

MINUTES OF  
CALLED WORK SESSION  
March 2, 2015

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on March 2, 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  
Tony Stanley  
Bill Worley

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 Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Executive Session**

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

### **Adjournment**

The board members having taken no action in Executive Session adjourned Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
March 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, March 2, 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  
Tony Stanley  
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Judy Gilreath	Mike Ewton
Karey Williams	Wanda Phillips
Rhonda Yim	Eric Beavers
Kelly Johnson Coon	Carolyn Weaver

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. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Yolanda Melagarejo, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Southeast High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

#### **Inspiration**

There was not an inspiration at tonight's meeting.

#### **Recognitions and Presentations**

##### Northwest High School Boys Swim Qualify for State 200 Free Relay

The board presented certificates of congratulation to the following swimmers who qualified for the state 200 Free Relay:

Eron Holmes, Makray Kyer, Alexander Spivey, Michael Pipkin, Logan Hilton, Isaac Lacle, Steven Holmes, and Ethan Davis.

##### Northwest High School Diver Qualifies for State

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Chae Cunningham for qualifying for state in diving. Chae is the first female diver from Northwest to qualify for state.

#### North Whitfield Middle School Steven Tyler Mathis is Southeast Regional Middle School Champion Diver

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Steven Tyler Mathis for being the Southeast Regional Middle School Champion Diver.

#### GEMA Emergency Plan Certificates Presentation

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, introduced Charles Worden, School Safety Coordinator with Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security. Mr. Worden said that it is always a pleasure to work with Mike and Eric. They always put forth great effort. Mr. Worden shared a letter from James B. Butterworth, Director of GEMA/Homeland Security. The letter thanked Dr. Gilreath for submitting your schools system's emergency operations plans to the GEMA/Homeland Security for review. He said he was pleased to inform you that our School Safety Unit has once again determined Whitfield County School District's emergency operations plans successfully met the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185, and have been re-approved. From Tornadoes to terrorism, Georgia faces a variety of ever-evolving threats, underscoring the importance of updating plans in cooperation with local public safety professionals. Now that your plans have been re-approved, we recommend testing them through exercises. Mr. Worden said that he wished all systems were like Whitfield County Schools.

Mr. Worden presented a certificate to Dr. Judy Gilreath, superintendent and the principals at all 24 Whitfield County Schools in recognition of your efforts to promote safe schools and to acknowledge that Whitfield County Schools Safety Plans are in compliance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185, and therefore have been renewed. Mr. Worden presented Claude Craig, GAACEM, Director, for the work that Whitfield County Emergency Management Agency has done to coordinate all the emergency response plans for Whitfield County Schools. Louis Fordham told Claude that the board appreciates everything that you do for Whitfield County Schools.

#### Northwest High School and Southeast High School are Advanced Placement Honor Schools for 2015

The board presented certificates of congratulations to Northwest High School and Southeast High School for being Advanced Placement Honor Schools for 2015. They placed in the following areas:

- Northwest High School for AP STEM School and AP Achievement School
- Southeast High School for AP Access and Support School

#### Board Member Appreciation Week of March 16-20, 2015

Dr. Gilreath said that School Board Appreciation Week is March 16-20, 2015. We want to thank our board for all that they do for Whitfield County Schools. She said that school board members are elected to represent the community's voice on education matters and to set the vision for the school district. She said that they spend countless hours fulfilling its responsibilities and working together to continually improve education. Dr. Gilreath said that school board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system and disbursing school funds. They are always evaluating and deciding what actions are in the best interest of our students. They spend time away from their jobs and families to make sure that we have the best school system possible. Dr. Gilreath said that Whitfield County Schools have provided gifts for them from the students and staff. Dr. Gilreath presented the following board members a certificate of appreciation:

- Louis Fordham, Chairman
- Bill Worley, Vice Chairman
- Thomas Barton
- Rodney Lock
- Tony Stanley

Dr. Gilreath said that it is an honor to work with each of them. The board thanked Dr. Gilreath and the schools of Whitfield County.

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

## **Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2015 Board Meetings**

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the February 2, 2015 board meetings. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

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

Louis Fordham presented the following purchase orders for approval:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Baseline Sports Construction, LLC	Install Handicap Access and Prep Field for Futsal (CRE)	\$98,000.00

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the purchase order for Baseline Sports Construction, LLC to install handicap Access and prep field for Futsal at Cedar Ridge Elementary School in the amount of \$98,000.00. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Apple Computer, Inc.	Computers and iPADS for DGE	\$25,609.80
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Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the purchase order for Apple Computer, Inc. to purchase computers and iPADS for Dug Gap Elementary School in the amount of \$25,609.80. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

## **Financial Reports**

Kelly Johnson Coon, Director of Finance, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of January 31, 2015. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

## **Superintendent's Reports**

### Teaching & Learning

Karey Williams said that they did not have an actual report but wanted to let the board know that we have two schools that have received the Striving Readers Grant, Cohutta Elementary School and North Whitfield Middle School. We got the 4<sup>th</sup> highest score in the state. We had great support from the schools that had already received the grant. She said that we are very excited.

### Assessment and Accountability

#### Georgia Milestones Update – Dr. Audrey Williams

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, was out sick so Dr. Gilreath presented the update on Georgia Milestone:

- Of 149,209 student logins, 142,177 (or 95.3%) completed the test successfully
- Grades 3 and 6 ( Dr. Gilreath said that we will have 30% testing online)
- Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, and Economics
- Next Statewide Readiness Test (SRT) *March 3, 2015* ( Dr. Gilreath said that teachers will log in tomorrow from 3:00 – 4:00)

### Operations

#### Real-estate Listing Contracts

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, presented two real-estate listing contracts with Kinard Realty for the following approval:

- Land Lot 229, District 11, Section 3, A Portion of Parcel 1.9. This is 2.0 acres at Ga 2 and Cleveland Highway. The property shall be offered at a price of \$550,000.00. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.
- Land Lot 229, District 11, Section 3, A Portion of Parcel 1.9. This is 8.0 acres at Ga 2 and Cleveland Highway. The property shall be offered at a price of \$1,200,000.00. Tony Stanley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Varnell Property Sales Contract

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 at the corner of Cleveland Highway and GA 2. It is 2 plus acres and sold for \$500,000.00. Mike Ewton told the board that this would be with the survey acceptable to both parties. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Discussion on Intergovernmental Agreement with Whitfield County Public Works for Mowing Services - Mike Ewton

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, told the board that this would be with the Public Works Department of Whitfield County to do the mowing for the following 8 schools:

- Dug Gap Elementary
- Varnell Elementary
- Valley Point Elementary
- Valley Point Middle
- Westside Elementary
- Westside Middle
- Eastbrook Middle
- North Whitfield Middle

The Public Works Department has already been mowing the athletic fields for these schools because the recreation department uses these fields. Now they will start mowing the whole school. The cost for this will be \$30,000.00 for a year.

#### Support Services

No Report

#### Personnel

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board approve the personnel actions as presented to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, and other personnel changes. At this time, Dr. Gilreath asked Tony Stanley to sustain from voting so his wife's, Suzanne Stanley, contract could be renewed. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 4-0. At this time Dr. Gilreath asked Thomas Barton to sustain from voting so his daughter's, Kelly Barton, contract could be renewed. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 4-0. Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the re-employment for all other certified personnel for 2015-2016 school year. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **Previous Business**

##### Second Reading of Changes in Board Policy IBB: Charter Schools

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that the State Board Rules now require a policy on Charter Schools. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

##### Second Reading of Changes in Board Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention Policy

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that this is to align LBOE policy with state changes. This changes CRCT to Georgia Milestones. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Second Reading of Changes in Board Policy EEE: Wellness Policy

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that this is to align with federal requirements, designee to assure compliance with the policy. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**New Business**

Resolution: Whitfield County Board of Education in Support of Dalton/Whitfield Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation has been made to approve the Resolution for the Dalton/Whitfield Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0. The Resolution is a part of these minutes

Donations for March 2015

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

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Description of Donation</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
Southeast High School	Gym Lobby	\$170,000.00
Southeast High School	Raider Ambassador Trip Balance, Badges and Computer Lab	\$64,000.00
Southeast High School	Raider Ambassador Growing Leaders Program	\$1,447.99
Southeast High School	Room #50 Raider Ambassador Workroom	\$7,271.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	HTTP://Adventuretofitness.com/annual subscription	\$500.00
New Hope Elementary School	HTTP://Adventuretofitness.com/annual subscription	\$500.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Deposit for Disney Leadership Trip for 2015	\$4,820.70
Dug Gap Elementary School	Vertex Investment Partners, LLC	\$500.00
Northwest High School	Cross Country Team from Cathryn Futral on Behalf of Ashley Sweeney	\$100.00

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board accept the donations as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman