

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
October 6, 2014

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on October 6, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:31 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. 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 5:57 p.m. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, October 6, 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. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Tyler Linder, 12th grade student at Northwest High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Tyler Linder asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Tyler Linder gave the inspiration. He told the board that he has been blessed with many opportunities. He said that he attended GHP this past summer and it was a great learning experience. Tyler said that his parents have always been very encouraging and supportive in everything that he has done even mistakes he has made. Tyler wanted to know why we are scared to reach out – follow through and make our mistakes. This can help us to prepare for success. Tyler shared a quote from Benjamin Franklin, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” Always be ready and do the best you can. Seize the opportunities in life. He shared a quote from Gondi as he closed, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” Tyler thanked the board for the opportunity to share.

Recognitions and Presentations

Alana Sane, Film and Video Teacher at Southeast High School, Received \$10,000 Grant From ESE Networks

The board presented Alana Sane with a certificate of congratulations for the \$10,000 Grant that she received for the Film and Video program at Southeast High School.

Students Attend Space Camp for Interested Visual Impaired Students (SCIVIS)

The board presented Zane Smith, 5th grade student at Valley Point Elementary School, a certificate of congratulations for the following award received at SCIVIS:

- Aviation Challenge Mach II

The board presented Anthony Copper, 6th grade student at Eastbrook Middle School, certificates of congratulations for the following awards received at SCIVIS:

- Aviation Challenge Mach II
- Top Gun Award

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2014 Board Meetings

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the September 8, 2014 board meetings. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley 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>
Dell Computers	Computers and Software for NHMS/Striving Readers Grant	\$29,868.26

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

Approval of Millage Rate

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board approve the millage rate to remain at the current 18.756 mils. Louis Fordham said that we have a recommendation to leave the millage rate at 18.756 mils. 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 August 31, 2014. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment, Accountability, and Technology, gave the update report on the Strategic Plan. She told the board that we received over 1100 responses back from the surveys. The following groups responded:

Q1 Are you a:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Parent	44.27%	510
Community member	11.72%	135
Staff member	53.47%	616
Total Respondents: 1,152		

Q2 What are the greatest challenges or issues this school system has to address over the next five years in order to provide a quality education for all students? (Choose only five of your highest priorities from this list.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Keeping up-to-date with technology hardware, software, applications, and support	71.28%	824
Hiring and retaining quality educators in an increasingly competitive market	65.40%	756
Meeting the broadening academic and social needs of an increasingly diverse student population	55.45%	641
Maintaining physical facilities as building age	51.30%	593
Responding to state and national economic conditions that affect the levels of financial support the district receives	50.17%	580

Q3 What are the most important skills and abilities students need to know or be able to do to be prepared for a successful future? (Choose only five of your highest priorities from this list.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
A mastery of the communication skills of writing, speaking, and listening	77.42%	895

Q4 What evidence do you use to evaluate the quality of education in our school district? (Choose only five of your highest priorities from this list.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
The number of students in each class per teacher (class size)	64.97%	751
How well students perform in high school (graduation rates, SAT, and ACT scores)	55.88%	646

Q5 What should the financial priorities be for our school system during the next five years? (Choose only five of your highest priorities from this list.)

Answer Choices	Responses
Maintain up-to-date technology	74.31% 859
Maintain clean, well-repaired, secure buildings	71.37% 825
Keep salaries and benefits competitive in order to attract and retain quality staff	68.77% 795
Maintain low class sizes	60.12% 695
Make sure that students have quality educational books/materials in the classroom and the library	59.52% 688
Provide training and development opportunities to keep staff skilled and competent	51.38% 594
Maintain and improve current instructional programs	35.12% 406
Wisely invest tax revenues in a quality education	32.18% 372

Audrey said that the survey hit points that we wanted it to hit.

Accountability Report for Fall 2014

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, said that this is our 2014 fall edition of the Whitfield County Accountability Report. She said there is information about the new standardized test called Georgia Milestones. This test will replace the CRCT & EOCT. The other information that you will find in this report is:

- Summer Feeding Program
- Strategic Plan Update
- CRCT
- EOCT
- Project Search
- Dual Enrollment
- MAP
- ACT
- SAT
- WEF Teaching Grants
- Top 10 Colleges
- School Board and District Information

Audrey said that this report is a great way to keep the community informed about Whitfield County Schools. Dr. Gilreath thanked her and Eric for the great job that they do.

Georgia Milestones – End of Grade and End of Course Update

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, said that the question has been how many will be testing online for the Georgia Milestone EOC. She said that we will have to have at least 30% test online this year. Economics will test in December and Math will be in the spring. That means we will have to have enough keyboards, headphones, and calculators for the online testing.

Operations

Intergovernmental Agreement with Town of Cohutta

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, recommended that the board approve the Mutual Quitclaim Deed Establishing Line with the Town of Cohutta. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the contract with Adman Electric, Inc. for the parking lot lights at Southeast High School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Facilities Update

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, presented the following information on the Facilities Update:

- FY 2015 Capital Outlay/ESPLOST Projects
 - Eastbrook Gym
 - Eastside Renovation
 - FY2016 Capital Outlay/ESPLOST Projects
 - Valley Point Middle School HVAC
 - Pleasant Grove Elementary Schools HVAC/Controls
 - Dawnville Elementary Schools HVAC/Controls
 - Facilities Needs Priority List – October 2014
- Whitfield County Schools Operations Department Project Status Update/Week Ending: October 10, 2014
- Projects Underway
 1. CTAE Lab Renovations and Construction: NHS and CCHS
 2. Dug Gap Elementary School Science and Computer Lab Renovations and Green House Construction
 3. Dug Gap Elementary School Soccer/Futsal Field Construction
 4. Valley Point Middle School Athletic Facilities Construction
 5. Cedar Ridge Elementary School Playground Addition
 6. Antioch Elementary School Awning and Sidewalk
 7. Southeast High School Gym and Parking Lot Construction/Renovations
 8. Southeast High School Digital Sign Installation
 9. Northwest High School Carpet Installation
 - Upcoming Projects
 10. New Eastbrook Gym Construction
 11. Eastside Elementary School Modernization and Renovation
 12. HVAC Modifications: VPMS, PGES
 13. Central Office Wiring and HVAC
 14. Eastbrook Middle Baseball field Construction
 15. Career Academy Health Sciences Lab Renovation
 16. Dug Gap Elementary Restroom Renovations
 - Completed Projects
 17. Old Eastbrook Demolition
 18. STEM Lab Construction – High Schools
 19. Varnell Elementary School Classroom Cabinet Installation
 20. Cedar Ridge Elementary School restroom Renovations
 21. Northwest High School Driveway Repaving
 22. Tunnel Hill Elementary School Walking Path Construction
 23. Entryway Security Upgrades
 24. Coahulla Creek HVAC Pump Addition
 25. Kitchen Freezer/Cooler and Cooking Hood Replacements: DGES (Freezer/Cooler and Hood), VES, VPMS, and AES (Hood only).
 26. Dug Gap Elementary School Parking Lot Construction
 27. Dug Gap Elementary School Concession Stand Renovation
 28. Driveway Tile Replacement at Valley Point Middle School
 29. Southeast High School Athletic facilities Construction
 30. Cohutta Elementary Driveway Construction
 31. Dawnville Elementary School Media Center HVAC Renovation

- 32. Stem Lab Construction – Middle Schools
- 33. New Hope Elementary School Grounds Improvements

Support Services

No Report

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

Second Reading to rescind Board Policy BDC: Policy Adoption

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the second reading to rescind board policy, BDC: Policy Adoption. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Second Reading to adopt New Board Policy BD: Policy Development

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the second reading to adopt new board policy BD: Policy Development. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

Donation Check for Southeast High School's Fence

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$22,860.00 for fencing at Southeast High School. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Southeast High School's Leadership Trip

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$23,500.00 for the Southeast High School Leadership Trip. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Southeast High School's Wrestling Room Renovation

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$24,000.00 for the Wrestling Room Renovation at Southeast High School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary School's Greenhouse Fence

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$29,000.00 for the Greenhouse Fence at Dug Gap Elementary School. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Cedar Ridge Elementary School's Fence and Drains

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$16,350.00 for Playground Fence and Drains. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Valley Point Middle School's Leadership Books

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$600.00 for Leadership Books at Valley Point Middle School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Middle School's Leadership Trip Deposit

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$19,000.00 for the Leadership Trip Deposit. This is for Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Middle Schools. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Middle School's Leadership Trip

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$32,000.00 for the Leadership Trip. This is for Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Middle Schools. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary School's OSMO 100 Units

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the OSMO 100 Units for Dug Gap Elementary School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donations Given to Valley Point Elementary School for the Month of September

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the donations given to Valley Point Elementary School for the month of September totaling \$4,700.00. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donations Check for Eastbrook Middle School's Blind Student Trip

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$500.00 for the Blind Student Trip for Eastbrook Middle School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donations Given to Westside Middle School for the Month of September

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the donations given to Westside Middle School for the month of September totaling \$1,575.00. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donation Check for Valley Point Middle School's Calculators Purchase

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the purchase of Calculators for Valley Point Middle School. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF JOINT BOARD MEETING
October 15, 2014

A joint meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy Board was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy. Whitfield County Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order for Whitfield County Schools and Brian Cooksey called the meeting to order for the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy at 8:31 a.m.

Present were the following Whitfield County Board Members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Also present were the following Whitfield County School System staff members:

Dr. Judy Gilreath
Karey Williams
Carolyn Weaver

The Northwest Georgia College and Career Academies Board was also in attendance.

Also present:

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

Amendment of the Agenda

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board amend the agenda and add approval of the agenda. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Local Board Training Plan for 2014-2015

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the Local Board Training Plan for 2014-2015. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Brian Cooksey, chairman of the NWGCCA welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that this is the first time that our two boards have met together. He said that the purpose of this meeting is to present where the NWGCCA is and where we want to go. Brian said that we have added new programs and some have ended. We have had changes in staffing. He feels like the Career Academy Board has a strong partnership with the Whitfield County Board of Education. Brian said that he is excited about the way that things are going at the NWGCCA. Louis Fordham, chairman of the Whitfield County Board said that it is a shame this is the first joint meeting we have had. He said this is your agenda. He said that the less we have to do the more affective we are. Louis said that there is a renewed confidence and that the Career Academy is different and that we have a great opportunity to really be unique. Brian thanked the board and said that he would turn the meeting over to David Moeller, CEO of the NWGCCA. David presented the following presentation:

Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy

- Mission Statement:

To develop a 21st century workforce through world-class Career, Technical, & Agricultural education (CTAE).

NWGCCA is a Public Charter Program

- What does this mean?
- “Take all of Title 20 plus all related SBOE rules and GaDOE guidelines and subtract the nonwaivables listed in your charter contract”
- Waivers used at the NWGCCA:
 - Teacher Certification
 - Teacher Pay Scale
 - Class Seat Time

Pathway Completers

2013-2014 Completers Total = 90

- Culinary Arts – Value is 12 (13%)
- Early Childcare Education – Value is 21 (23%)
- Law and Justice – Value is 18 (20%)
- Cosmetology – Value is 15 (17%)
- Healthcare – Value is 14 (16%)
- Transportation – Value is 10 (11%)

Accountability

	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
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Achievement of Academic and Organizational Goals (Indicate the assessment used for each measure. Provide the target and actual performance for each measure.

Academic Achievement EOCT		2012-2013		2013-2014	
Measure 1:	9 th Literature	87% Meet/exceed	86% Meet/exceed	88% Meet/exceed	90% Meet/exceed
Measure 2:	American Lit.	91% Meet/exceed	89% Meet/exceed	93 % Meet/exceed	86% Meet/exceed
Measure 3:	Biology	75% Meet/exceed	76% Meet/exceed	80% Meet/exceed	53% Meet/exceed
Measure 4:	Physical Science	86% Meet/exceed	76% Meet/exceed	86% Meet/exceed	84% Meet/exceed
Measure 5:	Economics	Not Tested	Not Tested	79% Meet/exceed	76% Meet/exceed
Measure 6:	US History	70% Meet/exceed	58% Meet/exceed	65% Meet/exceed	64% Meet/exceed

David said that we are still looking to renew our charter and it is looking good.

NWGCCA 2014-2015

- Current Programs / Current Enrollment 562
 - Transportation/Automotive: Industry Certified
 - Culinary Arts
 - Mechatronics
 - Healthcare : Industry Certified
 - Early Childhood Education: Industry Certified
 - Cosmetology
 - Law and Justice

Barbara Ward, NWGCCA board member, said that the Industry Certification shows that we are partnering with industry.

Innovative Features

- Electronic Delivery of Instruction
- Design Engineering and Manufacturing Camp
- Controlling Board of Directors
- Ability to Adapt to Local Data and Needs
- Leadership Development Series

Leadership Development Series

David said that this is important because it teaches important skills, responsibility, and how to be your best:

- Discipline & Character
- Oral & Written Business Communication Skills
- Personal Responsibility (Attitude and Respect, Attendance, Social Media Ethics, Teamwork and Work Habits)
- Appearance and Professional Image
- Self-Management (Time Management Productivity and Academic Performance)

Investment in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP)

- What is IMCP?
This is a grant that will help regenerate manufacturing and will help our community to create well-paying jobs. This grant has the potential to determine what we can actually do at here.
- What are the benefits?
Advance Workforce Readiness – this is a huge part. Bring in new jobs to the region. Local business will provide their own data that will show the actual needs in our area which will not be based on state or national data.
- What role does the NWGCCA play if any, in this initiative?
Help to prepare more skilled people for the workforce. Students will need to be prepared for what is ahead.
- Why is this important for planning purposes?
Our plan needs to be strong and in place to be a part of this initiative. Provide the programs that will be needed for the workforce.

6 Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Offer and strengthen career development programs that align with local needs of business and industry

Focus Areas:

- Needs Assessment of Workplace Employment Data
- Program Evaluation
- Staff Development
- Work Based Learning

David said that programs are going to change. He said that with Work Based Learning we need to try to focus more on the jobs in the area and those who have more experience.

Goal 2: Strengthen partnership with post-secondary partners (resources, staff, and dual enrollment)

Focus Areas:

- Dual Enrolment, Articulation, Accel
- Human Resources
- Program Duplication
- Align Three Year Plan

Goal 3: Strengthen Marketing Strategies' for NWGCCA

Focus Areas:

- Publications
- DEM Camp
- Middle School Outreach

- High School Outreach

David stated that we need to work on our school profile. Get kids exposed to our labs. We need to be more involved in the programs at the middle schools. We should not duplicate what they are doing at the high schools. We need to educate our educators. Counselors need to understand what the students can get at the Career Academy.

Goal 4: Strengthen Academic performance as it pertains to the College and Career Readiness Performance Index

Focus Areas:

- Access to Rigor
- School Climate

Goal 5: Improve facilities and resources through strategic objectives and economic availability

Focus Areas:

- Facilities plan
- Capital Equipment
- Alternative Funding

Goal 6: 10 Year Charter Renewal Application

Focus Area:

- Scope (School Program)
- MOU's

Opportunities

- Data Collection
- Footprint/Space
- Use of waivers
- Administration

Brian Cooksey, Chairman of the NWGCCA, said that our plans over the next few weeks are to put detail on the plans that we have discussed. We want to take this school where it needs to be. He said that he appreciates all of the support that we have received from Whitfield County School's board and administration. David Moeller, CEO, said that the administration has always been supportive from Dr. Gilreath, staff at the central office, and principals at the schools.

Louis Fordham, Chairman of Whitfield County Schools, said that we need to lead the initiative for IMCP. He told Dr. Gilreath that this joint meeting needs to be an annual event. He thanked Brian, David, and the NWGCCA the great job that they are doing.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary