

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
March 4, 2013

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, March 4, 2013. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Manuel Morales, an 11th grade student at Coahulla Creek High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silent Reflection

Manuel Morales asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Manuel Morales shared with the board the great things that are going on at Coahulla Creek. He said that he gets great teacher support. He told the board that when he leaves Coahulla Creek he will be ready for college. He is part of the soccer team and loves playing that sport. He thanked the board for letting him share.

Recognitions and Presentations

The following certificates were presented:

Shelby Nesper, Gold Key Award for Scholastic Art & Writing. Susan Greer, Shelby's art teacher at Northwest High School, told the board that this is the highest level of achievement on the regional level. She said that about 7-10% of all regional submissions are recognized. She said that all of the art in Shelby's portfolio earned this award. Her art will be on exhibit at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, Ga.

Carlos Fraire won the State Wrestling Championship in the 220lb. weight division. Karey Williams, principal at Southeast High School, told the board that Carlos record is 53 and 1. She said that he has shown more dedication than any other athlete she has seen.

Connie Kopcsak, principal of Tunnel Hill Elementary School, was presented a certificate from the Georgia Department of Education for 2013 Title I Reward School, Highest-Performing School. Louis Fordham said that this is a Title I school among the 5% of Title I schools in the State that has the highest performance over three years for the "all students" group on the statewide assessments.

Mr. Fordham congratulated the students and Tunnel Hill Elementary for all of their great accomplishments.

School Report

Coahulla Creek High School

School Council Report

Stephanie Hungerpillar, Assistant Principal for Coahulla Creek High School, gave the school council report. Stephanie told the board that the council is made up of parents, teachers, and community business partners. She said our most important goal is to be a support for the school. We support our design principals, High Touch, High Tech, and High Expectations to guide the mission of CCHS. We have looked at the budget to help support the school so it is allocated in the most effective way. We want to support CCHS by focusing school efforts on students and their families. The school council has received information on the continued Professional Development on Common Core, Increase on Advanced Placement (students should plan on taking honors, AP, and dual credit college courses while attending CCHS) and Student Data. Stephanie thanked the board for their support.

School Report

Phillip Brown, principal at Coahulla Creek High School, gave the school report. Phillip told the board that the CCHS school goals are:

- Content and Substance – Teachers and administrators have a clear, consistent, and shared understanding of what students are expected to know and to be able to do at various grade levels. This understanding is consistent with such official statements of expectations as state standards and standards established by local boards. Teachers and administrators also have a reasonable assessment of student interest in the topics suggested by these expectations and standards.
- Safe Environment – Students and parents feel that the school as well as each classroom is a physically and psychologically safe place: success is expected and failure is understood as a necessary part of learning, there is mutual respect between and among faculty and students, and the fear of harm or harassment from fellow students and demeaning comments from teachers is negligible.

Phillip told the board that the following design principals are what guide the mission of the school:

- High Touch
 - Teachers and counselors are conducting parent conferences on academic expectations (120+)
 - Teachers and students have formed academic and social clubs and many have a community service component (30+)
 - CCHS is continuing to respond to student requests for additional opportunities (swim team, debate team , additional AP course)
 - Counseling intern continues to form student groups to teach students advocacy skills related to academics and social interaction
 - Tutoring program for math support classes with AP Calculus students
- High Tech
 - Electronic resources that allow students access to primary sources (16 databases)
 - Content specific resources including Vernier probes & software, digital prototyping tools, tablets, and computers (CNC, 3D, Laser Engraver)
 - Digital Learning Management Systems (Moodle & Schoology) is used to deliver content at home and school
 - Students are asking that we develop a course around emerging computer architecture and open source programming (Raspberry PI and Arduino) to promote micro manufacturing, electronics, APP design, and computer programming
 - Video students are broadcasting through web-based delivery system
- High Expectations
 - Teachers are designing instructional units mapped to common core and standardized test to ensure college & career preparedness
 - Design Days – Core Content teachers map and sequence the courses and are developing common assessments to ensure ALL students are experiencing high level assignments
 - CCHS is developing CCDHS design tools that will ensure teachers are using research based instructional strategies when leading students

- Increase the number of students participating in Dual Enrollment and AP Courses

At this time Phillip shared a video that the students had prepared about CCHS. He thanked the board for the opportunity to present.

Louis Fordham, Board Chairman, made the announcement of Superintendent Danny Hayes retirement effective March 31, 2013.

Hearing of Individuals

Ruby Wells, grandparent of a student at Northwest High School, told the board that something has got to be done about her grandson being bullied. She asked that the board take this seriously. Louis told Ms. Wells that we would follow up with her.

Lavern Damron, grandparent, told the board that his granddaughter went on a trip to Tybee Island and had a wonderful trip and great experience. He just wanted to let the board know that there are a lot of good things going on in Whitfield County Schools.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Louis Fordham recommended that an amendment be made to the agenda. Under Finance, we need to add Attachment 4.2, Title Ad Valorem Title Tax. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the amendment to the Agenda and the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2013, February 4, 2013, and February 25, 2013

Adoption of Agenda – March 4, 2013

Overnight Field Trip Request

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>	<u>Date for Request</u>
Southeast High School Wrestling	Competition –Macon, GA	February 14-16, 2013
Northwest High School Band	New York City, NY	March 25-29, 2013
Northwest High School FCCLA	State Leadership Meeting in Athens, GA (Classic Center)	March 14-16, 2013

Purchase Orders over \$25, 000.00

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ownbey Enterprises	Annual Estimate cost for fuel	\$352,533.01

System Reports

Demographics

Report Card

Financial Reports

General Funds and Capital Project Funds

Ron Hale, CFO, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of January 31, 2013. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the report as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Title Ad Valorem Title Tax

Ron Hale told the board that this replaces both Ad Valorem & Sales Tax on vehicles. He said that it starts at 6.5%. The state will true up Ad valorem tax for first couple of years. The Ad valorem continues on existing vehicles for the next 4 years. Ron told the board that he was sorry that he got this to them late but he did not get the information until late Friday afternoon. Ron Hale made the recommendation to the board that we start with same split as ESPLOST (based on enrollment) and review enrollment annually and adjust if percentage changes by 3%+ in any year. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the recommendation as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Audrey Williams presented the 2013-2014 calendar to the board for approval. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Operations

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, made a recommendation to the board allowing operations to secure a purchase order for the asbestos abatement that needs to take place at the old Eastbrook Middle School in order to demolish the structure. Mr. Schoen recommended Envirollogical Engineering of Atlanta, Georgia as the contractor for this project. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the recommendation as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services

Dr. Judy Gilreath, assistant superintendent for support services, recommended the board approve the amended contract for Infinite Campus as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Personnel Changes

Personnel Recommendations

Louis Fordham 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. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

New Business

Board Member Reports

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
March 14, 2013

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 14, 2013. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Rodney Lock – was late and joined board members during executive session.

Others present:

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

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members adopt the agenda as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0

Executive Session

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel and personnel only. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

The Board discussed the personnel recommendations and personnel only.

Adjournment of Executive Session

The board members having taken no action in executive session adjourned Executive Session at 4:52 p.m. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Return to Regular Session

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board amend Danny Hayes contract to Advisor to the new Superintendent. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board except the contract of the new superintendent, Dr. Judy Gilreath beginning on March 14, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014. She will be paid a base annual salary of \$140,000.00 and \$600.00 a month for transportation. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
Valley Point Middle School
March 25, 2013

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, March 25, 2013 at Valley Point Middle School. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

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

Also present:

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

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Judy Gilreath told the board that there is a correction to the agenda. Instead of Valley Point Elementary presenting it should be Valley Point Middle. Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members adopt the agenda as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0

Pledge of Allegiance

Cindy Dobbins, principal at Cohutta Elementary School, introduced Barrett and Brayden Barbre, 5th and 1st graders, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

Student Inspirations

Kelly Stuart, 7th grade Language Arts teacher at Valley Point Middle, introduced four of her students. Timber Peterson, Ashley Parrish, Macy Stephenson, and Josiah Hastey. She shared Timber and Josiah's Reading CRCT scores from spring 2012. Josiah showed a 26% increase and Timber showed a 22% increase. She said that she is very proud of them for this accomplishment but she feels the important thing too is getting to know your students and the things that interest them. She shared a few things about each student that she has learned.

- Timber Peterson – Ms. Stuart said that he notices things that need to be done. Things that need to be done in the classroom. He is a motivator.
- Macy Stephenson – Ms. Stuart said that she is a cheerleader and she excelled on her writing exam. She expresses herself well.
- Josiah Hastey – Ms. Stuart said that he is a tea drinking, Duck Dynasty fan. She said that he has great stories to tell.
- Ashley Parrish – Ms. Stuart said that she is kind and she has overcome obstacles in her life and works hard.

The students had the following things to say about Ms. Stuart:

- Always listens
- She is inspiring

- She is like a second mom
- She knows what to say when you are sad. She is a sweet teacher

Ms. Stuart thanked the board for the opportunity to teach at Valley Point Middle. She said that it is a great place and the students inspire her every day. She said that she has the best job.

School Reports

Cohutta Elementary School

School Council Report

Cindy Dobbins introduced Tina Barbre to give the school council report. Tina told the board that she is the president of the school council at Cohutta. She said that Cohutta is a great community and they are very proud of their school. We always feel welcomed. She said that the council is very happy with the staff at Cohutta and the teachers know them on a personal basis. She talked about some of the good things going on at Cohutta.

1. Prepare students learning in technology.
2. The new Archery Program. This is through a grant.
3. Olweus Bullying Program.
4. Small group intervention in the mornings.
5. Odyssey
6. Saturday lunches – they send home food on the weekends for 130 students.
7. Cameras – have been installed at the school for security.

Mrs. Barbre now wants to talk about some of the needs that the council has discussed.

1. We need to see text so we know what they are studying from.
2. School lunches – over processed food.
3. Septic tank problems
4. Caution light and turn lane into school.
5. Install a buzzer system into school.

She thanked the board for the opportunity to give the school council report. She said that she is very happy with Cohutta and invited the board to visit.

School Report

Cindy Dobbins shared a video, A Day at Cohutta. The video had the following information:

- Clap Out – program on Monday mornings when the whole school comes together to share personalities and accomplishments. Two students from each classroom are chosen to run down the red carpet and clap everyone's hands. Great motivation.
- Intervention groups – based on the needs of the students.
- Designing learning experiences. Hands on experiences that helps students with their learning process in the classroom.
- CCGPS Frameworks – to teach the way the GaDOE gave us. Very engaging and rigorous work.
- Reading Recovery and Literacy – Reading and Writing work together. The students receive 30 minute lessons everyday designed to meet their individual needs.
- Reaching our goals through MAP and Odyssey.

Cindy thanked the board for the time to share the great things going on at Cohutta.

Valley Point Middle

School Council Report

Robyn Baggett, principal at Valley Point Middle, welcomed everyone to Valley Point. She introduced Donna Cole to give the school council report. Donna told the board that her child moved to Whitfield County Schools this year as a 6th grader at Valley Point Middle. She said that she is very happy about his future and glad that he is in Whitfield County. She gave a report on a few things that the council has done this year and information that Ms. Baggett has shared with them:

1. Fall Festival – money earned has been used for improvements on school.

2. Improvements on school – painting and updating areas of school.
3. System Dashboard – Ms Baggett met with the council and went over the Dashboard.
4. Charter Schools – Ms. Baggett met with the council to inform them on the information about Charter schools.
5. Stem Classes
6. School instruction
7. Setting school goals – assessments and how they help set the school goals.

Donna told the board that a great need in the school is the plumbing and sewer problems. She said that it is really bad. They have had to move classrooms and close bathrooms. She said that the smell gets really bad. Donna said that they have received positive feedback from the Raider Nation. She thanked the board for the opportunity to share the school council report.

School Report

Robyn Baggett gave the board a notebook with Valley Point Middle School Data 2012-2013 with the following information:

- AIR Time (Acceleration Intervention Remediation) this is based on the MAP testing data. Robyn introduced Chelsea Elrod and 8th grade student. She said that Chelsea is in the acceleration program and came to her with a concern. She told Ms. Baggett that she wants to be a science teacher but does not know how. She said that she wants to be challenged more. Ms. Baggett introduced Chelsea to explain some of the things she is doing. Chelsea told the board that she is now designing work and actually teaching it under her teacher's supervision. She has directed the field trips at the creek and taught a lesson on erosion. She told the board that she teaches in the classroom and loves doing it Ms. Baggett said that she is doing a great job and she is a great student. Ms. Baggett introduced Davidson Reynolds, 6th grade student who gave up connections for "AIR TIME". He told the board that he needs the "AIR TIME" to get ahead. The reason to get ahead is so he can be challenged. This really helps him. Robyn told the board that MAP helps us to identify those students who need help and design the work around that.
- MAP (Measure of Academics Progress) – Testing that is done three times a year and helps identify a student's strengths and weaknesses.
- ACCESS for ELLs Data
- CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index)
- Technology Data
- Attendance Data
- Discipline Data
- Parent Contact Data
- Professional Learning

Robyn thanked the board for the opportunity to share. She told them that they are always welcomed at Valley Point Middle and that they appreciate everything that they do. Louis thanked Robyn and the students for the report.

System Reports

Teaching and Learning

Operations

Richard Schoen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, told the board that the custodial contract with Southern Management began in 2006. He said that the decision to contract services out was not made for cost savings but it was because we could not keep custodial help. The original contract price was calculated by 0.97 X 12 X sq. footage. The last contract was calculated by 0.89 X 12 X sq. footage. This reduced the cost by \$175,000.00. The last workman's comp claim was in 2007. Mr. Schoen told the board that the contract ends June 30, 2013. He asked the board if they want to put this out for bid or roll contract forward. Louis Fordham said that he would like a report back from principals letting us know if they are happy with the services or not. We need a school by school assessment. We would like the report by the next board meeting.

Support Services

Finance

Ron Hale, Chief Officer of Finance, told the board that the certified health insurance with the new state formula for next year will be \$1,016.00 per member. This will cost the system 1.1 million dollars.

Review Board Agenda

Monday, April 15, 2013

Other Business

Louis Fordham told the board members that he hopes they had a chance to look over the copy of the Archway Community Survey that he gave them. Louis told the board that he thought it was a great survey and that we had good responses and areas where we need to improve. He urged the board members to take time to read the survey.

Executive Session

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session for the discussion of personnel and real-estate. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Others present:

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 1:07 p.m. Thomas Barton moved approval to return to regular session and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary