle Band
Westside Middle 8th Grade
Westside Middle GA Studies
Westside Middle Softball Team

Sell soy candles
Powder Puff football game
Sell suckers
Hat Day

Overnight Field Trip Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Beaverdale Elementary 5th Grade
Northwest Whitfield High School Band
NWHS FFA & Skills USA Program
NWHS, SEHS, CCHS
Southeast Whitfield High DECA

Rock Eagle Environmental Education Center
Heritage Festivals Concert Band Competition Chicago, IL
Leadership Retreat – Horns Creek Resort, Ocoee, TN
College visits to N.GA, UGA, Berry, Shorter, and West GA
Georgia DECA Fall Leadership Competition

Hearing of Individuals

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning

Science – Greg Bailey

Greg Bailey, teaching and learning director, discussed the fish diversity in the Conasauga Watershed. He said there were 76 native fish that had been identified in that body of water. Mr. Bailey asked the board to identify the endangered species fish, the non native species and the once “extinct” fish that had been found in the Conasauga Watershed. He shared that Logperch is the endangered species, Rainbow Trout is the non native species, and the Sturgeon is the once extinct fish. Mr. Bailey said that science is important for many reasons such as the fact that 19 out of 25 of the highest paying jobs are in the science field. After explaining the required science classes in the curriculum, he talked about the highlights that students are participating in such as scuba diving in the Conasauga River and identifying species of fish, the dissection of fish, an art project using trout that was taken out of the river and the Lego League. Mr. Bailey said he would like to see more kids involved with the Lego League. Magnet kits were purchased with Title funds and science kits have also been purchased. Mr. Bailey discussed possible future science initiatives such as STEM, more LEGO Leagues, gifted elementary science devoted to mystery, a science and textile class for high schools, the strengthening of the Governor’s Honors classes in science, and an increase in 8th grade scores and success.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Update

Joe Barnett, principal of New Hope Middle, and David Thacker, middle school instructional coach provided the board members with a research article on STEM and a promotional code to access the website for their review and updated them on the use of STEM. Mr. Thacker explained that this resource is aligned with the common core and can access standards as well. He demonstrated how you have the ability to search by content level to access the information you need. STEM is built on objectives and guiding questions and is linked to performance tasks. Simulations are also offered and the statistics can be manipulated. Lesson plans can be accessed as well as videos. Rubrics are aligned to products and can be used as a culminating activity, but are not meant to replace the work the students do and produce. Mr. Barnett said the resource availability is amazing. He stressed that STEM is another resource that can be used to help design projects. Mr. Hayes said this is a different tool being used to find kid’s interest to keep them excited about learning. Mr. Thacker said that learning a fact does not transfer but a conceptual level can transfer. Mr. Barnett said the teachers are excited about this resource.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board on the ESPLOST projects. He said that the tennis and track courts at Coahulla Creek High School are to be asphalted soon. The Eastbrook Middle and the Southeast High School sewer lines should be tied in at the end of the month.

Fuel Contract Re-Bid

Mr. Schoen recommended to Mr. Hayes that the fuel contract with Ownbey Enterprises be approved. The fuel cost is the daily low rack rate plus 2.5 cents per gallon with common carrier freight charges. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the contract with Ownbey Enterprises. A copy of the contract is a part of the backup minutes. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Contract Approval with American Auctioneers, LLC

Mr. Schoen recommended to the superintendent that the contract with American Auctioneers be approved. The school system has about a dozen surplus mobile units that are scheduled to be auctioned by American Auctioneers the week of winter break in February. Mr. Schoen said the company is guaranteed \$1500 to cover advertising fees and then a small percentage of the sales. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the contract with American Auctioneers for the sale of the unused mobile units. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Adoption of Agreement with James W. Buckley & Associates

Mr. Schoen recommended to the superintendent the approval of an agreement with James W. Buckley & Associates for the development of the Whitfield County Five Year Facility Plan. In exchange for this service, the Whitfield Board of Education agrees to retain the services of the Architect for the design and construction phase services of the proposed work contained within the Five Year Facility Plan proposals. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve this agreement as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board members approved 4-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

There were no items.

Financial Reports and Recommendations

General Funds and Capital Project Funds Reports

Richard Schoen presented the General Funds report as of October 31, 2011 and the Capital Projects Funds report as of September 30, 2011 to the superintendent for approval. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0. These reports are a part of these minutes.

Human Resource 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 absence, 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. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Previous Business

Georgia Vision for Education Resolution

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Georgia Vision for Education Resolution. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

New Business

First Reading of Board Policy GAK (1): Criminal Background Check

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the first reading of board policy GAK (1): Criminal Background Check. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Georgia School Boards Association Partnership Commendation

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the recommendations submitted for the Georgia School Boards Partnership Commendation. The presentation of this commendation will be at a later board meeting once the certificate(s) are received from the Georgia School Boards Association. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Board Member Comments

- Mr. Fordham said he appreciated the math and science presentations.
- Everyone was reminded of the election the next day and the Retiree Brunch.
- There was a great turnout at the Coahulla Creek Ribbon Cutting and the students did a great job.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING November 28, 2011

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, November 28, 2011 at Dawnville Elementary. Board Vice Chairman Thomas Barton called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton – Vice Chairman
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Louis Fordham was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown Judy Gilreath
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 – Dawnville Elementary

Dawnville Elementary fourth grade students, under the direction of music teacher Eric Smith, performed patriotic songs as the inspiration and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional Report – Dawnville Elementary

Dawnville Elementary principal Sherri Travisano presented the instructional report. She informed the board members that Dawnville Elementary had gone from “Needs Improvement” to having met the bar for every single requirement to meet AYP. They had also improved so much they were eligible to be nominated for the Blue Ribbon School Award. They achieved an average 40% growth in all grades and subjects on the state mandated tests and went from a 38% to almost a 90% passing rate in math. Mrs. Travisano said many things had occurred to help with this success such as maintaining a consistent staff, creating a true Dawnville story, having published at least once a week positive news articles in the local newspaper, knowing the needs of their students, having all staff members visit every instructional space and then discussing what they saw they felt was pervasive and where improvements could be made, focusing on the strengths of the school and students, and taking ownership of *all* the students. She discussed improvements to the school both inside and outside such as receiving a grant from Home Depot that was used to make outside improvements, donated carpet, and signs by the rooms. She stressed they wanted the children to have a nice facility. She thanked the school administrators for the flexibility in funds which has helped her make decisions dedicated to the most important needs of the school.

School Council Report – Dawnville

Mrs. Travisano introduced school council members Lisa Hughes, Angela Gentry, and Brian Fossett. Mr. Fossett, said because he is a Southern Baptist Evangelist he has had the opportunity to see other school systems. He added Dawnville Elementary staff members are doing a great job. He shared how he had the privilege of seeing the school change having served on the school council three separate times as his four children have attended the school. His wife Amy has also worked at the school for twenty years. In the past he said the school was lacking and that the community did not want to send their children to Dawnville but that is not the case today. He cited a school vision and a boldness of leadership as a few of the reasons for the great improvements. He stated that Mrs. Travisano was a visionary leader who along with the staff members had a passion as well as compassion for the students. They don’t look at things as obstacles but as opportunities. Mr. Fossett said all of his children are doing well academically and emotionally which is in part due to their experiences at Dawnville. He emphasized how proud he was of Dawnville, the leadership, and the staff members.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Amendment to Agenda

Superintendent Hayes recommended an amendment to the December 5, 2011 agenda to add under Operations Reports and Recommendations approval of an easement contract with Georgia Power. Action would be taken on that item at this meeting.

ESPLOST

Mr. Hayes asked the board to consider the dates of July 31, 2012, November 6, 2012, and March 12, 2013 for possible dates to have ESPLOST placed on the ballot. He said conversations would need to occur with Dalton Public Schools who would also have to agree on a date.

Review Board Agenda Items – December 5, 2011

Mr. Hayes reviewed and discussed the board agenda items for the December 5, 2011 meeting. Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations updated the board members on the Coahulla Creek High School and Eastbrook Middle projects. He also presented the board members with a building program handout.

Easement Contract with Georgia Power for Power Pole at Eastbrook Middle

Mr. Schoen informed the board members that the granting of the easement to Georgia Power was needed for the installation of a power pole at the current construction entrance which will be used later for school car traffic. Mr. Hayes recommended approval of the easement. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Reclassification

Mr. Hayes discussed with the board members the reclassification decision from the Georgia High School Association.

Executive Session

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Rodney Lock moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Board Chairman Louis Fordham was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 12:40 p.m. Gary Brock moved approval to return to regular session and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Board Member Comments

- Mr. Barton thanked Dawnville for hosting the meeting and said he was proud of the great work they were doing.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.