

MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 5, 2011. Board Vice Chairman Thomas Barton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton – Vice Chairman  
Gary Brock  
Rodney Lock  
Bill Worley

Board Chairman Louis Fordham 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. Barton asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection and to keep the board chairman and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

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

Dug Gap Elementary fifth grade students Autumn and Alaina Thompson did the inspiration and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Dug Gap Production Company, under the guidance of music teacher Ken Cox, performed a Christmas song in several languages.

### **Instructional Report – Dug Gap Elementary**

Mandy Locke, principal of Dug Gap Elementary, presented the instructional report. She said that during a retreat with members of Dug Gap's Leadership Team they made the decision to recognize students throughout the year based on positive student behavior. They came up with the name "PAWS" which stands for Positive Attitudes Will Succeed. They used the Character Education Program and the Raider 7 character traits to define characteristics and qualities they would look for when deciding which students would be recognized. They decided that three or four students from each classroom would be recognized by the entire school with the students running down the red carpet to the cheers of all students and faculty members. The students would receive a certificate as well as coupons from area businesses. Mrs. Locke stated the goal is to have every student walk the red carpet by the end of the year.

### **School Council Report**

Ty Miller, a member of the school council and a parent of two Dug Gap Elementary students, presented the school council report. He said that during the year they had looked at data such as MAPS and CRCT scores and discussed the results to see what the strengths and weaknesses were and how the results could be used to strengthen instruction. They had also looked at the school system's data on the Dashboard. He said the kids really enjoyed the PAWS Program.

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

Northwest Whitfield High School Softball Team – 7AAAA Championship Winners

Coach Ramsey introduced members of the Northwest Whitfield High School Softball Team. He said he was thankful to have had the opportunity to coach this team and said the girls were passionate about playing. Superintendent Hayes presented the team with a certificate of congratulations for their accomplishments.

#### Southeast Whitfield High School Volleyball Team – Region Championship

Coach Dickey talked about the success of this year's volleyball team. He explained how volleyball is usually not played by students until they reach high school age. In six seasons the teams at Southeast Whitfield High School have achieved 170 wins. Mr. Hayes congratulated the volleyball team and Coach Dickey for their successful year and presented them with a certificate.

#### Technical College System of Georgia College & Career Academy Grant

Tim Fleming informed the board members that \$2.6 million had been received from the Technical College System of Georgia College & Career Academy Grant. He said it was a great honor and that they had been working on the grant for eight months. He stated that Mr. Hayes had paved the way and that many folks had worked hard preparing the grant. He introduced Sharon Bonifacious, Jay Williams, and Larry Harrison saying they had done an outstanding job. Mr. Fleming said the plan incorporated working with the middle and high schools as well as Dalton Public Schools and Murray County Schools. He shared a few details on how the grant funds would be spent and said his personal goal was for everything to be ready by the first day of school next year. Mr. Hayes thanked Mr. Fleming for his leadership. He added Mr. Fleming brought the right people to the table and that 91 businesses had lined up to help drive the grant. He emphasized the community had pulled together to help make this happen.

#### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel. Bill Worley 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

Louis Fordham 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 7:20 p.m. All board and staff members were still present.

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

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

#### Approval of Minutes – November 7, November 28, 2011

#### Approval of Agenda – December 5, 2011

#### School Fundraising Requests

#### Name of Group or Sponsor

#### Activity or Request

Dug Gap Elementary	Sell Little Debbie's
New Hope Middle Drama	Sell candy
Northwest High QB Club	Picking bowl game winners
North Whitfield Middle Football	Host 8U Girls Softball Tournament
North Whitfield Middle Football	Sell sign advertising
North Whitfield Middle Football	Cookie dough sales
North Whitfield Middle Advanced Art	Sell lollipops
Pleasant Grove PTA	Santa Store
Pleasant Grove ALPHA	Sell Friendship Grams
Southeast High Cheerleading	Sell chances to win blankets
Southeast High Cheerleading	50/50 drawings at home basketball games
Southeast High Environmental Science	Hat Day
Southeast High Golf	Hat Day
Valley Point Middle Yearbook	Sell candy
Valley Point Middle 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Valley Point Middle Office	Whacky Shoe Day, Aren't You Cool Shades Day and Put the Year to Rest Day
Whitfield Career Academy FCCLA	Christmas Play
Whitfield Career Academy Senior Class	Bake sale for St. Jude's Research Hospital
Whitfield Career Academy Student Govt.	Hat Day

#### Overnight Field Trip Requests

#### **Name of Group or Sponsor**

#### **Activity or Request**

Eastbrook Middle 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Burton 4-H Center, Tybee Island
Valley Point Middle 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Andersonville Prison, Tybee Island
Westside Middle	Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Westside, Tunnel Hill, Pleasant Grove and New Hope Elementary ALPHA	Tennessee Aquarium, Paperclip Museum, Civil War Dinner, Hunter Museum

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

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

#### **Teaching and Learning**

#### English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – Amy Haynes

Dr. Amy Hayes, school improvement coordinator, updated the board on the English for Speakers of Other Languages program. She presented each board and cabinet member with a handout indicating enrollment, graduation rates, progress in English development, full attainment of English and content mastery in language arts and math. She informed the board that with the conversations about HB87 there had been conversations about losing students but the numbers indicated the ESOL student population was holding steady. Dr. Haynes said she felt that having students in the school system speaking many different languages made teachers better. She added those students can be great resources for teachers by enriching conversations from their first hand knowledge as the school system prepares students for global opportunities. Dr. Haynes acknowledged that the key to success is working together as many non ESOL teachers interact on a daily basis with ESOL students. The students are in regular education classes and are not pulled out into a separate class. Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) professional development has been beneficial for teachers. The training is designed for three days so they will not be overwhelmed by all of the information they receive. The teachers model the strategies they will ask the students to do. English Learners (EL) have high standards and are required to take the same graduation and standardized tests as other students. The ultimate goal is graduation and the English Learners' graduation rate has increased each year. Dr. Haynes shared that members of the U.S. Department of Education will be

visiting Dawnville Elementary and Pleasant Grove Elementary to do research on their successful programs. Mr. Hayes thanked Amy for her leadership and said he was proud to have her on the staff.

#### 2011-2012 Sex Education Committee Members

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the 2011-2012 Sex Education Committee Members. The committee is made up of parent and school representatives from each school. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **Operations Reports and Recommendations**

#### Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board members on the ESPLOST projects.

#### Transfer of Mobile Units

Richard Schoen recommended to the superintendent approval of the transfer of two mobile units to the Family Resource Agency of North Georgia. He added that all costs which would include but are not limited to the moving and repairs of the units as well as the cleaning of the site, would be paid by the Family Resource Agency of North Georgia. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the transfer of two units to Family Resource Agency of North Georgia. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **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 reports as of November 30, 2011 and the Capital Projects Funds report as of October 31, 2011 to the superintendent for approval. Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley 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, leave 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 4-0.

### **Previous Business**

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

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the second reading of board policy GAK: Criminal Background Check. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### ESPLOST

The superintendent asked the board members to continue thinking about the possible dates for ESPLOST.

## **New Business**

No items

## **Board Member Comments**

- Thomas Barton said he appreciated everyone's hard work especially in the hard economic times.
- Mr. Hayes said that while attending the GSBA conference it was said that money would still be tight in the upcoming year. He added the consultant who had been working on the budget had noted that staff members were tight and additional cuts did not need to be made. Mr. Hayes said he was pleased to see that information was in line with what was thought by the school system.
- Gary Brock congratulated the board members who had taken office on January 1, 2011 on the good job they had done their first year.
- Mr. Hayes said he appreciated the hard work of the entire board and their patience. He also noted it had been a good year.
- Mr. Brock asked everyone to keep Mr. Fordham's family in their prayers.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.