

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
April 13, 2015

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on April 13, 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
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 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. Bill Worley 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 6:05 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, April 13, 2015. 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	Wanda Phillips
Audrey Williams	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

Elliott Green, 5th grade student at Cohutta Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Cohutta Elementary's Chorus presented the following songs led by Lauren Buckner, music teacher:

"Beat For Peace" written by PULSE
"Dona Nobis Pacem" written by Mozart
"Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift, arranged by 5th grade

The board thanked the chorus and Ms. Buckner for the great job that they did.

Recognitions and Presentations

Student Placed 3rd in State in the Georgia Holocaust Day of Remembrance Art Project Contest

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Jake Kyer, 6th grade student at New Hope Middle School, for placing 3rd in the statewide middle school division for the Georgia Holocaust Day of Remembrance Art Project Contest. This was submitted through his language arts class and his teacher Wendy Gowin helped him prepare and submit his entry. Jake will be recognized at the Days of Remembrance Ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol on April 17, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

Students Placed 2nd and 3rd at the Georgia Educational Technology Fair

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following students for placing 2nd and 3rd place at the Georgia Educational Technology Fair:

- Kevin Nguyen – 2nd Place Digital Video Production (11-12) Northwest High School
- Alex Pangle – 2nd Place Game Design (11-12) Southeast High School. Recipient of a \$250.00 Scholarship.
- Joseph Sandoval – 2nd Place Game Design (11-12) Southeast High School. Recipient of a \$250.00 Scholarship.
- Harrison Priest – 3rd Place Game Design (9-10) Coahulla Creek High School

Students Recognized for their Work and Contributions on the 2015-2016 District Calendar

The board presented certificates of appreciation to the following students for their help and contributions that they made to the 2015-2016 District Calendar:

- Emily Allen – 7th grade Valley Point Middle School
- Kenneth Vasquez – 6th grade Valley Point Middle School
- Hannah Hawkins – 11th grade Coahulla Creek High School
- Mary Kate Jones – 11th grade Northwest High School

The board thanked them for serving on the committee and all of the time they committed to after school.

United Way's Youth Volunteer Group of the Year

Cathy Swiney, with United Way, said that United Way honors volunteers and volunteer groups in Whitfield and Murray counties whose service has exemplified a commitment to bring hope, promise, and opportunity to the lives of others. The minimum hour requirement for a Group Volunteer Service Award is 250 hours in a 12 month period with each recognized member contributing at least 50 hours toward the total. Youth Volunteer Awards are sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Dalton. She said she is proud to announce that Northwest High School's Service Learning Group has won the 2015 Youth Volunteer Group Award. The group volunteered 5,856 hours. At this time the Whitfield County Board of Education presented certificates of congratulations to the following students in the Northwest High School Service Learning Class:

Jacob Asbury	BriLeigh Baggett
Collin Blakenship	Landon Cable
Bailee Crossen	Tori Hufstetler
Christian Joseph	Madelyn Logan
Bayley Marquardt	Marissa Metcalf
Levi Mosteller	Aaron Scott
Myah Steele	Samantha Wooten
Aliaa AlBaba	Brandon Balino
Rachel Dillingham	Andrea Z Garcia
Janson Gladden	Madison Gowin
Savannah Green	Taylor Hufstetler
Mary Kate Jones	Walker Maret
Austin Morrison	Jamison Payne
Shelby Ralston	Keelyn Roberts
Destiny Rodriguez	TJ Rounsaville
Gavin Thompson	Grace Wiggins

The board said that we are very proud of this group and the number of hours that they volunteered. This is great for our community.

Elbert Shaw Memorial Scholarship Recipient and Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Cathy Swiney, with United Way, told the board that the Elbert Shaw Memorial Scholarship is in honor of Elbert Shaw and his commitment to volunteer service and youth development. Shaw Industries is partnering with United Way of Northwest Georgia to offer two \$5,000 scholarships for high school students. The Elbert Shaw Memorial Scholarship seeks to recognize young people who are active, empowered members of our community. The award recipients will be youth who work in cooperation with their peers and community leaders to create positive change in society, including identifying problems and implementing solutions. The requirements include:

- Current Junior or Senior in high school who lives or attends school in Whitfield or Murray County.
- Two letters of recommendation from non-relatives.
- Must have completed at least 100 hours of volunteer service and a letter of verification must be submitted from each non-profit where the individual has served.
- Must hold a current high school GPA of 3.0.

Cathy Swiney said that we are glad to present the Elbert Shaw Scholarship to Mason Allen, 12th grade at Northwest High School. Mason was also awarded the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. Mason had a total of 1400 hours of volunteer service.

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Mason Allen for the recipient of the Elbert Shaw Scholarship and a certificate of congratulations for the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.

Governor Honors Finalist for 2015

The board presented the following students a certificate of congratulations for being the 2015 Governor Honors Finalist:

Hannah Conway – Coahulla Creek High School for Communicative Arts
Presley Sutton – Coahulla Creek High School for Agricultural Science
Justin Deal – Northwest High School for Social Studies
Bram Pulliam – Northwest High School for Music/Jazz (Base Guitar)
Edgar Corona – Southeast High School for Theatre Design

Louis Fordham said that this is a great honor. They will be attending the 2015 Governor's Honors Summer Academy for four weeks at Valdosta State.

Hearing of Individuals

Debby Peppers wanted to talk to the board about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). She said that PBIS is an evidence-based, data driven framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school's sense of safety and support improved academic outcomes. She said that more than 19,000 U.S. schools are implementing PBIS. She said that Murray County has implemented PBIS district-wide since 2008-2009. She said that the discipline outcomes realized over time have been significant.

- Discipline events have reduced in Murray County Schools by 45%
- Discipline actions (ISS, OSS, Detention) assigned by administrators reduced by 37%
- The graduation rate has improved by 14%

Debby Peppers stated that the second issue is our tribunal staff. We use our own staff for a tribunal. She said that we need to look at the process and bring in an independent group to do our tribunals. She thanked the board for opportunity to speak and for their time.

Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2015 Board Meetings

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the March 2, 2015 board meetings. Tony Stanley 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>
Dell Computer Corporation	Computers and Supplies for CRES	\$48,954.00
Dell Computer Corporation	Laptops and Office 2013 Licenses SHS	\$38,730.64
CDW-G Computer Centers	Chromebooks, Cart and Timer, and Management Console for EES	\$39,108.00
CDW-G Computer Centers	Chromebooks, Cart and Timer, and Licenses for DGE	\$101,016.00
Felker Construction	Baseball Building for SHS	\$75,000.00

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to approve the purchase orders as presented. Thomas Barton 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 February 28, 2015. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Rodney Lock 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

New Math Course Progression – Tom Appelman

Foundations of Algebra

Incoming Freshmen **only**

- Fill in the gaps; prepare students for High School Mathematics
- Criteria:
 - Set by State
- This class will count as 1 of 4 high school math credits

Current Math Tracks - Integrated

CP Track	Honors Track	Accelerated Track
Coordinate Algebra	Honors Coordinate Algebra	Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry
Analytic Geometry	Honors Analytic Geometry	Accelerated Analytic Geometry/Advanced Algebra
Advanced Algebra	Honors Advanced Algebra	Accelerated PreCalculus AP Statistics
PreCalculus AMDM AP Statistics	Honors PreCalculus AP Statistics Dual Enrollment	AP Calculus Dual Enrollment

Choice?

Continue with Integrated Track

(current track)

– or –

Adopt Discrete Track

(traditional, which includes Algebra 1,
Geometry, Algebra 2, and PreCalculus)

Districts contacted

Dalton City Schools
Catoosa County Schools
Walker County Schools
Gilmer County Schools
Pickens County Schools
Calhoun City School

Gordon County Schools
Cherokee County Schools
Murray County Schools
Survey of 24 other school districts

Math Lead Teachers -

Rich Taylor – Northwest
Cassie Cooper – Southeast
Billy Singletary – Coahulla Creek
Jeff Henley – Career Academy
Marvin Kirkpatrick – Phoenix
Carrie Brown – ESOL

Recommendation - Discrete

Foundation Track	CP Track	Honors Track	Accelerated Track
Foundations of Algebra	Algebra 1	Honors Algebra 1	Accelerated Algebra 1/ Geometry
Algebra 1	Geometry	Honors Geometry	Accelerated Geometry/ Algebra 2
Geometry	Algebra 2	Honors Algebra 2	Accelerated PreCalculus AP Statistics
Algebra 2	PreCalculus AMDM AP Statistics	Honors PreCalculus AP Statistics Dual Enrollment	AP Calculus Dual Enrollment

Reasons

- Better for Incoming Freshmen
- Fresh Start
- Surrounding Districts

Implementation

• 2015–2016 School Year

- Foundations of Algebra - **New**
- Algebra 1- **New**
- Analytic Geometry
- Advanced Algebra

• 2016–2017

- Geometry - **New**

– Advanced Algebra

• **2017–2018**

– Algebra 2

Tom said that we are working on the literacy part and what skills have to be taught at each level.

Whitfield County Schools Revised 2014-2015 Calendar

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, requested to amend the 2014-2015 School Calendar. She said that during the months of February and March Whitfield County Schools was closed for 5 days due to inclement weather. One day was made up on March 13th because this day was already built into the calendar as an inclement weather day. She said that we are requesting that the 2014-2015 Calendar be amended to reflect 172 instructional days instead of the original 176 days. There are enough extra minutes in each school day to still meet the “180 Day Equivalent” standard required by the state. Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to Amend the 2014-2015 School Calendar. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

2015-2016 School Calendar

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, recommended that the board adopt the 2015-2016 School Calendar. She said that the calendar committee has worked very hard and given a lot of time. The committee recommends adding back two instructional days for a total of 178 days. Teachers have six professional/work days. Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to adopt the 2015-2016 School Calendar. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Assessment and Accountability

House Bill 91: Graduation Test Waivers – Dr. Audrey Williams

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, told the board that the 2015 authorization of HB 91 created a new state law which provides that students shall no longer be required to earn a passing score on any graduation tests to earn a high school diploma. Students no longer enrolled can petition the local board of education for a diploma. A copy of the Diploma Request Form is in this board packet.

Operations

Ashton Staffing Contract Renewal

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the renewal contract with Ashton Staffing. This contract is for 31% food service, landscape and maintenance and 26% sub teachers and after school care. Angie Brown, School Nutrition Director, said that Ashton had met all requirements of the bid and we have not had any issues with this vendor in the past. Louis Fordham said that there has been a recommendation to approve the Renewal Contract with Ashton Staffing. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Dug Gap Elementary Electrical Contract

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the contract with R.K. Redding Construction for the bathroom and electrical renovations at Dug Gap Elementary School. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Whitfield County Public Works for Mowing Services

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended to the board approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Whitfield County Schools and the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners to provide the mowing and trimming of all grass lawn areas around the following Board of Education school properties:

- Dug Gap Elementary
- Varnell Elementary

- Valley Point Elementary
- Valley Point Middle
- Westside Elementary
- Westside Middle
- Eastbrook Middle
- North Whitfield Middle

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

Energy Conservation Program Update

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, told the board that we are aware of the amount of energy consumption. Staff and students are more aware of tuning off lights and helping anyway they can to try to save on our energy cost. We are on track to save about \$200, 00.00 this year.

Spring/Summer Facilities Projects Overview

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, presented the following information on the Facilities Projects Overview for this spring and summer:

Current & Summer Facilities Projects

Privately Funded

- **Dug Gap Elementary:** Restroom and Electrical System Renovations
- **Cedar Ridge Elementary:** Futsal Field Construction
- **Antioch Elementary:** Bus Driveway Construction
- **Southeast High School:** Baseball Hitting Facility, Gym Entrance Upgrade
- **New Hope Elementary:** Play Field Installation, Hallway Painting and Flooring
- **Eastbrook Middle:** Baseball Facility Construction

Current & Summer Facilities Projects

Funded by ESPLOST & State Capital Outlay Funds

- **HVAC Modifications: Valley Point Middle, Pleasant Grove Elementary, Dawnville Elementary**
 - Bids to be Opened April 14, 2015
 - Construction Summer 2015
- **Eastbrook Middle: Construction of New Gym**
 - Goes Out to Bid May 2015
 - Construction Summer 2015 through Fall 2016
- **Eastside Elementary: Modernization / Renovation**
 - Bids to be Opened May 5, 2015
 - Construction Summer 2015 through Fall 2016

Current & Summer Facilities Projects

Other Funding Sources

- **NGCCA: CTAE - Industrial Chemical Laboratory Renovation**
 - Equipment Donated by Dalton State College
 - Work Being Completed by WCS, GNTC, and Shaw Industries Maintenance Departments,
- **WCS Technology Dept.: Overhaul of Wireless Internet System**
 - Funded through the Federal ERate Program and ESPLOST

Mike told the board that the HVAC Modifications may be off the table for this summer because the architect may not be ready and we do not want the children in the buildings with no air and heat.

Support Services

First Reading of Whitfield County Schools Student Discipline Code of Conduct

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer for Support Services, presented the first reading of the Student Discipline Code for WCS. Wanda told the board that there were two laws that have been passed but can't put in book until state sends the correct wording. This has to do with 1B Hazardous Objects and 2H Cyber Bullying. She informed the board of the following changes. They are in bold print:

- Section B: Inappropriate Dress: Pajamas or **similar styles**. Hair of any **style that is** disruptive to the learning environment.
- Section A: Acceptable Standards for Proper Attire:
 - Shirts/Blouses: Fit
 - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), **sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone**
 - Skirts/Dresses/ Jumpers: Fit
 - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), **sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone**
 - Pants/Slacks/Shorts: Styles
 - (no overalls, pajama pants, or **similar styles**)

Dr. Gilreath recommended that the board approve the first reading of the 2015-2016 Student Discipline Code of Conduct. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

First Reading of Whitfield County Schools Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer for Support Services, presented the first reading of the Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12. She informed the board of the following changes that are in bold:

- Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12 under Section A1 the following has been added: **sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone**
- Section A2 the following has been added: **sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone**
- Section A3 the following has been added: (no overalls, pajama pants, or **similar styles**)
- Section B the following has been added: Pajamas or **similar styles**
- Section B the following has been added: **Hair of any style that is** disruptive to the learning environment

Dr. Gilreath recommended that the board approve the first reading of the 2015-2016 Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of After School Care Workers

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

- Blake Hayes – New Hope Elementary School
- Jennifer Blevins – New Hope Elementary School

Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

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. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

No Report

New Business

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy GBRIG: Federal Family and Medical Leave Act

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that this is to align LBOE definitions in policy with Federal FMLA wording. She asked the board to approve the first reading of Board Policy GBRIG. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy GCRH: Classified Personnel Vacations

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, said that this is to align LBOE with beginning and ending of fiscal year. She asked the board to approve the first reading of Board Policy GCRH. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0

State Mandate, Making The Decision – Dr. Judy Gilreath

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, told the board that each school system in the state of Georgia must notify the Georgia Department of Education of its intention of operating as and Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) School System, a Charter System, or a Status Quo System no later than June 30, 2015. The intent of the Whitfield County School System is to operate as an IE² school system through development of the IE² partnership between our school district and the State Board of Education. Dr. Gilreath recommends that the board approve the resolution authorizing the letter of intent for the Investing in Educational Excellence Model with the Georgia Board of Education. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The resolution will be a part of these minutes.

Donations for April 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>
Dug Gap Elementary School	Doe River Gorge Trip Deposit	\$11,500.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Security Cameras	\$20,000.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Leadership Outing	\$486.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Art Class Project for Spring 2015	\$23,100.00
Southeast High School	Student Leadership Leader Cast Speakers	\$3,089.10
Southeast High School	Auditorium Lighting Repairs	\$30,000.00
Southeast High School	Baseball/Softball Building	\$55,000.00
Southeast High School	Ice Machine for Girls Softball Concession Stand	\$3,500.00
New Hope Elementary School	Tile and Paint for Hallways	\$120,000.00
Cedar Ridge Elementary School	Endorsement Classes with DGE	\$10,030.00
New Hope Middle School	Student Scholarship for DC Trip	\$760.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Balance for Doe River Gorge Trip	\$12,000.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Chromebooks for 4 th and 5 th Grade	\$101,016.00
Valley Point Middle School	Paint and Tile	\$14,356.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Baseball	\$425.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Baseball	\$490.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Archery (Cohutta Ruritan Club)	\$500.00
Northwest High School	Leader Academy Grant from Chick-fil-A	\$2,500.00

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Description of Donation</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
Northwest High School	Smart Board and Digital Camera/Video Camera From OMNOVA Solutions	\$2,000.00

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman