

MINUTES OF  
CALLED WORK SESSION  
November 3, 2014

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on November 3, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton  
Louis Fordham  
Rodney Lock  
Bill Worley  
Tony Stanley - absent

Others present:

Judy Gilreath	Eric Beavers
Karey Williams	Carolyn Weaver
Rhonda Yim	
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 4-0.

#### **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. 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 6:14 p.m. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
November 3, 2014

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, November 3, 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  
Bill Worley  
Tony Stanley - absent

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 Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Bodee Baldivid, 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

**Inspiration**

The Pleasant Grove Elementary Singing Eagles performed "Pine Cones and Holly Berries. They were directed by Mrs. Michele Headrick, Music Instructional Specialist at Pleasant Grove.

**Recognitions and Presentations**

Justin Deal, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Northwest High School, Will Represent Whitfield County Schools in the United States Senate Youth Competition

The board presented Justin Deal with a certificate of congratulations for representing Whitfield County Schools in The United States Senate Youth Competition.

**Hearing of Individuals**

None

**Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2014 Board Meetings and October 15, 2014 Joint Board meeting with Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy**

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the October 6, 2014 board meetings and the October 15, 2014 joint board meeting. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

**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>
Sound Effects/Laura M. Ogas	Contracted Services – Art/Music for EES	\$42,279.00

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Order as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Scholastic, Inc.	Books and Periodicals for PreK	\$36,054.96
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Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Order as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Dell Computers	Dell Precision T1700 MT CTO Base SHS	\$29,970.00
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Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Order as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

**Financial Reports**

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of September 30, 2014. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

**Superintendent's Reports**

Teaching & Learning

No Report

Assessment, Accountability, and Technology

No Report

Operations

Bus Purchase

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, recommended the purchase of four new school buses utilizing funds provided by the State of Georgia bond sales. Rick Holsomback, Director of Transportation, said that Peach State Trucks, our Thomas Built Buses Dealer, has agreed to honor last year pricing for our Whitfield County specific additional equipment. After he reviewed their proposal and our other options, Mr. Holsomback recommended to Mr. Ewton in an email that we purchase our four new Bond Buses from Peach State Trucks. The Government Contract Price for a full size 72-passenger conventional school bus is \$77,220.00 per bus plus \$9,750.00 for our additional equipment. The total purchase price for each bus is \$86,970.00. This would be paid for with \$308,880.00 which comes from the state as bond proceeds and would require \$39,000.00 out of my Whitfield County Transportation budget.

Louis Fordham, chairman, said that a recommended had been made to approve the purchase of the four school buses. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### Annexation Proposal – Mayor Anthony Hulseley of Varnell

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, introduced Mayor Anthony Hulseley of Varnell to present the Annexation Proposal to the Whitfield County Board. Mayor Hulseley stated that when he became Mayor one of his priorities was not only make the City of Varnell a more safe community, but to also assist Whitfield County with making the areas surrounding our great city safer as well. He asked the board to consider allowing the annexation of five schools into the city of Varnell. Mayor Hulseley said that we have six Whitfield County School properties that are inside and/or border the city limits of Varnell, Georgia. Those schools are:

- Varnell Elementary School – already in the city limits
- New Hope Elementary School
- New Hope Middle School
- North Whitfield Middle School
- Northwest High School
- Coahulla Creek High School

Mayor Hulseley said that this request is for the safety of the children. He said that if these schools were in Varnell he could have his patrolmen in the schools, patrolling the schools, and able to respond to a situation immediately. He said that we would also be able to help with other activities such as ballgames. He said that we could expand services via annexation, and offer extra help to aid the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Hulseley said that we are not trying to replace the role of the sheriff's office which currently assigns two school resource officers (SROs). These officers are at the two high schools and assist the other four schools on an as needed basis. Mayor Hulseley said that this would not cost Whitfield County Schools anything and no taxes. He said that we just want to build strong bonds from the city of Varnell to Whitfield County during times when we all need to be helping one another, and concerned about getting something in return. To make sure that our children, staff, and others who are on or near our school campuses are safe. He thanked the board for their time and consideration of this request. Louis said that the board appreciates Mayor Hulseley coming to talk to them. He said that this is something that the board will take everything into consideration and fully understand the request. Louis said that the board will take the request under advisement and get back with him within 30 days.

#### Support Services

#### Request to Recognize November 10-14, 2014 as National School Psychology Awareness Week – Terry Bullock

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, introduced Terry Bullock, Lead Psychologist for Whitfield County Schools. Terry said that school psychologist serve as advocates for students. We provide direct support and interventions to students; consult with teachers, and families. She said that we work closely with school counselors and school social workers to improve support strategies; work with school administrators to improve school-wide practices and policies; and collaborate with community providers to coordinate needed services. She thanked the board for the opportunity to share. Dr. Gilreath recommended that the board recognize November 10-14, 2014 as National School Psychology Awareness Week. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### Approve After School Care Worker

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, asked the board to approve Keice Murray (a parapro) to work in the After School Program at Dug Gap Elementary School. This approval is for overtime pay. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### 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 4-0.

## **Previous Business**

None

## **New Business**

### First Reading of New Board Policy JBD: Absences and Excuses

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, said that the change in this new board policy is student trips deemed educational by the superintendent or Superintendent's designee. Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the first reading of the new board policy, JBD: Absences and Excuses. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Sonja Beacham – Teacher at Pleasant Grove Elementary Request to Tutor

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board approve Sonja Beacham's request to tutor Noah Daffron, a second grade student at Pleasant Grove Elementary. His parents have approached her to tutor Noah in math and reading. Sonja is not involved in teaching Noah at Pleasant Grove. Dr. Gilreath said that this can be done legally if board gives permission. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Southeast High School for STEM Lab Computers

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$30,000.00 for STEM Lab Computers at Southeast High School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Southeast High School's Track Line Repaint

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the Track Line Repaint at Southeast High School. Bill Worley moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Southeast High School's Basketball Shooting Gun

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the Basketball Shooting Gun at Southeast High School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Southeast High School's Track Uniforms

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Track Uniforms at Southeast High School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary School's Media Center

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$13,619.50.00 for the Media Center at Dug Gap Elementary School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

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

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$33,000.00 for the balance of the Leadership Trip for Dug Gap Elementary School and Valley Point Middle School. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Donation Check for Dug Gap Elementary School's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade IPADS

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$66,368.85 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade IPADS for Dug Gap Elementary School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Donation Check for Phoenix High School from Shaw Industries

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the check in the amount of \$750.00 for Phoenix High School from Shaw Industries. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING  
November 17, 2014

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on November 17, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.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  
Carolyn Weaver  
Mike Ewton

### **Adoption of Agenda**

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

### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board move into executive session for the purpose of tribunal appeal and Real Estate. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

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

### **Return to Regular Session**

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 8:08 a.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Declare Varnell Property as Surplus**

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended to the board to declare the Varnell Property as Surplus. Louis Fordham said that a Resolution to the Board of Education stated, Resolved, on November 17, 2014, the Whitfield County Board of Education states the intent of the Board to phase out use and ownership of approximately ten (10) acres of undeveloped property on the Varnell Elementary School campus adjoining Georgia Highway 71 (Cleveland Highway). Following the sale of said property, the Board of Education does not intend to employ the property for any kindergarten through twelfth grade regular education use in the future. At this time Louis called for a vote. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. Louis asked for any discussion. At this time the board wanted to amend the resolution and strike the part that stated, Following the sale of said property. Louis Fordham moved approval to amend the resolution and Bill Worley second. The board approved 5-0. The board approved the resolution as amended 5-0.

**Sale of Varnell Surplus Property**

At this time the board tabled the sale of the Varnell property giving Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, direction on the next steps.

**Student Tribunal Appeal Decision**

Louis Fordham made a motion to uphold the decision of the tribunal panel. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0 to uphold the decision of the tribunal panel.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary