

MINUTES OF  
CALLED WORK SESSION  
May 4, 2015

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on May 4, 2015. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton  
Louis Fordham  
Tony Stanley  
Bill Worley  
Rodney Lock – was not at roll call. He did arrive during executive session

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. Thomas Barton 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 a tribunal appeal. Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session. Tony Stanley 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 6:20 p.m. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Called Work Session was reconvened at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order. He stated that the purpose was to vote on the tribunal appeal. All five board members were present.

Louis Fordham made a motion to uphold the decision of the tribunal panel as discussed in executive session. All five board members voted to uphold the decision.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
May 4, 2015

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, May 4, 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
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**

Dr. Gilreath recommended amending the agenda under Assessment and Accountability. Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer of Assessment and Accountability, would like to give an update on the Georgia Milestone Testing and the HB 91: Graduation Test Waivers. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the amendments to the agenda and to adopt the agenda as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Girl Scout Troup #14603 from Tunnel Hill Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

### **Inspiration**

Girl Scout Troup #14603 from Tunnel Hill Elementary School read a poem titled, "Earth Day" by Jane Yolen.

The board thanked the Girl Scout Troup for the great job that they did.

### **Recognitions and Presentations**

#### Antioch Elementary School's 2014-2015 Student Leadership

Tracie Dempsey, principal at Antioch Elementary School, said that the leadership students were selected based on an application and interview process. She said that they attend monthly group meeting in which they learned leadership skills by studying the "Seven Habits of Happy Kids". Tracie said that leadership students were given the opportunity to put these skills into action by serving on committees and attending committee meetings to plan the following community service projects:

- September - **Pennies for Patients Campaign**. Antioch raised a total of \$1604.73 for the campaign.
- October – **Red Ribbon Week**. Planned activities for the week.
- November –**Food Drive**. Antioch collected 2,648 food items.
- December –**Toy Drive** to benefit the Sharing is Caring Christmas Store and Providence Ministries.
- December – “**Make a Wish Foundation**”. They wrote 360 letters to Santa and raised \$360.00 dollars.
- January – May – **Buddy Program**. Matched with kindergarten students.
- February –**Random Acts of Kindness Week**. Antioch completed 568 documented RAK’s during the week.
- February –**Shampoo Drive** to benefit Raider Nation families. They collected over 400 bottles of shampoo.
- All year leadership students served as greeters and helped on morning announcements. They announced gold slip winners and handed out prizes. They also helped with the schools Red Carpet Celebrations.

The 2014-2015 Antioch Elementary School Student Leadership Team are:

Jose Herrera	Bryson Hooper
Leaf Hubbard	Ashlyn Fauscett
Kenzi Farner	Amira Batross
Chloe Torres	Cynthia Silverio
Michelle Garcia	Jasmine Manzanares
Arisabell Gasca	Andrea Rios
Herman Bibiano	Yunnuby Torres
Guadalupe Pimentel	David Hernandez
Oswaldo Fraire	Omaury Alvarez
Johnny Vega	Summer Bradley
Jafet Estrada	Morgan Knotts
Emmy Vong	Collin Raymond
Fernando alvarez	Mia Mendoza

The board thanked the Antioch Leadership Team for the great job that they are doing at Antioch.

#### Northwest High School Chick-fil-A Leader Academy

Britt Adams, principal at Northwest High School, said that Northwest High received a grant from Chick-fil-A for the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. Walker Creswell, senior at Northwest, told the board that you had to start with an application to be on the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Team. There were over sixty students that applied and only thirty were chosen. He said there was a kick-off celebration in Atlanta in October. There we helped pack over a million meals. Each month we had a meeting where we would learn character traits on how to be a leader. Walker said that in November we had to complete the “Big Thank You”. A student had to thank someone in a big way and then show a picture of the thank you to the academy. Walker said that in December we had to complete the “Do Good December” project. My group had a Christmas Party for the Northwest Special Education students in Mrs. Brooker’s class. Walker said that they really enjoyed doing this.

Whitley Brooker, junior at Northwest, shared information about the Family Fair and 5K Run. Whitley said that during each meeting the academy selected and designed their final project which is the “Family Fair and 5K”. She said that it will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at Harry Griffin Park in Tunnel Hill. Whitley said that most of the proceeds will help benefit Jaxon Beaver, a student at Tunnel Hill Elementary, and the research of his specific type of brain tumor (sPNET). We want to bring the community together to benefit the Beaver’s family and the research toward a cure for Jaxon’s brain tumor. She said that we would love to have as many runners and families as we possibly can. Kelsey Harmon, Chick-fil-A representative, said that these students have worked very hard this year and have done an outstanding job as leaders in the community and at Northwest. She said that it has been a pleasure to work with them this year. Britt thanked the teacher leaders for all that they have done: Carrie Brown, Mandy Crossen, and Brittany Norton.

The 2014-2015 Chick-fil-A Leadership Team for Northwest High School:

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Will Brock  
Joshua Coffey  
Walker Creswell  
Bailey Everett  
Kai-Lee Goodman  
Elizabeth Hayes  
Ethan Hayes  
Halley Henderson  
Felisha Hooper  
Analeigh Hopkins  
McKinley Hopkins  
Emily Krout  
Madelyn Lowry  
Alma Mahmutovic  
Urooj Sheikh

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mary Kate Allen  
Whitley Brooker  
Chae Cunningham  
Shelby Fernandez  
Madison Gowin  
Jacob Holmes  
Kathleen Jones  
Edisa Krnjic  
Dale Landen (DJ)  
Thad Roundsaville  
Hira Sheikh  
Ciera Storey  
Leydi Valle  
Maya Watkins  
Paige Watkins

The board thanked them for all that they have done and the great leadership qualities that they have shown in the community.

James Morrison – Represented LearnZillion at National Education Summit

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to James Morrison, 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at New Hope Middle School, for being selected for the LearnZillion Dream Team. This is the second time that James has been selected. He was selected as part of 140 other teachers around the world out of over 4000 applicants.

Tiffany Crawford – 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Vocal for Region Literacy Competition

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Tiffany Crawford for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2015 Region AAAA Literary Competition for girls solo.

Students Place 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the State Literacy Contest from Northwest and Southeast High Schools

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following students for placing in the State Literacy Competition:

- Triston Findley, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Southeast High School, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State Literacy Competition for Dramatic Interpretation.
- Katie Cox, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Southeast High School, placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the State Literacy Competition for Extemporaneous Speaking.
- Bryan Cooper, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Northwest High School, placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the State Literacy Competition in Essay Writing.

Cohutta Elementary's Archery Team Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Archery Tournament

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Cohutta Elementary's Archery Team for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Archery Tournament. Coaches Kyle Holcomb and Jennifer Brown were there to receive the certificate.

Cohutta Elementary Students Placed in Overall Elementary Girls Division in the State Archery Tournament

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following students for placing in the Overall Elementary Girls Division:

- Emma Fauscett placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 279
- Allie Mayfield placed 6<sup>th</sup> with a score of 271
- Nicole Thurman placed 8<sup>th</sup> with a score of 269

#### Cohutta Elementary Student Places 1<sup>st</sup> at the Top Gun Shoot in Murray County in Archery

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Caleb Owens for placing 1<sup>st</sup> at the Top Gun Shoot with a score of 286. Caleb also set a school record.

The board told Cohutta Elementary that they are doing a great job with their Archery program.

#### 2015 Young Georgia Authors Winners

The board presented the following students certificates of congratulations for winning the Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition:

Alyce Norton – Kindergarten at Varnell Elementary School  
Dareen Mughrabi – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Dug Gap Elementary School  
Evan Tucker – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Westside Elementary School  
Dharma Anthony – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade New Hope Elementary School  
Maddie Ramsey – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Dawnville Elementary School  
Katy Binford 5<sup>th</sup> Grade New Hope Elementary School  
Alexandra Defalco – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade North Whitfield Middle School  
Abigail Johnston – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade New Hope Middle School  
Madison Manis – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy  
Amanda Jones – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Northwest High School  
Ashley Walker – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Coahulla Creek High School  
Sarah Cordero – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Northwest High School

Louis Fordham said that this is an honor to be recognized as district first place winners within your grade level. The board is very proud of you. Great job!

#### 2015 Georgia Scholars

The board presented the following students certificates of congratulations for being named to the Georgia Scholar Program for 2015:

Andrew Fisher – Coahulla Creek High School  
Amber Morgan – Coahulla Creek High School  
Brady Barnett – Southeast High School

Chairman Louis Fordham said that the program consist of high school seniors who have achieved excellence in school and community life. Each Georgia Scholar receives a seal for his or her diploma. The board congratulates these three seniors for this great accomplishment.

#### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

#### **Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2015 Board Meetings**

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the April 13, 2015 board meetings  
Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### **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>
CDW-G Computer Centers	Clam Shell Chromebooks, Cart and Timer, and Licenses for NWMS	\$48,019.00
Hackney Painting	Paint All Hallways at NHES	\$33,500.00
Wallace Tile, Inc.	Tile Work Through Out NHES	\$68,872.00
Edd Kirby Chevrolet, Inc.	Purchase Work Van for Maintenance	\$29,997.00

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to approve the purchase orders as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham 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 March 31, 2015. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

### **Superintendent's Reports**

Teaching & Learning

Online Curriculum Quote for Services with Edgenuity, Inc.

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, presented the online quote with Edgenuity, Inc. She said that this is for the Virtual Classroom. This is one of the recommendations from the AdvancEd review committee when we went through our accreditation in 2013. She said that we have only been able to test 155 students at a time. Now we will be able to test all students. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Assessment and Accountability

Update on Georgia Milestone Testing

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, said that Georgia Milestone Testing for grades 3-8 is complete. She said that the biggest problem we had was the screen reader did not work. That was for students whose accommodation required having it read to them. Testing went better last week because we had that part turned off. For the EOC testing we are disabling the screen reader. Everyone has said that they like the online testing better.

Update on HB: 91 Graduation Test Waivers

Dr. Audrey Williams, Chief Officer for Assessment and Accountability, gave an update on HB: 91. This is the bill that 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. She said that as of May 1, 2015 we have given out 252 diplomas. We are very excited about this.

Operations

Meal Price Increase for 2015-2016

### **Student Meals:**

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer for Operations, recommended that the board approve the request for an increase in School Nutrition Meal Pricing for 2015-2016. School Program regulations 7 CFR 210.14 require school food authorities (SFAS) participating in the National School Lunch Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. Utilizing the required FY2015-2016 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool, it was determined that Whitfield County School Nutrition Department will need to increase student meal prices to comply with regulations. The increase will be .10 for all levels.

Meal Prices	Current	Proposed
Breakfast Elementary	Free	Free
Breakfast Middle & HS	1.15	1.25
Lunch Elementary	1.90	2.00
Lunch Middle & HS	2.15	2.25

#### Adult Meals:

Based on the requirements for pricing on adult meals, an increase is required to meet overall cost of meals. The recommended increase for adult meals is .15 for breakfast and lunch.

Meal Prices	Current	Proposed
Breakfast	1.60	1.75
Lunch	2.85	3.00

Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Allgood Pest Solutions Renewal Contract 2015-2016

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, recommended approval of the Pest Control agreement with Allgood for the 2015-2016 school year. Louis Fordham moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Contract with Headley Construction Corp. for New Entrance Lobby for Southeast High School Gym

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, recommended that the board approve the contract with Headley Construction Corporation for the new entrance lobby for Southeast High School Gym. Thomas Barton moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

#### Support Services

#### Second Reading of Whitfield County Schools Student Discipline Code of Conduct

Dr. Gilreath recommended that the board table the second reading of the 2015-2016 Student Discipline Code of Conduct until the correct language can be added to the policy. No vote was taken at this time.

#### Second 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 second reading of the 2015-2016 Student Dress Code: Grades 6-12. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley 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. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

## **Previous Business**

### Second 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 second reading of Board Policy GBRIG. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0

## **New Business**

### 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

### Donations for May 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>
Valley Point Middle School	Duke Tip Scholarships for 3 Students	\$10,400.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Restroom and Electrical Renovations	\$722,625.00
Antioch Elementary School	Stage Lights and Sound System	\$9,200.00
Southeast High School	Band Trailer	\$6,000.00
Southeast High School	John Deer Mower Machine	\$6,500.00
Antioch and Eastside Elementary	Disney Flight Deposit	\$22,094.14
Southeast High School	3 Optoma Multi-Media Projectors and Bulbs from OMNOVA Solutions	\$2,000.00
Valley Point Middle School	Purchase Microsoft Suite for 20 New Laptops from OMNOVA Solutions	\$500.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Ed Kirby Chevrolet for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip	\$500.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Dalton Print Shop for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip	\$150.00

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

### Proposal Made by Dalton Utilities Request Whitfield County Board of Education Consider Reducing the Amount to be Paid by Challenger Industries

Mike Ewton, Chief Officer of Operations, said that Challenger Industries, Inc. is building a new facility on Hill Road across from the old Eastbrook gym. They, along with Dalton Utilities, are requesting that the Whitfield County Board of Education consider reducing the pro rata amount that Challenger would pay for access to the sewer line that Whitfield County Schools paid for with ESPLOST funds in 2012. The cost of construction incurred by WCS was \$554,012.00. The current pro rata agreement extends from September 2012 until September 2022. During this time period, anyone tying on to this sewer line would pay Whitfield County Schools for their portion of the sewer line use. Challenger's fee calculated by Dalton Utilities would be \$54,680.98 (9.87% of the estimated sewer use volume). The current proposal made by Dalton Utilities request that the board of Education consider reducing the amount to be paid by Challenger Industries in exchange for an extension in the pro rata agreement time period.

A reduction of 25% would extend the pro rata period for 5 additional years

A reduction of 50% would extend the pro rata period for 10 additional years

Louis Fordham made a motion to honor the request. At this time Rodney Lock asked to sustain from voting. He said that his company is doing work for Challenger Industries and this could be a conflict of interest. A reduction of 25%



would extend the pro rata period for 5 additional years. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0. Rodney Lock did not vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman

MINUTES OF  
CALLED BOARD MEETING  
May 28, 2015

The Whitfield County Board of Education held a called meeting at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, May 28, 2015. Board Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton  
Rodney Lock  
Louis Fordham  
Tony Stanley  
Bill Worley

Also present were the following staff members:

Judy Gilreath	Mike Ewton
Karey Williams	Eric Beavers
Audrey Williams	Carolyn Weaver
Kelly Johnson Coon	

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 Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Public Hearing – Budget 2015-2016

Preliminary FY2016 Budget

Kelly Johnson Coon, Director of Finance, presented the preliminary budget. The preliminary budget will be advertised for two weeks before final approval. Final approval will be made at a called board meeting on June 16, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at the Whitfield County Board of Education.

Kelly Coon presented a slide presentation on the budget. At the end of the presentation she asked if there were any questions. The slide presentation is located on the Whitfield County Schools Website.

At this time Mr. Fordham opened up the floor for advice or comments from the public and asked the board if they had any questions or comments. There was none.

Alternate Appointment for GSBA Conference

Chairman Louis Fordham recommended not appointing an alternate for the GSBA Summer Conference. He said that we have a delegate that is attending and that there is no one else that will be able to attend. There was no vote taken.

Mr. Fordham stated that this is good news. He thanked the staff and leadership for a good job in managing expenses.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman