

MINUTES OF MEETING
December 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, December 3, 2012. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Gary Brock
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes	Ron Hale
Judy Gilreath	Eric Beavers
Richard Schoen	Carolyn Weaver
Audrey Williams	

Also present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Seth Hutchinson, a freshman at Northwest High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Seth Hutchinson told about Habitudes and how he is a visual learner and this helps provide a way to participate in together.

Presentation

Louis Fordham and Gary Brock presented the following certificates to the Southeast High School One Act Play for winning region and placing 4th in the state for the performance of, *The Insanity of Mary Girard*.

Roberto Duarte	Edgar Corona
Clarissa Galaviz	Katherine Vasquez
Savannah Whittenburg	Adaena Perez
Eric Thomason	Kendall Roberts
Savannah Cross	Raine Gibson
Hunter Stewart	Christian Nicholson
Roman Ponce	Matt Womack
Concepcion Montelongo	David Hayes
Destyni Wilson	Kait Odell
Kaleb Sprinkle	Dakota Edwards
John Lee	

Mr. Hayes shared the following information with the board. The play was directed by Alana Sane, Southeast High teacher. She is a graduate of Southeast and has worked in Whitfield County for 6 years. This is her second year teaching

drama at Southeast. Last year she and her students placed 2nd in the Region One Act Play competition. Debby Barto, history teacher at Southeast, created all of the Costumes. In this year's Region competition, Adaena Perez was named best Actor, and 4 students were named to the All Star Cast: John Lee, Dakota Edwards, Savannah Whittenburg, and Kaleb Sprinkle.

The board and Mr. Hayes congratulated the students on a great job.

Louis Fordham and Rodney Lock presented the following certificates to the Southeast High School Volleyball Team for winning region.

Rosalba Hernandez
Jenny Tran
Rana Mashburn
Shelbi Bryant
Yacenia Salaises
Angie Purkey
Stephanie Paramo
Allison Hamlin
Tori Brock
Melisa Fraire
Patty Pacheco

Judelle Herrera - manager
Juan Torres - manager
Jake Dickey – Head Coach
Bethany Kenemer – Assistant Coach
Andrea Baron – Assistant Coach

Mr. Hayes shared the following information with the board. Coach Dickey took over the volleyball program at Southeast in 2006. That year the team was able to accomplish the school's first winning season with a record of 26-19. That year the team reached the state playoffs for the first time and won the first round to advance to the region championship game. Since then, Coach Dickey and his teams have reached the state playoffs 5 out of 7 years and have advanced to the second round or beyond each of those years. The last two seasons have been particularly successful. The Raiders have back to back region championships, and they made it to the final 4 this season after being ranked in the top 3 throughout the year.

In Coach Dickey's 7 years as head coach at Southeast, he has a career record of 207-107 and an overall coaching record of 234-123. This year he became the 17th member of the 200 plus win club. Coach Dickey has won the region Coach of the Year honor 3 out of the past 7 years and has won that same honor one other time prior to coaching at Southeast.

Board Member Presentation

Outgoing board member, Gary Brock was presented a plaque for eight years of service and dedication to the students and the community of Whitfield County. Louis Fordham presented Gary the plaque along with cards that students and faculty had made for him. He thanked Gary for the great job he had done. Superintendent Hayes thanked Gary for all that he had done for the students of Whitfield County and that he will be missed. He said that Gary would call and up lift me at times when I really needed it. Gary told the board that everything he did was from the heart and for the students of Whitfield County. He said that every card and picture or anything he received from a student or faculty over his eight years he still has. He said that he will miss everyone but he wished Tony Stanley, the new board member, great success. He told the students that were in the audience to take pride in what you do. He also thanked his wife for being beside him and supporting him. At this time the audience stood to thank him for his service.

Hearing of Individuals

None

School Report

Northwest High School

School Council Report:

Britt Adams, principal of Northwest High School, introduced Kathy Swilling to give the School Council Report. Kathy told the board that she and her husband are business partners on the school council. They have a son that is in the 11th

grade at Northwest. She said that the council is an advocate for the school and they try to help answer questions or help if issues arise in the in the community. We feel that parent and the community need to be more involved by helping to solve educational problems, academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and be involved in the school decision-making process. Kathy thanked the board for the opportunity to come and share.

Mr. Adams told the board about Habitudes. He said that Northwest has been chosen to be a pilot school. It is about timeless character. He introduced Steven Smith, math teacher, to talk about this program. Steven said that this teaches key concepts. He said that you have to have good character to be a good leader. He told the board that it is very important for first year (freshmen) experience. This builds strong character, personal growth, self-care, taking initiative, commitment, time management, responsibility, and discipline. He said that we can teach leadership in a simple and brief period of time. It can generate great discussion. It provides visual images that help discussions and exercises that students can participate in together. It is a great way to learn and practice leadership. It teaches character and leadership principals through image, conversation and an experience. An example that Mr. Smith gave was Lance Armstrong who is a great athlete but he fell because of what he did. It is about being a better person. He thanked the board for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Adams introduced Josh Robinson, science teacher, to talk about Gizmos. Josh told the board that ExploreLearning.com offers online simulations for math and science education in grades 3-12. These are called Gizmos. He said that these are fun and easy to use and they help students develop a deep understanding of challenging concepts through inquiry and exploration. He said that they are great for small groups, individual study, and to use for your whole class. They are correlated to state curriculum standards, Common Core standards making them easy to integrate into your instructional time. He said that they are virtual manipulative but we call them Gizmos. Josh told the board that teachers have access to Explore Learning .com to help build lessons. The example that he gave was on Element Builder. Students also can go on line to Student Exploration on Element Builder. It builds lessons for them. Lauren Smith, student in Mr. Robinson's class, explained to the board how this helps to make sense of things that might be hard to understand. Josh told the board that this is a great visual picture for students. He thanked the board for the opportunity to share.

Britt Adams presented the board a packet with the following information:

- Implementation of the CCGPS
- Literacy Collaborative – this is very important to us and teachers are concerned about their students.
- AP Scores – we had 8 AP Scholars
- EOCT, SAT, and ACT Scores – he told the board that the SAT scores are down but the ACT are up.
- Attendance – last year we did not have an attendance policy. Glad we have one back in place.
- Discipline – Overall is down. Louis asked Britt why he thinks that has happened. Britt told the board that he thinks with Coahulla Creek coming on board it has cut down on the number of students and has made things a lot calmer. Just walking through the halls during class change they are not bumping into one another.
- Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage
- 2012-2013 Instructional Budget – he told the board that the budget has been cut about 45% and that they are down about 30 teachers.
- College and Career Readiness – only 25% of kids are prepared for college nationally/College 411

Britt told the board that there are great things going on at Northwest. He thanked the board for the chance to share. Mr. Hayes thanked them for coming and the great job they did.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Superintendent, Danny Hayes, recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below: Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2012 and November 26, 2012

Adoption of Agenda – December 3, 2012

Overnight Field Trip Request

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>	<u>Date for Request</u>
Southeast High School DECA	DECA State Competition – Atlanta, GA	February 28-Mar. 2, 2013
Northwest High School FFA	ABAC – Tifton, GA	January 10-11, 2013
Northwest High School Cross Country	State Competition – Carrollton, GA	November 9-10, 2012
Northwest High School Cheerleading Comp.	State Competition – Columbus, GA	November 8-10, 2012
Northwest High School FBLA	Required Conference – UGA Athens, GA	November 14-15, 2012
Westside Middle School	Intercession Trip to Cohutta Springs	April 13-May 2, 2013
Coahulla Creek High School Wrestling	Tournament – Gwinnett Civic Center Atlanta, GA	February 14-16, 2013
Coahulla Creek High School Wrestling	Tournament – Central Carrollton HS Carrollton, GA	February 1-2, 2013

Purchase Orders over \$25, 000.00

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ernie Morris Enterprises, Inc	Furniture/Valley Point Elementary	\$34,195.20

System Reports

Demographics

Eric Beavers, Communications Specialist, shared a presentation on Telling Our Story through Communications, Marketing, and Branding in Whitfield County Schools. The four things he shared are:

- Defining the audience – know your who
- Delivering the message – helping others hear our story
- Opportunities to improve – understanding, trust, permission, and support
- Moving forward - Building on a Tradition of Excellence
- Begin timeline in four phases

Eric told the board that half a million people have been on the system website. He asked the board if they had any questions. He thanked the board for the time to present.

Report Card

Audrey Williams, assistant superintendent Teaching and Learning, gave a report on Georgia High School Writing Test.

All Students:	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Did Not Meet	10	10
Meets	87	84
Exceeds	3	6

Financial Reports

General Funds and Capital Project Funds

Ron Hale, chief financial officer, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of October 31, 2012. Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the report as presented. Bill Worley moved approval and Gary Brock seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Audrey Williams introduced Jeff Storey and Larry Tripp to give a report on Work-Based Learning Rising Professionals. Jeff Storey told the board that they work with students who go into the work force for hands on learning job skills. This helps a student make career decisions, network with potential employers, select courses of study, and develop job skills relevant to future employment. Larry Tripp told the board that Rising Professionals is a unique partnership between

Whitfield County Schools and Dalton Public Schools and the Work-Based Learning programs and the Shaw Learning Academy. The goal of the seminar is to engage students with “soft skill” development that will help them as they grow in their careers and educational endeavors. We address topics such as the use of social media, interview skills, building a resume, financial management, and teamwork. We have over 200 students involved in this program. Mr. Hayes told them that we appreciate everything that they are doing. This program in Whitfield County has been recognized by the state as one of the best.

Operations

Mr. Hayes asked Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, if we had any information on the land appraisal. Mr. Schoen said we did not at this time but we should have it no later than this week.

Mr. Schoen told the board that we received the Coahulla Creek High School Polished Concrete Floor Settlement Agreement/Release. There was a deductive change order to EMJ Construction that reduces their contract sum by \$115,532.50. A check from Perkins + Will in the amount of \$25,000.00 and M.B. Kahn in the amount of \$25,000.00, both payable to Whitfield County Schools.

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board approve CCHS Polished Concrete Floor Settlement Agreement/Release. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services

Dr. Gilreath presented the following:

- First Reading to Change Board Policy: Fraud Prevention DIE

Dr. Gilreath told the board that this was recommended by the auditors.

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the First Reading of the Board Policy as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Dr. Gilreath provided the following information only to the board:

- Employee Internet Agreement – She told the board that we need to have in writing what they can and cannot do. She told the board that they do not have to vote on but she wants their input. She said it was okay by the lawyer. The board told they agreed.
- Charge Procedure and Collection

Elementary & Middle Schools

Elementary students have a limited charge privilege. If a student arrives at school without money, they are allowed up to 5 days of charges. If a child arrives at school without money for lunch and has reached the charge limit, he/she will be provided an alternate meal (such as a cheese sandwich and milk). Charge letters will be sent home with the students to notify parents of charges at the first negative balance and the alternative meal policy. Charges are not allowed for extras or ala carte items.

High Schools

High School students have a limited charge privilege. If a student arrives at school without money, they are allowed up to 3 days of charges. If a child arrives at school without money for lunch and has reached the charge limit, he/she will be provided an alternate meal (such as a cheese sandwich and milk). Charge letters will be sent home with the students to notify parents of charges at the first negative balance and the alternative meal policy. Charges are not allowed for extras or ala carte items.

INFORMATION FOR BOARD PROPOSED WCS SCHOOL NUTRITION CHARGE PROCEDURES

Rationale for requesting set procedure:

Excessive cafeteria charges presents a growing concern for the School Nutrition Department. As of 11/01/2012, we have \$73,000 in outstanding student and adult charges. Of course, we do not want any student in Whitfield County to go hungry but our Free and Reduced Program is available to any family in need. Our problem many times is giving parents

the “incentive” to fill out the proper paperwork to receive Free and Reduced Meals. For example, currently one of our high schools enforces a policy of **no** charges over \$5.00. This school currently has \$2397.00 in outstanding charges. Another one of our high schools does not enforce a charge policy and has \$11,000 in charges. A third high school does not enforce a charge policy currently and has \$9800.00 in charges.

A clear, consistent charge policy which might include the use of Magistrate Court and/or collection agencies should help alleviate the need for the collection process by staff. The School Nutrition staff and School Administrators spend many, many labor hours on collection attempts without significant results.

Louis said that he thinks this needs to be a system decision but he recommends not starting until January.

Approval of Personnel Changes

Personnel Recommendations

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, new hire, and other personnel changes in this action. Gary Brock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Dr. Gilreath presented the following:

Second Reading to Change Board Policy: Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences GCRB
Second Reading to Change Board Policy: Professional Personnel Leaves and Absences GBRI
Second Reading to Change Board Policy: Professional Personnel Recruitment GBC
Second Reading of Board Procedure/Regulation: Administration Regulation Homeless Students JBC(1)-R(1)

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Second Reading of the Board Policies as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

Dr. Audrey Williams told the board about the Next Step program. This is a grant offered by Dalton State College for high school seniors and provides opportunities for improvement of math, reading and English skills, exploration of career interests, development of work readiness and leadership skills, and options for transition to post –secondary institutions. She said that we will know in March if we got the grant.

Discussion of 2013 Board Meeting Calendar
This will be set and voted on at the next meeting on January 7, 2013.

Board Member Reports

The board members thanked Gary Brock again for the outstanding job he has done in his 8 years of service. Danny Parker, bus driver who died recently, was acknowledge for the great job he did and how much the kids loved him.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman