

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
December 2, 2013

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 2, 2013. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley.

Others present:

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent
Karey Williams
Rhonda Yim
Eric Beavers
Daniel Theis
Carolyn Weaver

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 5-0.

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel, sale of real estate, and pending litigation. Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

The board members having taken no action in Executive Session adjourned Executive Session at 5:52 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:52p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2013

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, December 2, 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	Audrey Williams
Karey Williams	Wanda Phillips
Rhonda Yim	Daniel Theis
Eric Beavers	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. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Emma Gilbert, 8th grader at North Whitfield Middle School, led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Andrea Bradley, principal at North Whitfield Middle School, introduced two teachers and three students that performed the Christmas Carol, "What Child Is This." Drew Bragg, 8th grade teacher, and Warren Carnes, 8th grade student sang and played the guitar. Warren performed a small solo on the guitar. Krista Clements, 8th grade teacher, Emma Gilbert, and Katie Cronan, 8th grade students, sang. It was a beautiful performance for Christmas. The board thanked them and said they wish they could hear more.

Recognitions and Presentations

2014 Reward Schools – Eastbrook Middle School and North Whitfield Middle School

Chairman Louis Fordham presented a certificate of congratulations to Wanda Storey, principal of Eastbrook Middle, and Andrea Bradley, principal of North Whitfield Middle, for being identified as 2014 Title I Reward Schools. These schools were chosen as a "High-Progress School". A High-Progress School is a Title I school among the 10% of Title I schools in the State that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments.

Northwest High School Softball Team – AAAA State Championship

Louis Fordham and Tony Stanley presented the following certificates to the Northwest High School Fast Pitch Softball team AAAA State Champs and their coaches:

Kayla Bearden #1	Bayley Marquardt #21
Macy Weeks #5	Shelby Ralston #22
Mallory Souther #7	Gabbi Helton # 25
Alyssa Ward #10	Ashley Conner #32
Brileigh Baggett #11	Jamison Payne # 34
Hannah Godfrey #14	McCall Carlock #40
Madison Gowin #17	Bayli Cruse #44
Colbie Thomas #20	Kylee Ward # 45
Jason Brooker – Head Coach	
Scottie Kilgore – Assistant Coach	
Brad Dunn – Assistant Coach	
Chris Woods – Assistant Coach	
Emily Headrick – Assistant Coach	

Louis Fordham said this is a great accomplishment to win state two years in a row. He said that he knows the girls and their coaches have put in a lot of time and effort to get here again. Louis asked Coach Brooker to share a few words. Coach Brooker said that the girls have worked very hard. Jason said that the six seniors have led this team and will be greatly missed. The family support has been outstanding. Louis asked Britt Adams, principal, if he would like to say a few words. Britt said that this was a great group of girls. He said not only are they great ball players but outstanding students too. They always talk to you as you walk down the halls. He said that you could not ask for better family support. He told the board that some of their moms won this title 20 years ago. He said that the seniors will be missed. Britt thanked the board for their support too. Louis asked the board members if they had any comments. Thomas Barton said that he is very proud of them and he knows that it has been a lot of hard work. Louis told the team that Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, is working with the county on a new road sign to replace the one that was posted last year after they won state. Louis said that we want them to make this one bigger and nicer and it will have 2012 and 2013 AAAA State Champs. The board wished them great success and congratulations to the whole team and Northwest High School.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – November 4 and November 6, 2013

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the November 4, 2013 meetings and the November 6, 2013 meeting. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Purchase Order over \$25,000.00

Louis Fordham presented the following purchase order for approval. Louis said this is for Food Service.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Citisco, Inc	Tilt Skillet Market Forge/Double Stack Combi Blodgett	\$25,209.00

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Order for Citisco, Inc. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Financial Reports

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

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Innovators Incubator Presentations

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, introduced two Whitfield County teams that presented at the Innovators Incubator on November 20, 2013. She said that we have a team from Southeast High School who completed a 12.5 project that focuses on students acquiring the necessary 21st Century Skills for today's job market. The other team's project is a New Teacher Mentoring program.

New Teacher Mentoring Program

Lorijo Calhoun, Director Federal Programs, said that i2i (Induction to Instruction) is a project designed by an Innovator's Incubator team to help our new teachers during their first year of teaching. This project enables new teachers to grow from induction to instruction by supporting the mentor relationship and process. The other members of this group are Angela Hayes, assistant principal at Valley Point Elementary School, Selena Weed, Title I Instructional Coach, Amy Hurlock, Gifted Teacher Pleasant Grove Elementary, and Morgan Hurlock, 6th grade student at Westside Elementary School. They stated that teachers are the most important school-related factor in determining student success. Research suggests that one effective teacher can accelerate students' learning over more than one grade level, while an ineffective teacher can cause students to fall behind. Strong induction process will ensure effective teachers stay in the classroom and ineffective teachers are supported to become effective teachers. Research shows teacher turnover can be significantly reduced with a focus on improving instruction when supported by an intensive, mentor-based induction program. The board thanked them for sharing their project.

12.5 Project – Focusing on students acquiring the necessary 21st Century Skills for today's job market.

Sheila Hudson and Greg Burrell, teachers at Southeast High School, presented the presentation on Focusing on Students acquiring the necessary 21st Century Skills for today's job market. This is to prepare all students with life after they graduate. Areas that we have worked with students:

- Time Management – To teach the amount of time spent on activities used to increase effectiveness, efficiency or productivity.
- Communication Skills – Learning to communicate by computer (emails) and speaking in front of people.
- Hands on Lessons – Engaging students to advance their understanding.
- Memorable Lessons – Field trips

We have taken a lot of field trips that have been great learning experiences. They helped to teach, understand, engage and interact. Rodney Lock asked them where they went on their fieldtrips. Greg Burrell told the board that they went to the following places:

- Georgia Gwinnett College. He said that this was a great experience. They focus on ensuring that every student has an opportunity to achieve success, regardless of their academic preparation.
- Shaw Industries – They visited the Research and Design. This was great for the students to see that clothes are not the only area for fashion and design. It is right here in Dalton in the carpet industry.
- Chamber of Commerce – Students got to see how our chamber works closely with local industry to help it grow and to bring new companies into our area.
- Rockbridge Community Church – They shared the importance of helping in our community.
- Oakwood Café – Young business man sharing his success.

They thanked the board for the opportunity to share and the support that the board provides. The board thanked them for presenting their project.

Operations

Facilities Use Agreement

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cedar Ridge Elementary Gym	Basketball Practice Recreation League	November 11-30, 2013

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve the Facilities Use Agreement for basketball practice at Cedar Ridge Elementary Gym. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Recommendation for New Playground Equipment at Dawnville Elementary School

Dawnville Elementary has been raising funds for the past few years to purchase new playground equipment for the 3rd-5th grade playground in front of the school. They collected bids from 4 vendors. The Dawnville School Council narrowed the selection to two choices. Students in grades 2-5 were asked to give feedback. The Dawnville School Council and the

majority of the Dawnville students in grades 2-5 respectfully recommend the purchase of the playground equipment by Champion Recreation at the cost of \$29,982.12.

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve the new playground equipment for Dawnville Elementary School to be purchased from Champion Recreation in the amount of \$29,982.12. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Certificate of the Board of Education

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve the Certificate of the Board of Education for Coahulla Creek High School. This certificate is a resolution that does hereby certify that all accounts for labor, materials, and services for the construction of Coahulla Creek High School have been paid in full and that there are no claims of any nature outstanding against the district, either liquidated or disputed. Louis Fordham recommended that the board approve the Certificate of the Board of Education. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. This certificate is a part of these minutes.

Certificate of the Board of Education

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve the Certificate of the Board of Education for Eastbrook Middle School. This certificate is a resolution that does hereby certify that all accounts for labor, materials, and services for the construction of Eastbrook Middle School have been paid in full and that there are no claims of any nature outstanding against the district, either liquidated or disputed. Louis Fordham recommended that the board approve the Certificate of the Board of Education. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0. This certificate is a part of these minutes.

Support Services

Crossroads Academy Early Release Plan

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, presented the board the final draft of the proposal that was submitted to the Board of Education at the June 6, 2013 Board Meeting. This draft reflects the board's recommended changes and clarification of timelines. Louis Fordham recommended that the board approve Crossroads Academy Early Release Plan. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Personnel

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

Rhonda Yim, Chief Office of Human Resources, informed the board about a change in a procedure. This procedure would allow classified staff to keep their sick leave if they change to a certified position. Rhonda told the board that if an employee is contributing to TRS they should be able to carry over 45 sick days. Before this change they lost their accrued sick leave. Rhonda said that this is just a procedure and does not require board action.

Previous Business

New Business

None

Board Member Reports

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman