

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
April 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, April 15, 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**

Landon Conley, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Varnell Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence and to please remember two of our own, Mandy Locke, Robyn Baggett, and their families.

**Inspiration**

Citalli Ramirez, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Varnell Elementary, gave the inspiration. Citalli told the board that the greatest thing for her is living the American Dream. She came to Varnell in 2011 as a new student and she spoke very little English. She said that the teachers have been great and her English is getting better every day. She said that she loves to see people with healthy teeth and beautiful smiles and that one day she hopes to be a dentist. She said when people have pretty teeth they want to smile more and this makes them happy with themselves. She said that Varnell has given her a great start. She knows that she will go on and finish high school and college. She thanked the board.

**Recognitions and Presentations**

Certificates were presented to the following students for placing in the Regional and State Technical Fair:

Austin Wade, Northwest High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Region in Web 2.0 Internet Applications, Grades 11-12.  
Laura Beth Manley, Southeast High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Region and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in State for Digital Photography, Grades 11-12.  
Shayla Bryson, Southeast High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Region and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in State for Multimedia Applications, Grades 9-10.  
Myranda Truelove, Southeast High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Region and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in State for Web 2.0 Internet Application. Grades 9-10.

Certificates were presented to the following students for placing in the Regional and State FCCLA Competitions:

Herlinda Rodriquez, Southeast High School, Gold at Region and Silver at State in Entrepreneurship

Selena Garza, Southeast High School, Gold at Region and Silver at State in Recycle Redesign  
Emily Caldwell, Northwest High School, Bronze at Region in Focus on Children  
Susann Quinn, Northwest High School, Bronze at Region in Focus on Children

Southeast High School, 2013 AP Access and Support School

Leigh Ann Noll, Advanced Placement Teacher (AP), received the certificate on behalf of Southeast High School. AP Access and Support schools includes those with at least 30% of their AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30% of all AP exams earning score of 3 or higher.

### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

### **School Report**

Varnell Elementary

School Council Report

Keith Parham, Chairman of the Varnell School Council, gave the report. Keith told the board that the council is made up of parents, teachers, and community business partners and that there are a total of 11 members. He said that the council has continued a school grounds beautification project that was started last year. The following shared information with the council:

- School personnel – MAP, CRCT, intervention strategies, student data, technology, ESOL Program, and Media Program.
- Dr. John Gullledge – discussed Complete College Georgia Initiative
- Danny Hayes – provided legislative updates

As a council member we feel a responsibility to share educational information with other parent and the community. We have been updated on the following:

- School demographics
- Addition of classes
- Newly purchase student technology
- Learning Odyssey
- Reading Recovery
- Literacy Collaborative
- On-site field trips

School goals are reviewed and the Council assists with providing ideas and/or brainstorming possible resources. Our council members assume the role as school and system education advocate within our community and state. Parent involvement continues to be a valuable component which determines social, academic, and emotional health of our students. We are proud to report that our School Council has acted upon our learning and collaborated with school and community groups in an effort to provide more streamlined opportunities to support the needs of all stakeholders. Emphasis is placed on student growth at Varnell. CRCT, MAP, ACCESS, Writing Portfolios, and classroom performance provide data to support individual growth in content areas. Council members volunteer additional time as tutors, mentors, lunch buddies, Career Day presenters, and historical advocates. Varnell School Council supports this school's successes and accepts its' challenges as we continue to review the needs of our children. We understand our roles as leaders and acting liaisons between school and community. We continue to celebrate our successful learners. Keith thanked the board for their support and welcomes suggestions or comments from them that would help us meet the visions and goals of tomorrow.

School Report

Lisa Jones, principal at Varnell Elementary School, gave the board a pamphlet, Learning Around The Clock. It contains information about the following:

- Demographics

- CRCT Data 2012 for grades 3-5
- MAP Data
- Writing Data

We assess periodically to monitor our students' level of achievement to help us customize instruction for individual student success. Lisa introduced teachers who presented a website sharing things they do as they Learn Around The Clock.

- Time for Math – Nancy Wilhoite, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, shared with the board a story that she used to teach math
  - Sharing Pumpkin Seeds - We read the story How Many Seeds in Pumpkin by Margaret McNamara. Based on the information from the book, the students estimated and justified their estimates about the number of seeds in each of 3 pumpkins.
  - The students worked together to illustrate how to share pumpkin seeds fairly with a group of children.
  - In this lesson, the students collected and arranged the seeds into equal groups. They were encouraged to discuss why they felt their way was the most efficient way to group the seeds.
  - As the lesson progressed, they independently discovered the concept of remainder.
- Time for Writing K-2 – Libby Satterfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, shared different ways of writing.
  - Our classrooms are places of discovery. These new ideas and experiences wind up in our rooms and are remembered through writing. Our subject matter is limitless. We write up experiments, write out math problems, and write down stories.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade letter writing at the post office.
  - As a group my ELs created their own books detailing facts/ vocabulary they learned from the author of The Night Sky.
  - Student Responses: “Big Book day is the BEST day ever!” “I love to read my page.” “I am special. I can write and illustrate books.
  - The students at Varnell Elementary were given a writing assignment to create a story about a pet. The faculty and staff at Varnell analyzed the writings for common trends among the samples (below grade level, on grade level, exemplar). Teachers then developed mini lessons to target areas of need reflected in student writing samples
- Time for Science/Social Studies – Mandy Edmonson, 4th grade teacher, shared with the board ways they teach science and social studies
  - We accentuate Science and Social Studies curriculum by incorporating them in all subject areas, including Math and Language Arts.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers McMurray and Bartlett connect Language Arts and Social Studies
  - Mrs. Silva incorporated science and reading into Readers’ Theatre.
  - Nikki Barrett connects science with writing.
- Time for Language Arts – Janie Vaden, Media Specialist, shared how reading is the basic for all learning and writing. Read stories to your class. Music teacher reads music. She explained how music helps students learn to read. She told the board about a teacher from Coahulla Creek High School who has a 17 year old student in a self-contained setting whose academic level is around 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He asked Ms. Vaden if she had some books across different subjects to use with his student. He wanted to borrow books from her media center. Janie told the board that she sent him several books to read. The student sent her a thank you note and asked if she could send him more books to read.
- Others Open our Hearts – Sally Creswell, Kindergarten Teacher, told the board that at Varnell, we welcome the community with open arms to come through our doors and learn with us. In turn, we open our hearts and give back to the community. Varnell staff and other community members come together to provide Christmas for Varnell students! She told the board that the Coahulla Creek Baseball Players read to the students. Ford Drive 4 UR Community Fundraiser that was a great success. Sally told the board that there are always Open Doors, Open Arms, and Open Hearts at Varnell Elementary.

Lisa thanked the board for the opportunity to share and invited the board to visit Varnell at any time.

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

Louis Fordham recommended that a change be made to the agenda. Vote on a Student Tribunal Appeal. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the change to the Agenda and the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2013, March 14, 2013, and March 25, 2013

### Adoption of Agenda – April 15, 2013

### Overnight Field Trip Request

| <u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>                     | <u>Activity or Request</u>             | <u>Date for Request</u> |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Coahulla Creek High School Golf                     | Mossy Creek Golf Course, Cleveland, GA | March 22-23, 2013       |
| North Whitfield Middle School 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Tour Atlanta, GA                       | May 2-3, 2013           |
| Southeast High School Soccer                        | Habersham Central HS, Habersham, GA    | April 5-6, 2013         |
| Northwest High School Track                         | Hugh Mills Stadium, Albany, GA         | May 9-11, 2013          |
| Southeast High School FFA                           | FFA FCCLA Center, Covington, GA        | June 10-14, 2013        |

### Purchase Orders over \$25, 000.00

| <u>Vendor</u>           | <u>Description</u>                   | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Shumate Mechanical, LLC | Install flow control cartridges@CCHS | \$26,220.00   |

### **System Reports**

### **Demographics**

### **Report Card**

Dr. Audrey Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, presented the following chart on 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing scores. She told the board that 2007 is when the new standards rolled out. Louis Fordham said that we are still not where we want to be.

**Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard**

| Whitfield<br>County Schools | Combined Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard for Grade 8 Writing |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |               |                          |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|                             | 2007   | 2008                 | 2009                 | 2010                 | 2011                 | 2012                 | 2013                 | STATE<br>2013 | Change from<br>2007-2013 |
|                             | Meets and<br>Exceeds   | Meets and<br>Exceeds | Meets and<br>Exceeds | Meets and<br>Exceeds | Meets and<br>Exceeds | Meets and<br>Exceeds | Meets and<br>Exceeds |               |                          |
| Student Groups              |  |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |               |                          |
| All Students                | 60   | 69                   | 69                   | 70                   | 79                   | 79                   | 78                   | 82            | 18                       |
| Regular Program             | 65   | 74                   | 75                   | 75                   | 83                   | 84                   | 83                   | 86            | 18                       |
| Special Education           | 10   | 22                   | 19                   | 24                   | 33                   | 34                   | 21                   | 47            | 11                       |
| EL                          | 22   | 24                   | 13                   | 20                   | 54                   | 57                   | 57                   | 51            | 35                       |
| Asian                       |  |                      |                      |                      |                      | 83                   | 82                   | 91            |                          |
| Black                       | 41   | 56                   | 56                   | 57                   | 74                   | 74                   | 52                   | 75            | 11                       |
| Hispanic                    | 53   | 55                   | 69                   | 64                   | 80                   | 80                   | 77                   | 82            | 24                       |
| Native American             |  |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |               |                          |
| White                       | 63   | 76                   | 69                   | 73                   | 79                   | 78                   | 79                   | 88            | 16                       |
| Multi Ethnic                | 62   | 71                   | 73                   | 86                   | 79                   | 82                   | 76                   | 86            | 14                       |
| Female                      | 72   | 79                   | 81                   | 82                   | 88                   | 87                   | 89                   | 89            | 17                       |
| Male                        | 47   | 59                   | 56                   | 61                   | 71                   | 71                   | 69                   | 76            | 22                       |

### **Financial Reports**

### General Funds and Capital Project Funds

Ron Hale, CFO, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of February 28, 2013. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the report as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

#### Resolution: Dalton-Whitfield County Land Bank Authority

Ron Hale told the board that this resolution authorizes the Dalton-Whitfield County Land Bank Authority, Inc. to extinguish school district taxes on tax delinquent properties. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the resolution as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Superintendent's Reports**

#### Teaching & Learning

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, introduced the new Teaching and Learning team for the school year 2013-2014:

- Dr. Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent
- Merry Boggs, Director of Elementary Curriculum
- Michelle Caldwell, Director of Middle School Curriculum
- Tom Appelman, Director of High School Curriculum
- Meg Baker, Coordinator ESOL

Dr. Gilreath said that we are excited about this new team.

Dr. Audrey Williams told the board that Georgia celebrates 'Week of the Young Child' April 15-21, 2013. The week will end with a celebration at Rock Bridge Wink Theater on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The program begins at 2:00 and will end with a reception honoring the teachers of our youngest children.

Louis Fordham said that he and Judy and Danny Crutchfield and Dr. Jim Hawkins, board chairman and superintendent for Dalton Public Schools, had been at UGA all day today where our community is one of four communities being recognized with the Four for the Future award. This is for our Literacy Initiative. Louis said that we are very proud of the way our community has worked together.

#### Operations

#### Resolution Concerning Boards Phasing Out Use and Ownership of the Current Eastbrook Middle School Gym

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, presented the following resolution to the board. The phasing out use and ownership of the current Eastbrook Middle School gymnasium through transfer of ownership, sale or demolition of stated facility. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the resolution as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Mr. Schoen gave a report on Southern Management that the board had requested from the work session. They wanted a report from the principals at each school letting them know if they are happy with the cleaning services or not. They wanted a school by school assessment. Mr. Schoen told the board that they heard back from 16 schools. He said that there were 11 positive with some concerns, 2 satisfactory, and 3 negative reports. Louis Fordham said that he would like reports back from the other 7 schools and Mr. Schoen could give a complete report at the next board meeting.

#### Support Services

#### Student Dress Code

Dr. Gilreath stated that the changes that were made are highlighted in black. This is a yearly review. Superintendent Gilreath recommended the board approve the revised Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12 for 2013-2014. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Student Discipline Procedure

Dr. Gilreath stated that the changes that were made are highlighted in black. This is a yearly review.

Superintendent Gilreath recommended the board approve the revisions to the Student Discipline Handbook for 2013-2014. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### CDW Contract for E-Rate

Superintendent Gilreath recommended the board approve the CDW Contract for E-Rate. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock 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. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Student Tribunal Appeal Decision**

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

#### **Previous Business**

#### **New Business**

#### **Board Member Reports**

Louis Fordham said that at the awards luncheon that they attended today the speaker said that communities have to work together to be able to come together as a community. He wants to compliment our board and the leadership of Whitfield County Schools.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman