

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
May 6, 2013

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, May 6, 2013. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:33 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.

Dr. Gilreath recommended that an amendment be made to the agenda. She told the board that we added another overnight fieldtrip request and attachment 2.1, Bus Request under Consent Agenda Items. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the amendments to the Agenda. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Macy Sewell, kindergarten student at New Hope Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

### **Inspiration**

Isaiah Espinoza, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at New Hope Elementary, gave the inspiration. Isaiah shared an essay that he had written about Overcoming. It was about his mom coming to the U.S. when she was 5 yrs old. Her mom wanted the American Dream for her five children. Her mom left the dad a note stating that she was taking the children. She headed for the border. The journey was very tough. Isaiah said that his mom was told to get in the car with complete strangers by herself. She was scared because she thought she was being sold (these things happen in Mexico). She ended up in Lufkin, Texas where she was raised. She eventually was reunited with her mom and siblings, but she missed her dad and the life that she felt like she had lost. She could not speak or understand English so she was made fun of and told to go back to Mexico. As she grew up she started to understand that she was illegal and she wanted to do something about it. She worked hard learning English and she excelled in school. She taught herself to read English too. At age 13 she got a job to help her mom. She took a bus alone to Houston, Texas to the immigration office to begin her 20 year citizenship process. She graduated with high honors. She went to college and graduated with honors and was recognized on the dean's list every year. This past April 10<sup>th</sup> she received her citizenship. She was excited and said it was worth the wait. His mom works hard and she has five children too. She has struggled and broke free from a past that has kept her prisoner. Isaiah stated that he choose to write about his mom because she has overcome hatred, discrimination, racial profiling, and humiliation. She says that she has an inner strength that only God could give her. She teaches us life lessons and tells us that not only do we represent us and family, but we also represent God. She said that God has blessed her with five beautiful angels and in her life she did five thing right, us. He thanked the board for letting him share his essay. The board thanked Isaiah and congratulated his mom on her citizenship.

## **Recognitions and Presentations**

Georgia Scholar – Anna Stevens, Northwest High School

Governor Honors Finalist:

Elizabeth Hayes, Northwest High School for Agriscience/Biotechnology

Miranda Helton, Northwest High School for Social Studies

James Hoskins, Northwest High School for Music/Voice (Baritone)

Xiangyu Zhong, Northwest High School for Mathematics

Roberto Duarte, Southeast High School for Theatre Design

Duke TIP Honorees:

Katherine Walker (BES), Shaylen Paige (DES), Daiman Banta, Taylor Brown, Katherine Day, Isha Mittal, and Taylor Withrow (NHES), Jorge Contreras, Sarah Lynch, and Christian Dean (PGES), Tyler Branson, Kate Burton, and Zackery Hollis (THES), Ava Barlow and Sam Gazaway (WES), Rodrigo Paramo, Shyan Tittle, Caleb Robertson, Raul Garcia, Michael Jones, and Bryan Gage Moss (EMS)

FCCLA:

Kaige Dodson, Saila Chadwick, and Edwinn Fraire, Culinary Team won 1<sup>st</sup> in Region and Bronze at State.

Belinda Patterson won Bronze at State for Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation

## **Hearing of Individuals**

Robert Paschall – He stated that there was an article that was printed in the Daily Citizen News earlier in the month stating that Coahulla Creek was suppose to cost 30 million and ended up costing 43 million. He wanted to know why it ended up costing so much more. The board was not aware of that article and Christopher Smith, Daily Citizen Reporter who was at the meeting, stated that there was nothing in the article about that. He was not sure what article Mr. Paschall was referring to.

## **School Report**

New Hope Elementary

School Report

Brinda Clayton, principal at New Hope Elementary School, gave the board a Summary: Overview and Key Facts Sheet. It contains information about the following:

- Student Enrollment
- CRCT Data 2010-2012 for grades 3-5
- 5<sup>th</sup> Writing Data
- MAP Data

New Hope designs lessons to teach the rigorous curriculum based on the CCGPS as they address the individual needs and abilities of each student, including their social and emotional needs. We believe in teaching our students to work well with others, and we offer many opportunities for them to learn in groups.

New Hope Elementary has diligently worked this year to track student progress and the progress of the school through the following strategies:

- Lesson Plans
- Classroom Observations
- Student Work
- MAP Data
- AIMS Web
- Collaboration Meetings
- Data Meetings

#### Areas of Accomplishments

- Title I Distinguished School for 9 years
- We met our AYP Benchmarks for 11 years from 2001-2012
- 31% Percentage of teachers with SIOP Endorsement
- 18% Percentage of teacher with Gifted Endorsement
- Implemented a new reading framework in kindergarten called SOAR (Self-Extending Opportunities for All Readers) designed by NHE teachers.
- Updated technology for all instructional laptops, added ELMO document cameras to all classrooms, and increased classroom technology to 4 units per room.

#### Areas of Focus

- Increase the percentage of students meeting and exceeding math test to above 90%
- Increase the percentage of students meeting and exceeding writing test to above 90%
- Increase the percentage of students are reading in all classrooms to raise the level of comprehension moving students from meets to exceed on assessments.
- Increase reading comprehension skills for all students by improving our teaching methods and sharing teaching ideas.

#### Areas of Challenges

- Transition between GPS to CCGPS in the area of math.
- Changing of demographics and ensuring that teachers are educated in the different cultures so each child's needs are met.

Brinda told the board that one of NHE goals was to raise the level of comprehension in reading. We implemented a new framework around this and piloted it in a kindergarten classroom. At this time Brinda introduced Courtney Buckelew, kindergarten teacher at NHE. Courtney told the board that SOAR (Self-extending Opportunities for All Readers) is teaching students how to learn to read through making rich connections, problem solving, and thinking about meaning when reading. This has to impact parents as well. We are introducing the different levels of reading. She called Macy Sewell, kindergarten student, to read. She said that Macy started at level 5 and is now reading at level 16. Macy read, *The Work Helicopter*. This book is a Rigby Leveled book. After Macy read Ms. Buckelew told the board that Macy was making her own corrections. She thanked Macy for doing a great job. The board thanked Macy too. Brittany Sewell, Macy's mother, shared with the board the change that they had seen in their daughter's reading. She said that we have watched her grow. It is so exciting watching her advance to the different Reading levels. She loves to go in her room and read a book right by herself. We continue to ask her questions about what she has read. Her comprehension is so much better and she loves the pictures in the books. It is like she wants to read more and more. She thanked the board for the support that they give the schools. Brinda introduced Laurie Harless, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Laurie told the board that she started this year with the lowest 15 readers in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She wanted to know what she could do to help these students. She formed groups and began this same teaching procedure. She said that in the small groups the students can read similar levels of texts and they have similar reading behaviors. She said that the collaboration between the teachers have helped with the problem solving. She said as the theory of how to teach reading in the classroom evolves, we believe we must take it to the next level by training parents how to read with their child at home while keeping a focus on books that provide meaning. Brinda introduced Denise Langford, Reading Recovery teacher. Denise said that after the Reading Recovery there were a lot of holes. She said the Guided Reader Program with the Level Readers has been great. They are great meaning driven books. She said that we use prompts. We knew that the parents need training so NHE wanted to build successful readers through a home school partnership. We held a Kindergarten Parent Training. She gave the board a copy of the pamphlet that was given out at the training. Denise told the board that Meg Baker, Coordinator for Teaching & Learning, translated in Spanish. At this training, parents were given a packet of free material to be able to help their children. The areas that they covered at this training were:

- Letter Sorting – an activity that fosters the development of automaticity and independent letter recognition.
- Phonemic Awareness – use magnetic boards and letters. Students will gain deeper understanding of how letters are used to make words, and words are used to make sentences.
- Strategies you can use to help your child problem solve text.
  - Look at the picture
  - Get your lips ready

- Think about what would make sense
- Read the sentence again and get the first part started
- Stretch out the word
- Chunk the Word
- Try it again
- Ask for help

Denise told the board that we need a variety of books with different publishers. This would allow more variety during our reading group time. She thanked the board for the opportunity to share and their support.

Brinda Clayton also wanted to thank the board for the chance to work for Whitfield County Schools. She said it has been a great experience for her and she appreciates everything. Brinda is retiring this year. The board thanked Brinda for her service to the students of Whitfield County.

#### School Council Report

Brinda Clayton introduced Matthew Gallegly, chairman of the NHE school council, to give the report. Mr. Gallegly told the board that Brinda will be missed. He said that we appreciate her for all that she has done. Mr. Gallegly said that we have engaged members on our council. He said that Brinda has helped us learn about our school and kept us very informed. We have been updated on facility upgrades. Mr. Gallegly said that Mr. Gandhi Vaughn, a member of the council, spoke to the board earlier in the year about the current Out-of-Zone policy. He said that this is important to this council and would hope to see a change. They will continue to have conversation with the board about this matter. Mr. Gallegly thanked the board for their time.

#### Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the change to the Agenda and the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2013

#### Adoption of Agenda – May 6, 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 FFA	Macon Centreplex, Macon GA	April 25-27, 2013
Coahulla Creek High School (Girls Varsity Basketball)	UGA, Athens, GA	June 14-16, 2013
Coahulla Creek High School Girls Track	State Track Meet Hugh Mills Stadium, Albany GA	May 8-9, 2013
NWGCCA FCCLA Leadership Retreat	Beth Plummer's Lake House Cedar Bluff. AL	May 31-June 2, 2013

#### Bus Request

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>	<u>Date for Request</u>
Dalton Shrine Club	5 <sup>th</sup> grade students to Shrine Circus J.E. Miller Park Marietta, GA	May 4, 2013
Whitfield County 4-H	4-H Camp Rock Eagle Eatonton, GA	June 10-14, 2013
Girl Scout Camp	Girl Scout Camp Misty Mountain	June 10-14, 2013

#### 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 March 31, 2013. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the report as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Ron Hale presented the FY14 Budget Outlook. The following dates are for the proposed budget hearings and adoption:

- Budget Hearing – Regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
- Budget Consideration/Passage – Called Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

Copies of the budget will be posted on the website and available for review at the Central Office Building (COB) when the hearing schedule is advertised.

## **Superintendent's Reports**

Teaching & Learning

Operations

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent for operations, told the board at the September 2012 board meeting, following the transportation disaster, at the May board meeting we would present to the board and assurance that routes were complete for 2013-2014 and that the software system was fully functioning. All of what we promised is ready. At this he presented Mike Ewton, Director of Transportation, to present the presentation of the system:

- Bus Routes and Routing System
  - Will be the same at the beginning of 2013-2014 as the end of this school year.
  - Communication
    - Parents - Online Stop Locator, Parent Hotlines, Schools, Public Information.
    - Schools - Online Stop Locator, View of Routing System, Manual “Quick-find” backup on Share Point.
  - Bus Assignments - Buses will be assigned to routes and not to individual drivers.
  - Variables:◦ Stop Locator during high volume times◦ Student Information Data
- Transportation Efficiencies FY2013
  - Driver Input on Routing Maximization
  - Routing System Implementation = Visibility of Planned Routes
  - Dead-head Minimized
  - Consolidated Routes
  - Combined Routes
  - Additional Corner Stops
  - Competition Trip Budgets for MS and HS
  - 100-Gallon Fuel Tanks on New Buses = fewer trips to the pumps
  - Minimizing Idling
  - New buses average 25 to 35% better fuel economy
- Fuel Consumption Comparison 2011/2012 vs. 2012-2013 School year
- YTD Diesel Consumption Comparison
  - FY 2012 July thru April 218,234 gallons
  - FY 2013 July thru April 197,190 gallons
  - -9.31%
- Summary Of
  - Average diesel savings of 132 gallons per school day as compared to last year
  - Total YTD gallons saved: 20,324 (9.31%)◦ \$69,101 (based on average cost of \$3.40 /gallon)
  - Projected fuel savings: 23, 500 gallons (9.5%)◦ \$79,900 (based on average cost of \$3.40 / gallon)

Mike Ewton introduced Rick Holsomback as the new Director of Transportation. Louis Fordham told Mr. Ewton that this was a much better ending for transportation than start.

Mr. Schoen presented the Storm Water Agreements for the following schools:

Cedar Ridge Elementary

Eastbrook Middle School

Coahulla Creek High School.

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Storm Water Agreements for Cedar Ridge Elementary, Eastbrook Middle, and Coahulla Creek High Schools. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Mr. Schoen told the board that he received reports from all of the schools on Southern Management. We received 7 positive, 13 satisfactory, and 3 negative.

Support Services

### **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 Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Previous Business**

### **New Business**

- First Reading of Change in Board Policy EEE: Wellness Program. Dr. Gilreath said that we had to make changes to bring policy into compliance with USDA requirements.

### **Board Member Reports**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF  
CALLED BOARD MEETING  
May 13, 2013

The called board meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on May 13, 2013. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton  
Louis Fordham  
Rodney Lock  
Tony Stanley  
Bill Worley

Others present:

Judy Gilreath  
Carolyn Weaver

Also present:

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members adopt the agenda as presented. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0

**Executive Session**

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel and personnel only. Tony Stanley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**Adjournment of Executive Session**

The board members having taken no action in executive session adjourned Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**Return to Regular Session**

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board approve personnel as discussed in executive session. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman