## MINUTES OF CALLED WORK SESSION January 5, 2015

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on January 5, 2015. 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 Bill Worley Tony Stanley - absent

Others present:

Judy Gilreath Karey Williams Rhonda Yim Mike Ewton Eric Beavers 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 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 Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### Adjournment

The board members having taken no action in Executive Session adjourned Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING January 5, 2015

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, January 5, 2015. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:32 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	Kelly Johnson Coon
Audrey Williams	Carolyn Weaver
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 Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Aryam Salguero, 8th grade student 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

Aryam Salguero led the inspiration by singing, "Mary Did You Know." She was accompanied by Patrick Henry, chorus teacher at North Whitfield Middle School. The board thanked her for the great job that she did.

#### **Recognitions and Presentations**

#### Northwest Georgia Regional Technology Fair Winners

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following 1<sup>st</sup> place winners at the Northwest Georgia Regional Technology Fair:

- Harrison Priest Game Design Grades 9 and 10 Coahulla Creek High School
- Rosa Esteban Non-Animated Graphic Design Grades 11 and 12 Coahulla Creek High School
- Jared Fowler and Sarah Davenport Robotics Grades 11 and 12 Northwest High School
- River Lang and Andie Infante Digital Photography Grades 9 and 10 Northwest High School
- Kevin Nguyen Digital Video Production Grades 9 and 10 Northwest High School
- Alex Pangle and Joseph Sandoval Game Design Grades 11 and 12 Southeast High School
- Myranda Truelove Web 2.0 Applications Grades 11 and 12 Southeast High School
- Kale Hopkins 3D Modeling Grades 11 and 12 Southeast High School

- Laura Beth Manly Digital Photography Grades 11 and 12 Southeast High School
- Corey Burke and James Puckett Web 2.0 Applications Grades 9 and 10 Southeast High School The board thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

## Alejandro Fajardo Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Visual Arts in the 2014 International Torrance Legacy Creativity Awards

The board presented Alejandro Fajardo, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Southeast High School, with a certificate of congratulations for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Visual Arts in the 2014 International Torrance Legacy Creativity Awards. Louis Fordham said that this is an international Competition. First place was awarded to a student from Poland and third place was awarded to a student from Chicago. He said that Dr. Paul Torrance is the author of more than 2,000 test, articles, and books. The competition was sponsored by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC);Creativity Network; Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, the University of Georgia; Future Problem Solving Program International; The Great Plains Center for Gifted Studies, Emporia State University; Midwest Torrance Center for Creativity. This is a great honor and accomplishment to be able to compete with students from other countries and end up placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in that category. The board thanked Alejandro for a job well done.

# Cord Edward King, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Teacher at Valley Point Middle School Receives New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power

The board presented Mr. King with a certificate of congratulations for receiving the New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power in the amount of \$1000.00 and a small replica of a Georgia Power Bucket Truck. The grant is to be used by Mr. King to purchase materials and supplies for his classroom. Mr. King is a first year teacher at Valley Point Middle School. He was nominated by Dalton State College. To be eligible, he had to be in the top 25 percent of his class and a first-year teacher at a Georgia public school.

## Hearing of Individuals

None

## Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2014 Board Meetings and December 8 and 15, 2014 Called Board Meetings

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the December 1, 2014 and December 8 and 15, 2014 board meetings. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

## **Financial Reports**

Kelly Johnson Coon, Finance Director, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of November 30, 2014. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

#### Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Curriculum Update and Student Growth - Michelle Caldwell, David Thacker, and Bonnie Angel with RESA

Michelle Caldwell, Director of Middle School Curriculum, thanked the board for the opportunity to highlight the teaching and learning that is going on in the area of middle school mathematics. She said that this work is made possible through the efforts of many: Bonnie Angel, mathematics mentor from NGA RESA, David Thacker, district instructional coach, principals, school instructional coaches, and teachers. Michelle introduced Bonnie Angel who shared the following information:

Our Plates as Math Teachers

- TKES Teacher Keys Effectiveness System is important to student achievement by providing programs and resources to enhance teacher effectiveness.
- FAL Formative Assessment Lessons that uncover student misconceptions and close the gaps in conceptual understandings in mathematics.
- CCGPS New Curriculum
- Flexible Grouping
- Standards for Mathematical Practice
- R.T.I. Response to Intervention
- D.I. Differentiated Instruction
- Task
- Lunch Duty

David Thacker shared the following information:

Cohort Design

- Attended the State Math Conference
- Attended a session on the Math Design Collaborative featuring formative assessment lessons in math
- Initiated the first cohort in the spring of 2012
- PL design for teachers has included a half day of intensive modeling and questioning with the lessons, practice implementation, scheduled coaching observations of every teacher a minimum of three times, peer observations, and debriefing sessions.
- The design features a collaborative environment with targeted feedback in a supportive, non-threatening context.

These are the four cohorts who have been trained and are being trained by the end of this year; please notice the inclusion of SPED and ESOL teachers who serve in middle school math classrooms.

Cohort Design

- Cohort 1: NHMS and VPMS (Grades 7-8)
- Cohort 2: EMS, NWMS, WMS (Grades 7-8)
- Cohort 3: All Schools (Grade 6)
- Cohort 4: All Schools (all grades; new teachers,

ESOL, and SPED)

Professional Learning Impact

- Number of teachers trained: 72 math teachers (46 regular ed., 19 SPED and 7 ES)
- Number of coaching sessions: 150+ classroom observations, 50+ debriefing sessions, and 30+ peer observations
- Students impacted: Over 3,000 middle school Students

Michelle Caldwell shared the following information:

Choose to highlight district math growth data since that is how we are measured with CCRPI. In 2012, we began this work with 8 teachers in two schools. Expected growth is 30% and we are surpassing all levels.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Growth in Math
  - 2011 at 50%
  - 2012 at 41%
  - 2013 at 61%
  - 2014 at 71%
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Growth in Math
  - o 2011 at 36%
  - o 2012 at 43%

- 2013 at 50%
- 2014 at 49%
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Growth in Math
  - 2011 at 41%
  - o 2012 at 44%
  - 2013 at 36%
  - o 2014 at 46%
- CCRPI Math Achievement Trend Data Michelle said that this is the WCS math achievement data as compared to the state. While the state is showing a downward trend, WCS continues to make progress. State

State: Increased 0.6

WCS: Increased 2.7

- o 2012 at 86%
- o 2013 at 87%
- o 2014 at 86.6%

Whitfield County Middle Schools

- o 2012 at 81.8%
- o 2013 at 83.7%
- o 2014 at 84.5%

David Thacker shared the following information:

Moving Forward

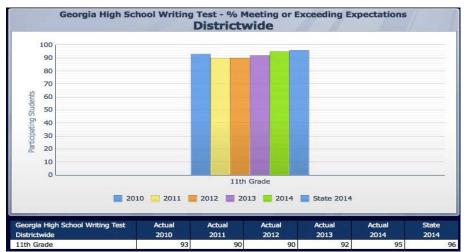
- Next Steps
  - Continued Support from Administrators
  - Build Capacity
  - o New Teacher Cohorts

Michelle told the board that these lessons cause the students to verbalize their understanding of math concepts as well as write explanations of their thinking which is vital to student learning. She said that our students will transition smoothly to the high school where this work is taking place. There are a number of positive practices impacting math growth such as common assessments, data analysis, attending math conferences, and district wide consistency in practice which builds a strong professional learning community. She said that we are aiming to work together to go far. She thanked the board, Judy, Karey, and middle school principals for their leadership.

Assessment, Accountability, and Technology

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer of Assessment and Accountability, presented the following information:

Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) Results



Graduation Rate	
Calculation Formula	
Diplomas = # in Cohort • 2014 4-Year Cohort Gradu	Graduation Rate aation Rate Formula
# of students in the 2014 cohort who graduated with a regular diploma in 2014	<ul> <li>#First Time 9<sup>th</sup> Graders in 2011</li> <li>+ #Transfers in to the cohort in 2012</li> <li>+ # Transfers in to the cohort in 2013</li> <li>+ # Transfers in to the cohort in 2014</li> <li>- # Transfers out, emigrate, or die in 4-year cohort</li> </ul>

• # of students in the 2014 cohort who graduated with a regular diploma in 2014

( # First Time 9th Graders in 2011

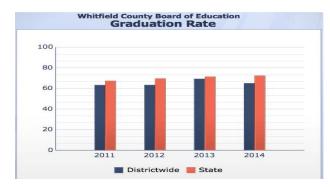
- + # Transfers in to the cohort in 2012
- + # Transfers in to the cohort in 2013
- + # Transfers in to the cohort in 2014
- # Transfers out, emigrate, or die in 4-year cohort )
  - 641
- ( 1,060 First Time 9th Graders in 2011
  - + 71 Transfers in to the cohort in 2012
  - + 55 Transfers in to the cohort in 2013
  - + 16 Transfers in to the cohort in 2014
  - -219 Transfers out, emigrate, or die in 4-year cohort )
    - 2014

=

641 Diplomas

65.2%

938 in Cohort



College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)

Audrey Williams presented charts looking at the CCRPI levels for elementary, middle, high and district:

	Elementary	
	State	District
0	2012 - 74.9	65.7
0	2013 - 78.5	75.2
0	2014 - 73.2	73.7

Audrey said that elementary schools are higher than state.

• Middle		
	State	District
0	2012 - 73.9	70.2
0	2013 - 75	70.6
0	2014 - 73.5	72.7

Audrey said that middle schools have had an increase.

•	High	
	State	District
0	2012 - 73	65.5
0	2013 - 72.5	72
0	2014 - 68.7	66.1
•	District	
•	District State	District
•		District 66.7
•	State	

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, said that they have used different formulas for all three years. Louis Fordham said that this makes it hard to compare to the state. The board thanked Audrey for the presentation.

#### Operations

#### Presentation by Buckley and Associates on the Preliminary Design of the New Eastbrook Gym

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, said that this project is planned to start the summer of 2015. Mike introduced Greg Smith with Buckley and Associates to present the slide presentation on the Eastbrook gymnasium addition. This slide presentation is located on the WCS website. The new gym will be located between the school and the football field.

Greg Smith presented information on the renovation of Eastside Elementary School which is scheduled to start the summer of 2015. Mike Ewton told the board that these projects are in the 2015 Capital Outlay Projects Application. Mike thanked Greg Smith for his hard work. He said that there has been a lot of discussion.

Support Services

#### Approval of Afterschool Care Workers

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, asked the board to approve the following afterschool care workers:

- Angie Purkey Antioch Elementary School
- Destin Jones Pleasant Grove Elementary School
- Kennedy Caroline Hughes Tunnel Hill Elementary School

Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Page 6 of 11

## Personnel

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

## **Previous Business**

None

## **New Business**

## Whitfield County Schools Strategic Plan

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that the strategic planning process started with a community survey released at the beginning of the school year in August of 2014. The feedback was wonderful. More than 1,100 staff and community members responded to seven questions. The committee of 24-members helped prioritize the districts greatest challenges, specify what students need to learn to be successful, and define the evidence that will evaluate the quality of education in WCS. Dr. Gilreath said the first place to begin is with our Vision, Mission, and Beliefs. These have guided the direction of our school district for nearly a decade. A lot has changed in our school district since the document was introduced in the fall of 2006. We feel this is a great time to update the Vision, Mission, and Beliefs:

## Vision

We envision a valued and dynamic school district that prepares students for success in a global community.

## Mission

Our mission is to maximize student learning by providing challenging and engaging educational experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

#### Beliefs

- 1. We believe the needs of students, personnel, families, and the community are best met with a unified direction.
- 2. We believe our purpose is to lead students to success by engaging them in challenging and meaningful work.
- 3. We believe teachers are leaders who design learning experiences for students.
- 4. We believe our personnel, families, and community members are vital to the education of our students.
- 5. We believe in creating and maintaining a safe, inviting, and inclusive learning environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, to present Goal 1:

#### Instruction & Assessment

Provide the educational foundation and opportunities to accelerate all students to achieve expected or high academic growth.

**Objective 1:** Increase the rigor of the curriculum presented to our students.

## **Action Steps:**

• Create and implement curriculum maps that are aligned horizontally and vertically for the four core content areas: mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies.

Page 7 of 11

- Review, revise, and implement the system-wide Response to Interventions (RTI) guidelines.
- Increase use of literacy standards across the curriculum.
- Create a common grading policy for the district.
- Increase digital learning opportunities.

**Objective 2:** Teachers will utilize and implement effective instructional practices.

## Action Steps:

- Consistently use Non-Negotiable Practices.
- Fully implement data teams on each campus and provide training in best practices for data analysis.
- Highlight innovative teaching practices.

**Objective 3:** Graduates will be college and career ready.

#### **Action Steps:**

- All students will complete a pathway by graduation.
- Maximize opportunities for academic and technical training at the NWGCCA.
- Increase the number of students who exceed state expectations on the Georgia Milestones and decrease the number
- of students who do not meet state standards.
- Raise the graduation rate above 80%.
- Increase the number of advanced content courses offered in elementary and middle schools.
- Increase the number of undergraduate college courses taught in Whitfield County Schools.
- Increase the number of students who have earned college credit by graduation to 400 or more.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Rhonda Yim, Chief Officer of Human Resources, to present Goal 2:

Highly Qualified Personnel

Recruit, retain, and develop highly-qualified personnel.

Objective 1: Provide a compensation package that is competitive with other school districts in the region.

#### Action Steps:

- Restore employee work calendars.
- Restore salary schedules.

Objective 2: Provide ongoing support for new teachers and administrators through a comprehensive induction plan.

## Action Steps:

- Collaborate with new teachers and administrators regularly using various platforms to provide support.
- Develop and implement an ongoing leadership support program.
- Develop an effective mentoring program for new administrators.

**Objective 3:** Recruit and recommend highly skilled and highly qualified applicants to be hired by the Whitfield County Board of Education.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Strengthen relationships with accredited teacher education programs.
- Develop criteria to screen student teachers from education programs outside of Georgia.
- Increase the ethnic diversity of our faculty and staff.

**Objective 4:** Continue to provide effective, research-based, and differentiated professional learning opportunities tied directly to school and district improvement plans.

#### Action Steps:

- Develop a five-year district professional learning plan and evaluate it annually.
- Assist schools in disaggregating data for use in the school improvement plan on an ongoing basis.
- Work with schools and departments to schedule and facilitate professional development opportunities.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Kelly Johnson Coon, Finance Director, to present Goal 3:

#### Finance

Ensure fiscal stability and increase reserves through sound practices.

**Objective 1:** Develop and sustain sound financial management practices, stability, and efficiency based on county and state comparisons and best practices.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Analyze expenditures for trends and spikes.
- Develop five-year financial and debt plans based on priorities defined by the District Strategic Plan.
- Receive a clean audit management and advisory report.

**Objective 2:** Develop efficiencies of process to make best use of available resources.

## Action Steps:

- · Analyze procurement process for efficiencies and develop district standardized procedures.
- Design and implement a district inventory process.
- Develop and maintain an energy conservation program.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Lisa Jones, Principal at Varnell Elementary School to present Goal 4:

Community Involvement Strengthen school, family, and community partnerships.

**Objective 1:** Schools and support facilities will be safe and inviting places for families, staff, and the community.

#### Action Steps:

- Sustain a positive and welcoming environment.
- Ensure staff and students are ready to implement Emergency Operation Plans.
- Monitor safety, cleanliness, and overall appearance of facilities.

**Objective 2:** Partner with families to strengthen understanding of state standards, student progress, and the importance of teachers and families working together.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Provide families with resources to support their child's education.
- Ensure information is clearly communicated to families.
- Use the Internet, social media, and other tools to enhance parent and community partnerships.

Objective 3: Coordinate school and community resources to support student growth and development.

## **Action Steps:**

- Introduce families to resources that assist with physical, social, emotional, and academic needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with institutions of higher education.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, to present Goal 5:

#### Operations

Provide safe and efficient facilities, maintenance, and transportation services.

**Objective 1:** Develop a proactive facilities maintenance program to maximize efficiency.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Develop a five-year maintenance schedule for interior finishes for all schools.
- Establish a preventive maintenance program for HVAC, mechanical, and structural systems.
- Annually evaluate the cost and benefit of contracted services.

Objective 2: Plan facilities construction and renovations based on prioritized needs assessment data.

## Action Steps:

- Improve accessibility for all students, staff, and visitors in our facilities.
- Enhance energy efficiency through renovations of HVAC, electrical, lighting, and mechanical systems.
- Renovate athletic venues, administrative buildings, and other facilities with critical needs.
- Maintain and upgrade video surveillance, electronic access control, and radio systems.

Objective 3: Enhance the safety and efficiency of student transportation systems.

## **Action Steps:**

- Adopt a bus replacement schedule to reduce repair costs and improve efficiency.
- Upgrade digital radio and GPS systems to ensure communication during emergencies and daily operations.
- Continue advanced safety training for bus drivers and monitors.
- Maintain effective bus monitoring technology.

Dr. Gilreath introduced Jim Fugate, Director of Technology, to present Goal 6:

**Objective 3:** Enhance the safety and efficiency of student transportation systems.

## Action Steps:

- Adopt a bus replacement schedule to reduce repair costs and improve efficiency.
- Upgrade digital radio and GPS systems to ensure communication during emergencies and daily operations.
- Continue advanced safety training for bus drivers and monitors.
- Maintain effective bus monitoring technology.

Jim Fugate introduced Betsy Clem to talk about Objective 2. Betsy provides support to teachers in the instructional use of technology to enhance the educational experience of students.

**Objective 2:** Provide seamless access to technology tools.

## **Action Steps:**

• Evaluate instructional use of software and technology integration that supports research and evidence-based strategies.

• Expand teacher and administrative use of state and district tools for databased instructional decision-making and design.

Dr. Gilreath said that the committee has worked very hard on the Whitfield County Schools Five Year Strategic Plan that will guide us through the coming years. This plan will guide us forward and drive all of us to reach for ever higher levels of success. Dr. Gilreath made a recommendation to approve this Five-Year Strategic Plan as presented. Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to approve the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Whitfield County Schools. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

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

- Donation check in the amount of \$5,300.00 for Eastbrook Middle School's Girls Basketball.
- Donation check in the amount of \$64,000.00 for Antioch Elementary School's Computer Lab.
- Donation check in the amount of \$1,270.00 for Dug Gap Elementary School's Production Company Shirts.
- Donation check in the amount of \$3,800.00 for Southeast High School's Playoff Game Expenses.
- Donation check in the amount of \$665,190.00 for Eastbrook Middle School's Softball Field.
- Donation check in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Antioch Elementary School to Paint Halls.
- Donation check in the amount of \$750.00 for Valley Point Elementary School from Oriental Weavers to purchase Starfall Software, Evernote for Pre-K, Camera for Yearbook Pictures, and additional educational supplies.
- Donation check in the amount of \$347.69 for North Whitfield Middle School from Tennesse Aquarium to offset transportation to Tennesse Aquarium.

- Donations for the month of November given to Westside Middle School: NGEMC Partnership - \$300.00 Leukemia & Lymphoma Pennies for Patients - \$775.00
- Donations Check in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Coahulla Creek High School for Elite Sponsorship from Run for God, LLC.
- Donations for the month of December given to Dawnville Elementary School: Georgia United Credit Union - \$500.00 to Chorus Caylor Industries - \$550.00 to partially fund 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to Tellus Museum Zaxby's - \$200.00 to partially fund 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to Tellus Museum

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to accept the donations as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

## Adoption of 2015 Board Meeting Calendar

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the 2015 Board Meeting Calendar. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

## Election of Whitfield County Board of Education Chairman

Mr. Fordham asked for nominations for Board Chairman. Thomas Barton nominated Louis Fordham and Rodney Lock seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The board approved 3-1 with Louis Fordham not voting.

## Election of Whitfield County Board of Education Vice Chairman

Mr. Fordham asked for nominations for Board Vice Chairman. Rodney Lock nominated Bill Worley and Thomas Barton seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The board approved 3-1 with Bill Worley not voting.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

# Whitfield County Board of Education Board Governance Training January 22, 2015 1306 S. Thornton Avenue Dalton, GA 30720

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a Board Governance Training at the Whitfield County Central Office on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 8:35 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	Kelly Johnson Coon
Karey Williams	Audrey Williams
Rhonda Yim	Carolyn Weaver
Mike Ewton	

#### **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.

## **Board Member Board Governance Training**

The Whitfield County Board of Education members are required to do nine hours of training each year. Tony Arasi with the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) facilitated the three hours of training. The training was on Finance and Board Ethics. The power point that was used for this training is part of the backup minutes.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary