

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on February 6, 2012. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

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

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes Audrey Williams
Judy Gilreath Dusty Brown
Richard Schoen Ron Hale
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. He asked everyone to think about Joel Ochoa, a student at North Whitfield Middle, who had been recently hit by a truck. He shared that Joel was doing better.

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Valley Point Middle student Gabino Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance. Student Lily Johnson introduced the inspiration that had been prepared by instructional coach Rena Graham with help from others in the community. The inspiration was a video with “Cardboard Testimonies” from parents, business partners, staff members, and students.

Instructional Report

Students from a newly developed connections media class, Gabino Hernandez, Lily Johnson, Jacob Robinson, Savannah Kephart, Tiffany Christopher, Isabel Salinas, and Noah Ramsey produced a video for the instructional report. The students interviewed staff and students and asked questions such as if they liked being at Valley Point Middle and what they enjoyed most about the school.

Robyn Baggett, principal of Valley Point Middle said the school designed a t-shirt that had, “What’s the Point” on one side and “VP Excellence” on the other. She said Valley Point Middle students loved having the shirts and that Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Elementary students are also excited about the shirts and are selling them as fundraisers. Ms. Baggett stated that one drop in a pond causes a ripple effect. She said she started working with school data to see what steps she could take to mesh things at Valley Point Middle. She met with students who told her they didn’t like having two teams in a grade level with the smart kids in one and the not as smart in the other, they wanted more connections classes every day, and more time for science and social studies classes. She met with teachers during their common grade level planning time and they expressed a desire for more common grade level planning time and more time for Response to Intervention (RTI), as well as more time for social studies and science. Next she met with parents as they were checking students in or out of school and at ball fields and they wanted to know if their students could get extra help, have band and chorus every day and have more time with their friends. They also wanted to make sure their children were safe and happy. Ms. Baggett met with assistant principal Scott Houston to see if they could find a way to make the desires of the students, staff members, and parents a reality. They brainstormed to see how they could make RTI a part of the schedule and provide professional development without taking teachers out of the classrooms. They also discussed the effectiveness of In School Suspension. They questioned if it was necessary and if students were benefiting from being there or were they trying to get in that class to have a day off. They also wanted to know if an instructional coach would benefit Valley Point Middle. They created a mission that would increase student

academic success and decrease teacher stress and a vision that would include a schedule that would meet the needs of students, parents, and the staff. The goals included time for RTI, more time for science and social studies, a more effective discipline plan, time for professional learning, and additional time for a connections class. Ms. Baggett sat down with the leadership team, met with kids who had been placed in ISS for a number of days as well as with their parents. She asked the parents if they would be willing to have their children do after school detention until 5:00 instead of in school suspension. They felt it was a good idea and were very agreeable to the suggestion. After all the conversations and planning a plan was prepared that would provide for four academic classes that were eighty minutes long as well as two fifty minute connection classes. There would no longer be In School Suspension but in its place would be after school detention and a Careers Class would be developed. Ms. Baggett shared the results of the change. Each teacher takes a week of after school detention and there has not been any negative feedback from the teachers. Technology and homework is not allowed unless a teacher brings in an assignment. There are now 100 minutes of common grade level planning. They also have planned professional training. On Tuesdays the teachers have “Air Time” that is used for RTI remediation and acceleration. Based on the MAP (Measuring Academic Progress) data, students are placed in groups of 2-8 students. As a result, office referrals have dropped from 303 to 180 with many of those being warnings. The “Air Time” has resulted in many students being able to exit the interventions and remediation. Ms. Baggett added that Mrs. Graham’s job is to help teachers find an intervention that works for each individual kid. She ended by saying that the point is one drop in a big pond causes many ripples and many ripples cause a wave.

School Council Report

Kim Greene, a parent and school council member of Valley Point Middle, said the school was making a difference in the lives of kids. She shared that the motto of the school is to increase success and decrease failure. The staff members are developing character and leaders by making an investment in the students. Mrs. Greene added that at Valley Point there is excellence invested in leadership, students, and community. At the school there is a warm and safe environment where everyone knows your name and leads by example. The t-shirts are an example of the leadership promoting school pride which is contagious. She said they had discussed the Whitfield County Dashboard and how it had a “WOW” factor. The Valley Point Middle, Dug Gap, and Valley Point Elementary Leadership Academy has blossomed, built pride, created great chemistry, and has helped the students learn to serve others. The students are making a difference in the lives of other students such as researching the likes and dislikes of a Valley Point Middle student with Angel Man Syndrome. There is pride in sports as well as community involvement. The Valley Point community along with parents, students and staff members helped renovate, clean, and update the gym and stage areas. They have participated in a book study and read “Boys in Poverty” which discusses the risk factors of the absence of role models, peer pressure and other issues. She said the “point” is that investment with excellence increases success and decreases failure.

Welcome/Recognitions/Presentations

Cody Roberts – DECA Stock Market Game

Sheila Hudson, Southeast High School Marketing Teacher and DECA Advisor, shared with the board members that Cody had advanced to the final round of competition in the DECA Stock Market Game. He was the only student from Georgia to advance. He will compete at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 27th – May 2nd. Board Member Rodney Lock presented Cody with a certificate of congratulations on behalf of the board members. Cody said he had made \$8843 from September to December. He explained you can’t buy and sell all the time because of the fees and that he bought from companies that he uses every day.

Executive Session

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

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Bill Worley
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Rodney Lock

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 8:05 p.m.

Amendment to Agenda

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve amending the agenda to include an additional overnight field trip request under Consent Agenda Items to include an overnight field trip by the Southeast High School DECA organization. He also recommended an addition of item #1, Transfer Procedure, under New Business. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items:

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – January 9, January 28, and January 30, 2012

Approval of Agenda – February 6, 2012

School Fundraising Requests

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Beaverdale Elementary	Treasure Leaf Company snacks and sweets sale
Cohutta Elementary Junior Achievement	Candy Sale
Dug Gap Fifth Grade	Development and Operation of a School Store
Dug Gap 4 th Grade	Father and Daughter Dance
Eastbrook Middle Spring Sports	Sponsor a Dance
Eastbrook Middle Soccer	Sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Eastbrook Middle Visual Arts	Sell personalized items, food, cookie dough, magazines
New Hope Middle Drama	Club Dues
New Hope Middle Drama	Candy Grams
New Hope Middle Football	Powder Puff Football Game
Northwest High Track Team	Cow Plop
Northwest High Chorus	Sell World's Finest Chocolate Bars
Northwest High Marketing & FBLA	Prom themed fashion show
Northwest High Golf	2-Man Select Golf Tournament
Northwest High Spring Sports	Sell Florida strawberries
North Whitfield Middle Media Center	Book Fair
North Whitfield Middle Football	Sell Choo Choo BBQ tickets
Pleasant Grove PTA	Cookie Dough sales
Southeast High Softball	Sell BBQ Plates
Southeast High Girls Soccer	Co-ed Scrimmage
Southeast High Girls Soccer	Soccer Showcase
Valley Point Middle 8 th Grade	Sell cookie dough, wrapping paper, Hat & Heart Day, Twin Day, Inside Out Sock Day, Pajama Day
Valley Point Middle Drama	School Dance
Valley Point Middle	Drawing to shadow the principal and asst. principal
Valley Point Middle Wrestling	Sponsor and host two travel team basketball tournaments
Varnell Elementary	Sell Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough
Varnell Voices	Sell tickets to Lookouts Game-Students performing
Westside Middle Cheerleaders	Sadie Hawkins Dance
Westside Middle 6 th Grade Fieldtrip	Spirit Night at Chik-Fil-A
WCA Student Government	Talent Show
WCA Student Government/HOSA	Powder Puff Football

Overnight Field Trips

Name of Group or Sponsor

Activity or Request

Cedar Ridge 5th Grade
Dug Gap 5th Grade
Northwest High Skills USA
NWHS, SEHS, WCA FCCLA
Southeast High Skills USA
Southeast High DECA

Burton 4-H Center, Tybee Island
Burton 4-H Center, Tybee Island
Atlanta International Convention Center, Competition
Region FCCLA Star Events, Troup County High, Lagrange
Skills USA Conf. & State Competition, Convention Center
Competition, Omni Hotel CNN Center

Hearing of Individuals

- Mike McCarthy – Question about school policy and procedure

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Teaching and Learning

Virtual Learning – Rebecca Jenkins

Ms. Jenkins shared that she had spoken with others in the system about virtual learning through E2020 and Georgia Virtual High School. She said staff members were excited about the resources that are available to all teachers. Ms. Jenkins informed the board that it takes 20-30 hours for course recovery through the E2020 program. She shared that she had recently received a note from a former student who had been successful with virtual learning and had been able to test the knowledge he had allowing him to concentrate on what he needed. In a lab setting or in a library, teachers can use resources such as video quizzes, tutorials, virtual labs, and E-Reader which can also be utilized in different languages. SAT and ACT prep is also offered through the Georgia Virtual High School Program. Phoenix and North Georgia College and Career Academy are using E2020 for course credit. Ms. Jenkins said the Georgia Virtual High School Program can be used for curriculum enrichment and to help students transferring from another school. Crossroads is using Study Island for their middle school students for review and reinforcement and is using the Manga High Virtual Program for their high school students. Principal Joe Barnett is in the process of bringing virtual programs to New Hope Middle for class enrichment. A mentoring program from Northwest High is helping middle school students with the virtual programs. Ms. Jenkins stressed that the Whitfield County School System is constantly finding ways to meet the needs of the students.

Operations Reports and Recommendations

Construction Update

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

Request for Modular Unit from Family Resource Agency

The superintendent recommended the board approve a request from the Family Resource Agency for an additional modular unit that the school system was no longer using. The unit will be used for office space. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services Reports and Recommendations

No items

Finance Reports and Recommendations

General Fund and Capital Project Reports

Ron Hale, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund report as of January 31, 2012 and the Capital Projects report, as of December 31, 2012 to the superintendent for approval. Gary Brock moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. These reports are a part of these minutes.

ESPLOST Update

Mr. Hale presented a powerpoint with detailed information about ESPLOST III.

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 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. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Second Reading of Board Policies GANA and JGCC: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the second reading of board policies GANA and JGCC: Infectious Diseases. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

Transfer Procedure

Rhonda Yim, director of human resources, shared information about the transfer procedure with the board members. She explained the procedure was put in place to help streamline processes and to ensure that everyone was working on the same page. The superintendent will make the decisions on involuntary employee transfers and will consider employee seniority and last person hired at individual facilities. An applicant tracking system is currently used for all other employee actions and will now be used for employee transfers. Board members will also have the employee transfer information included in the personnel documents that are reviewed during executive session.

Board Member Comments

- A request to have discussions at board meetings about the school system's Vision, Mission, and Beliefs at board meetings was made as a result of the Board Member Professional Development.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 27, 2012

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, February 27, 2012 at Coahulla Creek High School. Board Vice-Chairman Bill Worley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Bill Worley – Vice Chairman
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock

Board Members Louis Fordham and Rodney Lock arrived after roll call.

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance

Stephanie Hungerpiller, assistant principal of Coahulla Creek High School, introduced student Hannah Locke who presented the inspiration. Ms. Locke shared a quote from former President Ronald Reagan and compared it to her experiences at Coahulla Creek. She said there were great opportunities at Coahulla Creek such as technology accessibility, a state of the art facility, a safe and nurturing environment, a dedicated staff, the building of cultures and traditions and the opportunities to set and achieve the standard of success. She thanked the board members for their support. Preston Pangle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instructional and School Council Reports

Phillip Brown, principal of Coahulla Creek High School, presented the instructional and school council reports. Mr. Brown shared that Coahulla Creek had hosted four other school council groups. The school council has been working with school council members from North Whitfield Middle as they focus on what it takes to increase class expectations and student achievement. The school is also working with Shaw Industries Learning Academy to help Coahulla Creek staff members develop their vision and mission as well as induction. Brian Cooksey with Shaw Industries has been instrumental with this collaboration. Staff members are focusing efforts on the development of a digital curriculum as well as developing a student tutoring center to provide help to students as expectations are increased. Courses have been expanded and a seven period schedule will be put in place. Superintendent Hayes asked Mr. Brown to share information about the G-School at Coahulla Creek. Mr. Brown shared how the G-School students, as they were working on the human based design process, had met with Varnell Elementary 5th grade students and asked them what they needed in their classroom. The students responded that they wanted help in designing furniture for their classroom. The G-School students made a full size model of the classroom, and with the help of the 5th grade students designed a prototype of the furniture. The students then built the furniture for the classrooms. The students also made a video of the process. Mr. Brown said the students were currently working with Eastside Elementary on an outdoor classroom. He added that other school systems from around the country were sending teachers and students to look at the process.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Review Board Agenda Items – March 5, 2012

Superintendent Hayes reviewed and discussed with the board members the agenda items for the March 5, 2012 meeting. Listed below are some of the agenda items that were discussed.

2012-2013 School Calendar

Dusty Brown, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, shared the differences from the Dalton Public Schools calendar. He explained that the school systems strive to make the calendars as similar as possible for the benefit of the community and parents. Dalton Public Schools added two days to their calendar this year but most of the holidays are the same. Two weather days have been included in the calendar for next year. Mr. Fordham asked about the value of the early dismissal days. Mr. Brown explained those days were important and are used as professional development days or parent conferences. Mr. Hayes said many schools use those days for professional development which is the heart of our business and are needed if we are truly a learning organization.

Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, updated the board members on the ESPLOST projects as well as presented them with a handout of the February monthly progress report on the ESPLOST III building program. Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Schoen to update the board members on the status of the polished concrete floors at Coahulla Creek High School. Mr. Schoen replied that at the current time the school attorney and the attorney for the construction company were in conversations about the floors. Mr. Hayes said the workmanship and craftsmanship did not meet the school system's standards. Mr. Fordham asked about the disagreement and if there was a hopeful resolution. Mr. Schoen said the school system felt they should be compensated and that the floors will likely have to be covered.

Financial Reports

Ron Hale, chief financial officer, informed the board that he had met with operations earlier in the day for the first budget meeting with staff members. He added that he, along with Mr. Hayes and Eric Beavers, would be meeting with the staff members at each school. He also shared that he was in the process of redesigning the financial reports and asked the board members to share any ideas or changes they would like to see. There was discussion of having a resolution ready by the April 2nd meeting for ESPLOST IV and that there would need to be discussions with Dalton Public Schools.

Executive Session – Personnel and Student Tribunal Appeal

Mr. Hayes recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel and a student tribunal appeal. Gary Brock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Louis Fordham
Bill Worley
Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Student Tribunal Appeal Decision

Board Chairman Louis Fordham asked for a motion for the student tribunal appeal decision. Bill Worley made a motion to uphold the student tribunal decision. Thomas Barton seconded the motion. The board approved 5-0.

Eastbrook Middle School Building Site Tour

The board and staff members moved to the Eastbrook Middle School building site for a tour. All board members were still present with the exception of Gary Brock.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Fordham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded the motion. The board approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.