

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
December 1, 2014

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 1, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Tony Stanley
Rodney Lock – absent
Bill Worley - 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. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 3-0.

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. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Adjournment

The board members having taken no action in Executive Session adjourned Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
December 1, 2014

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, December 1, 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
Tony Stanley
Rodney Lock – absent
Bill Worley - absent

Also present were the following staff members:

Judy Gilreath	Mike Ewton
Karey Williams	Eric Beavers
Rhonda Yim	Carolyn Weaver
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. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moserrat Rangel and Will Sloan, 5th grade students at Dawnville Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Mason Turner and Melissa Garcia, 5th grade students at Dawnville Elementary School, shared their projects on vascular and nonvascular plants. Both students chose to do their project on the nonvascular plant system. Mason said that they are small simple plants without a vascular system. Mosses are nonvascular plants. Melissa told the board that they do not have true roots, stems, and leaves. The board thanked them for sharing their projects.

Recognitions and Presentations

Named Employee of the Month by the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners

The board recognized Deputy Jarod Hayes, SRO at Southeast High School, with a certificate of congratulations for being named employee of the month for June 2014.

The board recognized Deputy Michael Hawkins, SRO at Northwest High School, with a certificate of congratulations for being named employee of the month for November 2014.

Completion of Energy Conservation Program Entitled, “Certified Building Operator” at Kennesaw State

The board presented Eric Patterson with a certificate of congratulations for the completion of the Energy Conservation Program at Kennesaw State University.

The board presented Ronnie Shepherd with a certificate of congratulations for the completion of the Energy Conservation Program at Kennesaw State University.

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, told the board that this was not an easy course. He said that it took a lot of time and a lot of hard work. He thanked their wives for their support. He said that they were gone to class and it took a lot studying and hard work when they were home. The board thanked Eric and Ronnie for everything that they do for Whitfield County Schools.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2014 and November 17, 2014 Board Meetings

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the November 3, 2014 and November 17, 2014 board meetings. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Approval of Purchase Order over \$25,000.00

Louis Fordham presented the following purchase order for approval:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Apple Computers, Inc.	IPADS for 3 rd Grade at DGE	\$55,471.85

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the Purchase Order as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Financial Reports

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of October 31, 2014. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 3-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Superintendent’s Reports

Teaching & Learning

No Report

Assessment, Accountability, and Technology

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer of Assessment and Accountability, presented a video and presentation on the following:

- Georgia Milestones Online Practice Opportunities for Students
- Georgia Milestones Spring 2015 Online Grades & Courses
 - End-of-Grade (EOG) for Grades 3-8
 - End-of- Course (EOC) for Grades 9-12

Audrey presented the following information:

- Experience Online Testing Tools and Accommodations for all students. These tools are available to all students who test online.
 - Option Answer Choice Eliminator
 - Highlighter
 - Eraser
 - Mark for Later Review
 - Basic Calculator
 - Scratch Pad
 - Magnifying Glass
 - Reference Card
 - Blocking Tool
- Experience Online Testing Tools and Accommodations for a Student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan:
 - High Contrast (High & Background Color)
 - Large Print
 - Screen Reader
- Experience Online Testing Georgia (Practice Site) Demonstration Test
 - English Language Arts Test Practice
 - Mathematics Test Practice
 - Science Test Practice
 - Social Studies Test Practice
- Accommodations Demonstration Tests
 - Accommodated High Contrast Test Practice
 - Accommodated Large Font Test Practice
 - Accommodated Screen Reader Test Practice
- Online Basic Calculator – A basic calculator is permitted in Grade 6
- Online Scientific Calculator: TI-30XS MV – A scientific calculator is permitted in Grades 7 and 8 EOG; Physical Science EOC; Economics EOC
- Online Graphing Calculator: TI-84 – A graphing calculator is permitted in Coordinate Algebra and Analytic Geometry EOC
- WCS Online Opportunities
 - 2014 Winter (December) Online Administrations
 - All high schools
 - Smaller population of students
 - Economics is the prominent End-of- Course
 - All students participating in an online experience
 - 2015 Spring Administration (April) Online Administration
 - Grades 3 and 6 all subjects (Language, Math, Science, and Social Studies)
 - Any student in Grades 3-8 with a Read-Aloud Accommodation
 - 2015 Spring Administration (May) Online Administration
 - High School Coordinate Algebra and Analytic Geometry
 - Any student in Grades 9-12 with a Read-Aloud Accommodation

The board thanked Audrey for the updates.

Operations

Fuel Contract Renewal

Mike Ewton recommended to the board that the fuel contract with Ownbey Enterprises be approved. Mike said that Rick Holsomback, Transportation Director, said that they have done a great job taking care of us and have fulfilled all service work that has been needed in a timely manner over the last couple of years. Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to the board to renew the fuel contract with Ownbey Enterprises. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Right of Way Request-North GA EMC

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, said that North GA EMC is requesting a Right-of-Way Easement to put power polls up. The land is north of Coahulla Creek High School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College Presentation-Possible Expansion in Whitfield County

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, introduced Brian Anderson, Chairman of the Georgia Northwestern Technical College board. Brian shared the following information with the Whitfield County Board.

- Objective: To request the Whitfield County School Board approve the transfer of approximately 21 acres of property to the Georgia State Property Commission for the purpose of expanding the Whitfield Murray Campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College. The additional property will be used for the construction of a new 80,000 square-foot, \$23 million education building and to provide campus parking for students. He asked the board to refer to the hand-out of the property survey that is in their packets.
- Justification for the Request:

Benefits to the students of the Whitfield County School System

1. The expansion of the Whitfield Murray Campus (WMC) of GNTC will allow the expansion of the number of dual-enrollment courses that can be offered by the college. Additional dual-enrollment courses can be offered for all high school students but specifically for the students attending the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy.
2. There are two types of dual-enrollment courses available to high school students:
 - a. Certificate level courses offer students the opportunity to complete a career pathway leading to a college credential to enable employment in a specific type job such as welding, industrial systems, electronics, early childhood education and other areas.
 - b. ACCEL courses are college level courses in English, mathematics, psychology, social studies that transferable to any college in the University System of Georgia; Dalton State College, Kennesaw State University and the other colleges and Universities of the Board of Regents System.
3. The certificate level and ACCEL courses are offered at no cost to the high school student or to the Whitfield County School System. The course tuition is paid by the HOPE program and the cost of the textbooks is paid by the college.
4. Each certificate level or ACCEL course completed by a high school student will save the student's family approximately \$500 which would have to be paid in the future if the student enrolled in college after high school graduation.
5. The expansion of the college will allow students to earn college credits toward an Associate Degree while students completed high school. The first program offering this credential will be Mechatronics. The study of the integration of electrical, mechanical and robotic systems. Other Associate Degree programs in additional areas such as Early Childhood Education and Criminal Justice will be added in the near future.
6. The expansion of the college will allow GNTC to move the lab based programs currently housed in the College and Career Academy building into the new college building. This will free-up approximately 37,000 sf of space in the Academy building for the expansion of high school programs.
7. The new college building will also allow the addition of several new programs of study to be offered for the citizens of Whitfield and Murray Counties. These new programs will include: Chemical Technology, Computer Programming, Diesel Mechanics, Engineering Technology, Environmental Industrial Technology, Graphic Arts, Health Information Technology, Logistics, and Machine Tool Technology.
8. These new programs are in addition to the existing programs currently offered at the WMC.

Benefits to the Employers of Dalton, Whitfield and Murray Counties

1. By expanding the dual enrollment courses offered by the college many more high school graduates will be prepared for immediate employment and/or continuing their post-secondary education at GNTC or Dalton State College.
2. The additional programs of study will increase the number of available future employees in job areas to include Chemical Lab Technicians, Computer Programmers, Diesel Mechanics,

Engineering Technologists, Health Information Specialists, Machine Tool and Precision Manufacturing Specialist.

3. These programs will be in addition to the current graduates from the Industrial Systems, Electronics, Welding, Business Management and Early Childhood programs.
4. With the additional education space the college will be able to expand our industry certified testing programs in Robotics, Electronics, Welding and Health Information.

Brian said that the transfer of the property will allow the expansion of GNTC leading to many more college graduates in the Dalton-Whitfield area. Many of the college graduates will have very specific job skills which are in demand today and will increase in the future. The availability of well-educated citizens is one of the top requirements for economic expansion and vitality in communities.

Brian told the board that in addition to allowing the expansion, it would first put into use \$900,000 that has been awarded to the college for planning and design. He said that that money can't be spent until we have the property. Representatives from the College said that a decision prior to the Georgia General Assembly's upcoming session would allow them to begin their process. This would require asking money from the state to build. Pete McDonald, president of GNTC, said that the enrollment at the college has increased from 100 to 1000 students in quite a short time. He said that with the impact of industry in the area we could see the enrollment at the GNTC Murray-Whitfield Campus increase to 4000 students within five to ten years. This would make it among the state's largest technical colleges. He said that we are looking at building a two story building. Chairman Louis Fordham said that this is a pretty innovative idea. He said that we will have to see if it's a smart decision. Louis said that the biggest concern is giving away taxpayer's property. Brian thanked the board and said that the GNTC board appreciates their consideration.

Sale of Varnell Property

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board approve the contract with Kinard Realty for the sale of the Varnell Property that is located adjacent to Varnell Elementary School alongside Cleveland Highway. It is 2 plus acres and sold for \$500,000.00. Mike Ewton told the board that the survey still has to be done but should be finished this week. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Support Services

No Report

Personnel

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Previous Business

Second 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 second reading of the new board policy, JBD: Absences and Excuses. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 3-0.

New Business

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board accept the following donations:

- Donation check in the amount of \$134,829.00 for Southeast High School's tennis courts and track balance.
- Donation check in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Antioch Elementary School's bus loop engineer fees.
- Donation check in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Dug Gap Elementary and Valley Point Middle School's leadership trip.
- Donation check in the amount of \$800.00 for Phoenix High School's Senior Hoodies
- Donation check in the amount of \$17,000.00 for cabinets in Dug Gap Elementary School's workroom.

- Donation check in the amount of \$4,600.00 for Electrical Engineering at Dug Gap Elementary School.
- Donation check in the amount of \$13,000.00 for tables and chairs at Southeast High School.
- Donation check in the amount of \$74,000.00 for Southeast High School's Raider Ambassador Leadership Center and Apparel
- Donation check in the amount of \$5,300.00 for Southeast High School's Youth Assembly.
- Donations given to North Whitfield Middle School's Golf Team in the amount of \$800.00.
- Donation check in the amount of \$300.00 was given to North Whitfield Middle School by North Georgia Electric Membership Corp. Partners in Education.
- Donations for the month of October in the amount of \$260.00 were given to Westside Middle School for football.
- Dug Gap Elementary School has received the following donations for this year so far:
Recycle America - \$21.25 (for recycling of ink cartridges)
Environmental Air - \$100
North Georgia Electric - \$300
Lifetouch - \$1,103.85 (for pictures)
Amy Grammer - \$2,500

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to accept the donations as presented. . Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 3-0.

Adjournment

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

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING
December 8, 2014

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 8, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 7:30 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
Karey Williams
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. At this time Louis Fordham made a recommendation to amend the agenda and add Discussion on Topic at Hand before executive session. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded to amend and adopt the agenda. The board approved 5-0.

At this time Chairman Louis Fordham open up the floor to discussion and questions. Vann Brown, a member of the GNTC board of directors, said that the land would be donated to the state. The state would grant it to GNTC and this would allow for an approximately 80,000-square-foot, \$23 million standalone campus for the college. The 21 acres of land is behind the building that was originally built by Dalton State College. They gave this building to GNTC about 3 years ago. Mr. Brown said we need more space and so does the Career Academy. He said that we are limited at the technical college to 5 programs. Mr. Brown said that none of this will happen if we do not get the land. Mr. Brown said that hundreds of dollars would become available for GNTC and Whitfield County Schools through Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMPC). This offers grants to match community investments in manufacturing to be used in education. A more skilled educated workforce in key technical areas would be good for the economic development of our area. This would help bring jobs to our area. Board member Rodney Lock said that a number one need is lab space at the Career Academy. The Career Academy needs to grow. Board member Thomas Barton wanted to know how this would help us and the students of Whitfield County. Mr. Brown said that this would allow a number of dual-enrollment courses that could be offered by the college. This could allow students to earn college credits toward an Associate Degree while still in high school. Mr. Brown said that this can happen. If you give us this land it will enable us to move to the front of the line for our request. We will be able to increase from 5 to 10 programs and the Career Academy will be able to increase their labs. Mr. Brown said that the dual enrollment will provide for high school students to take college level courses at GNTC. Dual credit courses can start a college education at no expense to the student. In most cases the tuition will be paid by state funds. Certain programs allow students to enroll in one college course or become a full-time college student. Hope pays 85% if taught on campus. Credits earned can transfer to any college in the university system in Georgia. Dr. Gilreath wanted to know if they could use our teachers. Mr. Brown said that they could if they had a master's degree in that field. Louis Fordham wanted to know why it has taken so long on dual enrollment. Dr. Gilreath said that once students get on their home campus they do not want to leave. Rodney Lock wanted to know what plans they had in the future for communication to get the students involved. Mr. Brown said that we will meet with the superintendent, principals, and leadership team to let them know what is available. David Moeller, CEO, at the Career Academy said that they have a meeting scheduled tomorrow night to inform parents about dual enrollment. Mr. Brown told the board that if we do not get the property we would come off the list as #2. Brill Adams, principal at Northwest High School wanted to know if there had been any other plans for that property. Louis told him that there are no other plans for this property. Louis thanked Vann Brown for the information that he had provided for the board.

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board move into executive session for the purpose of Real Estate. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton 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
Karey Williams

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 9:00 a.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Vote on Georgia Northwestern Request for property at Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy

Louis Fordham made a recommendation to vote on the donation of property requested by Georgia Northwestern Technical College. Rodney Lock moved to table the vote to a future meeting. Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING
December 15, 2014

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on December 15, 2014. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley – arrived at 7:39 a.m. Joined board in executive session
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Judy Gilreath
Karey Williams
Carolyn Weaver

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 move into executive session for the purpose of Real Estate. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

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
Karey Williams

Return to Regular Session

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 8:00 a.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Vote on Georgia Northwestern Request for property at Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy

At this time board chairman Louis Fordham recommended that the board approve the transfer of the property requested on the campus of the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy to the State of Georgia Properties Commission for Georgia Northwestern Technical College. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley second. Mr. Fordham asked for any discussion or questions from the board. Louis stated again that if the GNTC does not get the land or if they decide in the future to abandon or sell the property, the property would come back to Whitfield County Schools. The board approved 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary