

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
October 14, 2013

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on October 14, 2013. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton

Louis Fordham

Tony Stanley

Bill Worley

Rodney Lock arrived few minutes late and joined them in Executive Session.

Others present:

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent

Rhonda Yim

Mike Ewton

Eric Beavers

Carolyn Weaver

Adoption of Agenda

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

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel and sale of real estate. Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Adjournment

The board members having taken no action in executive session adjourned Executive Session at 5:58 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

October 14, 2013

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, October 14, 2013. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:30 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	Audrey Williams
Karey Williams	Wanda Phillips
Rhonda Yim	Daniel Theis
Mike Ewton	Carolyn Weaver
Eric Beavers	

Also present:

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

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Gilreath recommended that an amendment be made to the agenda. She told the board that under New Business we need to add offer on property at GA 2 and Cleveland Hwy. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the amendment to the agenda and to adopt the agenda as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Emily Newberry, 12th grader at Southeast High School, led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Julie Stafford, 12th grader at Southeast High School gave the inspiration. Julie told the board that in her Writer's Workshop class at Southeast, they were given an assignment to develop a presentation around an article that dealt with Success. She said that she decided to do hers on the success of failure. She said it shocked her to learn that failure is part of the key to success. She said that every failure that we encounter in life is a stepping stone that brings us closer to our goals that we hope to achieve. We can gain experience that will lead to success. Julie told the board that many successful people have experienced failure in their lives and have learned from it. She said that we are scared to fail so because of this we put aside lifelong dreams in fear that we will never achieve them. Julie said that we must live for now. We must believe that our dreams will become a reality and that we will be successful. Julie said that success comes through hard work and learning from our failures and reaching for our dreams. She challenged everyone to take a chance, dream big, and reach for the stars. The board thanked Julie for her great inspiration.

Recognitions and Presentations

Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK)

Darlene Cartwright is Co-president of ADK. She told the board that ADK is an International Honorary Organization for Women Educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding. She said that this month is Alpha Delta Kappa month. We have prepared a small goodie bag to thank the board for the way they support education.

At this time Darlene called Diane Stone up to the podium and they presented a framed copy of their charter to Dr. Gilreath to be hung at the Central Office. Dr. Gilreath and the board thanked them.

Whitfield County Schools' Nutrition Programs are being honored by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) for reaching high levels of student participation in the school lunch and/or school breakfast program for 2011-2012. The board presented certificates to the following schools:

Antioch Elementary	Eastbrook Middle
Cedar Ridge Elementary	North Whitfield Middle
Cohutta Elementary	Valley Point Middle
Dawnville Elementary	Coahulla Creek High
Dug Gap Elementary	North Georgia College and Career Academy
Eastside Elementary	Northwest High
New Hope Elementary	Southeast High
Pleasant Grove Elementary	
Tunnel Hill Elementary	
Valley Point Elementary	
Varnell Elementary	
Westside Elementary	

Louis Fordham thanked the lunchroom managers and their staff for the hard work that they do every day preparing and serving meals to our students in Whitfield County Schools. Dr. Gilreath said that the summer feeding program served 228,000 meals. She said that our nutrition department is wonderful. Louis said that he always reads the restaurant report card in the paper and our schools are always 100 or high 90's. Louis told the managers that the board appreciates everything that they do.

Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant Winner – Eleazar Arreguin

Louis Fordham introduced Brian Griffin, representative from Georgia Power. Mr. Griffin said it was an honor to present The New Teacher Assistance Grant in the amount of \$1000.00 to Mr. Eleazar Arreguin, first year teacher at Dawnville Elementary School. Eleazar was nominated by Dalton State College. To be eligible, he had to be in the top 25 percent of his class and a first-year teacher at a Georgia public school. Louis Fordham presented Eleazar a certificate from Whitfield County Schools in honor of his grant.

Phoenix High School receives grant for Reality Store

Mary Ann Fogle, teacher at Phoenix, told the board that Phoenix High School received grant funds in the amount of \$17,500.00 to provide the Reality Store to all high school students and 8th grade students in Whitfield County Schools. She said that Phoenix High School is committed to seeing that students become aware of the importance for all adults to lead balanced, self-sufficient lives. The Reality Store is designed to encourage teens to think about their future and to visualize how their career choices will affect their economic well-being. Participation in the Reality Store helps students learn about their choices, evaluate their options and plan for their future. Louis Fordham presented a certificate to Mary Anne for Phoenix High Schools Reality Store Grant.

State Teacher Advisory Council Member – Ben Oliver

Louis Fordham presented a certificate of congratulations to Ben Oliver for being selected to serve on Georgia School Superintendent John Barge's Teacher Advisory Council. Ben teaches math at Southeast High School. This is a group of teachers from across the state that meets to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting teachers in Georgia's classrooms. The teachers meet two times throughout the school year with the State School Superintendent. They are advisors that act as liaisons between the Department of Education and the teachers of Georgia. The board congratulated Ben and said that this is a great honor.

Whitfield County Schools with CRCT Scores Higher than the State Average

The board presented the following schools certificates of congratulations for having scores higher than the state average in Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies for 2012-2013:

ELEMENTARY

1. Grade 3 – Antioch, Tunnel Hill, & Westside
2. Grade 4 – New Hope, Varnell, & Westside
3. Grade 5 – Beaverdale, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, & Westside

MIDDLE

4. Grade 6 – New Hope Middle
5. Grade 7 – New Hope Middle
6. Grade 8 – None

The board presented the following schools certificates of congratulations for having scores higher than the state average in Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies for 2012-2013:

ELEMENTARY GRADE 3

1. Cohutta – ELA, Science, & Social Studies
2. Dug Gap – ELA & Social Studies
3. New Hope – Reading, ELA, & Social Studies
4. Pleasant Grove – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies
5. Valley Point – Reading, Science, & Social Studies
6. Varnell – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies

ELEMENTARY GRADE 4

1. Antioch – Math
2. Beaverdale – Reading & ELA
3. Cedar Ridge – Social Studies
4. Cohutta – Science & Social Studies
5. Dawnville – Reading, Science, & Social Studies
6. Dug Gap – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies
7. Pleasant Grove – Reading, ELA, & Science
8. Tunnel Hill – ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies

ELEMENTARY GRADE 5

1. Antioch – Social Studies
2. Cohutta – ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies
3. Dawnville – Reading, ELA, & Science
4. Dug Gap – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies
5. New Hope – ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies
6. Valley Point – Reading
7. Varnell – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies

MIDDLE GRADE 6

1. North Whitfield – ELA & Science
2. Valley Point – Reading & Science
3. Westside – Reading & ELA

MIDDLE GRADE 7

1. Eastbrook – ELA
2. Valley Point – Math
3. Westside – Reading

MIDDLE GRADE 8

1. New Hope – Reading, ELA, Science, & Social Studies
2. North Whitfield – Reading
3. Westside – Reading, ELA, & Social Studies

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2013

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for September 9, 2013 meetings. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Financial Reports

Superintendent Dr. Judy Gilreath introduced the new CFO, Daniel Theis. Louis Fordham welcomed Daniel. He said that the board is looking forward to working with him.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

AdvancED Update

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, presented a power point on the AdvancED process. She said that it is almost time for the committee to arrive. The power point explains the following:

What is Accreditation?

- Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance.
- Accreditation is an ongoing process to ensure that schools:
 1. meet high standards,
 2. engage in continuous improvement, and
 3. Demonstrate quality assurance through external review

Why does accreditation matter?

- School Districts that engage in AdvancED Accreditation:
 - Earn the distinction of quality through AdvancED accreditation.
 - Receive external and objective validation of the areas in which they're doing well, and the areas for continuous improvement.
 - Benefit from AdvancED research that shapes educational policy and improves learning practices.
- Students and their parents:
 - participate in the accreditation process.
 - Gain greater access to federal loans, scholarships, postsecondary education and military programs that require students attend an accredited institution.
 - Benefit from their school district's commitment to raising student performance and accountability.

What does the accreditation process involve?

Both the District and each school prepared and submitted an Accreditation Comprehensive Report based on the following:

- **Self Assessment** – We assessed our performance on each of the Standards with a rating scale.
- **Executive Summary** – We described our district and who we are.
- **Stakeholder Perception Surveys** – We gathered valid and reliable stakeholder perception data to assist with the continuous improvement process
- **Student Performance Results** - We analyzed the results of multiple assessments to measure growth and improvement in student performance.
- **Assurances** – We verified a set of certification statements related to the policies and procedures of AdvancED accreditation.

District & School Responsibilities

- Develop District & School Improvement Plans
- Analyze Student Performance Data
- Administer Stakeholder Surveys
- Analyze Stakeholder Perception Data
- Complete Self Assessment Reports based on the 5 Standards of Quality
- Collect artifacts and evidence to support the content of the Self Assessment
- Interview with the External Review Team

- Host the Visiting Team (6 schools)

Stakeholder Responsibilities

- Participate in the Accreditation/Improvement Process
- Provide feedback on district and school initiatives
- Be available for interviews by the External Review Team

What will the External Review include?

- Classroom Observations
- Documentation Review
 - Self Assessments
 - Stakeholder Survey Results
 - Student Performance Data
 - Other documentation
- Interviews with various stakeholders
- Feedback from team on improvement plans or a Required Action reflective of the needs of the district/school and its students

Five Steps to Accreditation

Step 1: School & District Preparation

- Internal review with staff and stakeholders
- Complete Self Assessments, Executive Summary, Stakeholder
- Surveys, Student Performance Data, and Improvement Plans
- November 2011 – November 2013

Step 2: External Review Team Visit

- Conducts interviews with representative groups of stakeholders
- Review of Student Performance Data & District Documentation
- Deliberation to reach consensus on the district's adherence to the Standards for Accreditation
- Provides an oral exit report and prepares a Team Report
- November 3–6, 2013

Step 3: The External Review Team Report

- The Team Report is submitted to the school district with commendations and required actions for improvement.

Step 4: Using the Report

- The school district uses the report to guide improvement efforts. The district is held accountable for addressing the required actions in the report.
- The district must submit a progress report to reflect its actions towards the required actions.

Step 5: Accreditation Recommendation

- The External Review Team makes an accreditation recommendation that is reviewed at the state level and by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission. Accreditation is granted and communicated to the school district.

Audrey said that this has been a long two year process. She said that the schools have worked very hard on the standards that they were given and getting all of the information together that is required. She thanked all of them and she knows this will be a good visit. She also thanked the board for their support.

Update on Teaching and Learning

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, told the board that we are on track to excellence.

New Curriculum Assessment Launched:

- Visited every elementary school and talked with every teacher to discuss curriculum needs.
- Created middle and high school curriculum Advisory Groups for core subjects. (Working on Curriculum Maps and Common Assessments)
- Established Lead Teacher positions to help coordinate other areas.

Title I Instructional Coaches: Elementary is Salena Weed and Marrene Gentry. Middle School is David Thacker

- In the classrooms with teachers weekly
- Emphasis on best instructional practices
- Providing invaluable resources to teachers
- Focused on formative assessment and more rigorous summative assessments.

Literacy Design Collaborative

- Within LDC, students develop their reading and writing skills as they take on teaching tasks that set demanding assignments in Science, History, English, or another subject. Teachers build out the approach by filling in LDC

template tasks with content appropriate to their own classrooms and then designing a set of LDC “mini-tasks” that show the skills and instruction students need to succeed.

Math Design Collaborative

- MDC is a group of curriculum designers, assessment developers, professional specialist, and district and school networks. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have funded MDC to develop high quality instructional tools and professional support services to realize its ambitious goal of having 80% of low-income and minority students ready for college by 2025. Whitfield County Schools’ teachers and students are focusing on formative assessments to help inform instruction.

Striving Reader Grant

This is to advance literacy skills for all students from birth through grade 12 including pre-literacy skills, reading and writing.

- Last year Georgia awarded over \$22.4 million to school districts through the Striving Reader Grant.
- Districts are encouraged to present a literacy plan that encompasses one high school and its feeder schools.
- Northwest High School and its feeder schools are applying this year.
- Applications are due in December.

Karey wanted to say a special thanks to our curriculum directors, Merry Boggs (Elementary), Michelle Caldwell (Middle), and Tom Appelman (High). They have worked very hard with our teachers to make sure that they have the support that they need.

System Report Card

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the new System Report Card. She said that we will have three editions a year (fall, winter, and spring). This is an accountability report. It is designed to provide a snapshot of student performance across the school district. Dr. Gilreath said that this report will highlight our accomplishments. It will also show areas that need strengthening. The reports will differ as the information collected may change with specific times of the year. We are very excited about this first report. This has been a very labor intense report and I want to thank Dr. Audrey Williams, Eric Beavers, and the committee that has worked so hard to put this report together. At this time, Judy asked anyone who has worked on this committee to please stand and be recognized. Louis Fordham said that this is exactly what the board has been asking for. He said that we have had no metric tied to the system. We have asked the community to hold us accountable as their representatives and have been asking for this for two years. Louis said this will be great to share with new people as they come into the community. The board thanked them for all of the hard work they have done.

Operations

Facilities Use Agreements

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Date</u>
NWGCCA	Project Search Luncheon/Shaw	10/30/13

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the Facilities Use Agreement for the Project Search Luncheon at the NWGCCA. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Varnell Elementary School/Cafeteria	Carpet Capital Running Club	12/13-14/13
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Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the Facilities Use Agreement for the Carpet Capital Running Club at Varnell Elementary. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Intergovernmental Agreement

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement as to demolition of the Old Eastbrook Middle School Building. This agreement is entered into by and between the Whitfield County Board of Education (hereinafter the “School Board”) and Whitfield County, Georgia, a Political Subdivision of the State of Georgia, by and through its Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the “County.”) Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Disposition of the Old Westside Headstart Building

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, told the board that the Old Westside Headstart Building is now vacant. He told the board that the building is very old. He asked the board what they would like to do with the building. At this time Louis Fordham asked for questions or comments from the board. Louis asked Mike if we could sell it like it is. Mike told the board that he felt like the building would not be worth much. He said that the asbestos abatement had been done. Louis Fordham said that if we do not have pressing need for the land he recommends Mike consulting with a realtor to see what would be the best thing to do. The other board members agreed.

Operation Updates

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, gave a report on the parking lot at Dug Gap Elementary and Athletic Construction at Southeast High School. He said that everything was going good.

Support Services

Personnel

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

Previous Business

None

New Business

Louis Fordham recommended that the board decline the offer that was discussed in executive session on the property at GA 2 and Cleveland Hwy. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Board Member Reports

Adjournment

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

Secretary

Chairman