

MINUTES OF  
CALLED WORK SESSION  
September 8, 2014

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on September 8, 2014. 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	Eric Beavers
Karey Williams	Daniel Theis
Rhonda Yim	Carolyn Weaver
Mike Ewton	

#### **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.

#### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel and real estate. Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session. Thomas Barton 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 6:03 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
September 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, September 8, 2014. 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	Mike Ewton
Karey Williams	Eric Beavers
Rhonda Yim	Carolyn Weaver
Daniel Theis	
Audrey Williams	
Wanda Phillips	

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 Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Alana Wallace, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Eastbrook Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

#### **Inspiration**

Eluvia Saucedo, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Eastbrook Middle School shared the inspiration.

#### **Recognitions and Presentations**

##### Duke TIP Honorees

Shanda Hickman, Gifted Coordinator for middle and high school, shared some information about Duke TIP and how the students are chosen to participate. She said that the Duke University Talent Identification Program identifies gifted students and helps them reach their highest potential. Shanda said the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Search offers qualifying seventh grade students the opportunity to take the SAT or ACT alongside high school students. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with strong intellectual abilities are invited to participate if they achieve a qualifying score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on a recent grade-level test. Depending on their score they can then participate in the summer studies that are offered. Students who are among the top 5 percent academically can attend The Duke TIP Academy for Summer Studies. She said that we had three students attend this summer. Shanda said that students who qualify for the Center for Summer Studies are the highest-scoring students in Duke Tip's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Search. She said that we had two students attend this summer. These students will be able to attend these summer programs every year until they graduate if all financial requirements are met. Shanda said that she is very proud of each of these students.

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following Duke TIP Honorees:

Kalvin Marshall, Eastbrook Middle School, attended the Summer Academy  
Guadalupe Melgarejo, Valley Point Middle School, attended the Summer Center  
Davison Reynolds, Valley Point Middle School, attended the Summer Academy  
Anjelica Aguirre, Westside Middle School, attended the Summer Center  
McKenzie Morgan, Westside Middle School, attended the Summer Academy

The board told the students that they are very proud of their great accomplishment and the wonderful opportunity they experienced this summer.

#### Josh Foxx – 3A State Champion in the High Jump

The board presented Josh Foxx with a certificate of congratulations for winning the 3A State Championship in the High Jump. Dr. Stan Stewart, principal at Coahulla Creek High School, said that Josh holds the first Georgia High School Association state title for Coahulla Creek since the school opened in 2011. He said that Josh cleared 6 feet, 6 inches. The board told Josh that this is a great accomplishment not only to win state but to be the first to win state in any sport at Coahulla Creek High School. They said that they hope he can do it again his senior year.

#### Governor Honors Finalist Who Successfully Completed the Summer Program

The Governor Honors program sent certificates to the following students for completing their studies in the Summer Program at Valdosta State University for 2013-2014. The board presented these certificates to the following students:

Tyler Linder – Chemistry  
Natalie Wright – Mathematics  
Shelbi Bryant – Communicative Arts  
Bryan Moss – Mathematics  
Megan Parker – Agriscience/Environmental Science

Tom Appelman, Director of High School Curriculum, said that these students went through the interview process at the local and state level. Once they were chosen as finalist they were able to attend the Summer Studies Program. This program is for four weeks. Tom said that we were the only school system in the North Georgia district that had 5 finalist. Dr. Gilreath said that we have some really smart students and some excellent teachers pushing them to be their best. The board thanked them for their hard work and this great accomplishment.

#### 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, or Social Studies for 2013-2014:

#### **ELEMENTARY**

##### **Grade 3**

Reading – Antioch, Cohutta, Eastside, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Valley Point, Varnell and Westside

English Language Arts – Antioch, Cohutta, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Math – Antioch, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Science - Antioch, Cohutta, Dawnville, New Hope, Tunnel Hill, Valley Point, Varnell, and Westside

Social Studies - Antioch, Cohutta, Dug Gap, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

##### **Grade 4**

Reading – Cedar Ridge, Eastside, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Valley Point, Varnell, and Westside

English Language Arts - Cedar Ridge, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Math – Cohutta, New Hope, and Westside

Science - Cedar Ridge, Cohutta, Dug Gap, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Social Studies - Antioch, Cedar Ridge, Cohutta, Dug Gap, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

## **Grade 5**

Reading – Antioch, Beaverdale, Cohutta, Dawnville, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, and Westside

English Language Arts - Beaverdale, Dawnville, Dug Gap, Eastside, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Math - Beaverdale, New Hope, and Westside

Science - Antioch, Beaverdale, Cohutta, Dawnville, Dug Gap, Eastside, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

Social Studies - Antioch, Beaverdale, Cohutta, Dug Gap, Eastside, New Hope, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, and Westside

## **MIDDLE**

### **Grade 6**

Reading - New Hope, North Whitfield, Valley Point, and Westside

English Language Arts - New Hope, North Whitfield, Valley Point, and Westside

Math – North Whitfield, and Westside

Science – New Hope, Valley Point, and Westside

Social Studies - New Hope, North Whitfield, and Westside

### **Grade 7**

Reading - New Hope, Valley Point, and Westside

English Language Arts - New Hope

Math – North Whitfield

Science – New Hope, Valley Point

Social Studies – Eastbrook, New Hope, North Whitfield, and Valley Point

### **Grade 8**

Reading - North Whitfield and Westside

English Language Arts - New Hope and North Whitfield

Science – New Hope and North Whitfield

Social Studies - New Hope and North Whitfield

### Whitfield County Schools with EOCT Scores Higher than the State Average

Ninth Grade Literature & Composition – Coahulla Creek and Northwest  
American Literature & Composition – Coahulla Creek, Northwest, and Southeast  
Biology – Coahulla Creek and Northwest  
Physical Science – Northwest and Southeast  
Economics – Northwest and Southeast

### Board Member Training Certificates 2013-2014

Dr. Judy Gilreath stated that Georgia law and state board rules require school board members to obtain training in board operations, duties and responsibilities. She said that our board members have completed that training for the current year of service and she would like to present them with their certificates. She said that our board puts in long hours of service and she wants you to know how much we appreciate your willingness to serve the students of Whitfield County. She also wanted to express appreciation to their wives and families who allow them to devote time and attention to board matters. Dr. Gilreath presented each board member with a certificate.

### **Hearing of Individuals**

#### Girl Scout Brownie Troop 12617

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 12617 presented an award to the Board of Education for adopting the 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy at the April 2014 board meeting. Louis Fordham and Dr. Judy Gilreath accepted this award. Each board member and Dr. Gilreath were presented individual awards for adopting this policy. Dr. Gilreath and the board thanked Troop 12617.

### **Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2014 Board Meetings and September 2, 2014 Called Board Meeting**

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the August 4, 2014 board meetings and the September 2, 2014 called board meeting. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Approval of Purchase Orders over \$25,000.00**

Louis Fordham presented the following purchase orders for approval:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bill Ortwein Signs, Inc.	New Sign for Outside at SHS	\$55,727.00
Adman Electric	New Parking Lot Lighting for SHS	\$56,084.00
Manning Brothers	New Serving Line Equipment for BE, DE, PGE, and VE	\$84,718.41

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Orders as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Financial Reports**

Daniel Theis, CFO, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of July 31, 2014. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the report as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

### **Superintendent's Reports**

Teaching & Learning

CRCT and EOCT Results – Dr. Audrey Williams

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment, Accountability, and Technology, presented the following charts showing grade and subjects above the state in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8:

CRCT Results  
*Elementary Schools*

CRCT 2014, All Students % Met or Exceeded the standard	3rd Grade		4th Grade		5th Grade	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
Reading	↑ 92.6	92.3	↑ 93.7	93.6	94.7	94.8
ELA	↑ 89.7	88.5	88.6	88.7	94.2	94.7
Math	75.0	80.7	73.8	81.7	82.2	87.7
Science	↑ 77.5	77.1	↑ 81.5	80.9	↑ 84.3	81.9
Social Studies	↑ 83.7	83.7	↑ 83.6	81.2	↑ 81.4	80.7

CRCT Results  
*Middle Schools*

CRCT 2014, All Students % Met or Exceeded the standard	6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
Reading	↑ 97.3	97.2	↑ 94.9	94.7	↑ 97.5	97.0
ELA	↑ 92.1	91.8	93.1	93.9	94.1	94.5
Math	82.9	84.1	85.8	87.6	74.6	81.5
Science	72.9	75.1	83.0	84.2	↑ 78.2	77.9
Social Studies	78.1	79.8	↑ 86.0	83.5	77.1	80.6

Dr. Audrey Williams presented the following EOCT charts showing subjects above the state for the district's high schools:

**EOCT Results • High Schools**

	Whitfield	Georgia
Ninth Grade Literature & Composition	↑ 88.4	87.7
American Literature & Composition	↑ 93.4	92.5
Coordinate Algebra	27.6	40.3
Analytic Geometry	25.4	34.6
Biology	↑ 79.8	75.0
Physical Science	↑ 86.3	84.5
United States History	65.4	72.8
Economics	79.4	81.2

She said that the EOCT will change this year. The first EOC will be given in December.

### Update on Instructional Practices – Karey Williams

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning presented the following updates on instructional practices:

- SLO Pre-Test Assessments have been completed. The data is under review.
- Instructional Coaches are currently receiving training to maximize the effect of their work with teachers.
- New Teachers and their Mentors continue to meet and share strategies.
- Academic Advisory Groups continue to meet and align the curriculum and establish pacing guides.
- Elementary schools have implemented Advanced Content Courses in addition to Alpha Resource Classes.
- Teachers are attending state curriculum workshops and are redelivering the information to peers.

### Operations

#### Capital Outlay Project Application FY16

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the Capital Outlay Project Application for FY16. The projects include replacing the HVAC at Valley Point Middle and Pleasant Grove Elementary. The HVAC will be replaced in two wings at Dawnville Elementary. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Surplus Sales of School Buses and White Fleet

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board surplus the following vehicles:

##### Three School Buses:

94-08 Thomas Built Bus  
95-18 Thomas Built Bus  
95-19 Thomas Built Bus

##### Four Vehicles from the White Fleet:

1982 Ford Dump Truck - #3050  
1997 Ford F250 Truck - #3082  
1999 E250 Van - #3084  
2000 Ford Windstar - #4009

Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement for DGE Parking Addition

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement for Dug Gap Elementary's new parking addition. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### Support Services

#### 2014 Teen Maze – Tracie Hogan

Tracie Hogan, Lead Social Worker, gave the board a pamphlet with information about Teen Maze. She said that this is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teen Maze. She told the board that it is an Interactive Game of Life. It is an event where students have the opportunity to face consequences of randomly selected life-style choices associated with risky youth behaviors in a safe and controlled environment. Students will have the opportunity to examine the consequences of life's choices in a hands-on, realistic and educational way. Tracie told the board that it was a wonderful experience last year. She said all 10<sup>th</sup> graders from Dalton Public Schools, Murray County Schools, and Whitfield County Schools will participate again this year. She told the board that we have added a new component of texting and driving. She told the board that Whitfield County Schools will participate on October 2-3, 2014 and she invited them all to come out and be a part. She

said that we still need volunteers. Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer for Support Services said that last year's Teen Maze was a tremendous event. The board thanked them for this great life learning experience.

#### Ashton Employees to Work After School Care

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, presented a list of employees from Ashton hired to work in the After School Care Program. Thomas Barton 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 Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Previous Business**

#### **New Business**

#### Donation Checks

The following donation checks were presented to the board for approval:

- Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary School's Futsal Field Bleachers and Trash Cans in the amount of \$62,000.00.
- Donation Check for Eastside Elementary School's Music Project and CD Player in the amount of \$13,216.00.
- Donation Check from ESHCO for North Whitfield Middle School's Football Program in the amount of \$1000.00.
- Donation Check from Sue Phelps for Northwest High School to purchase 40 copies of "The Practice of Statistics for AP" Textbooks in the amount of \$5,454.40
- Donation Checks for Whitfield County Schools given by Professional Association of Georgia Educators and Terrell Akins with Valic for New Teacher Orientation. Each check was in the amount of \$50.00.
- Donation Check for Cohutta Elementary School given by Cohutta Ruritan Club in the amount of \$900.00.
- Donation for North Whitfield Middle School from Mohawk Carpets to carpet four classrooms. Value of Carpet for installation of carpet, Richard Muller.
- Donations given to Westside Middle School for the month of August totaling \$380.00

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the donations as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman