

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
October 5, 2015

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on October 5, 2015. Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Others present:

Judy Gilreath
Karey Williams
Richard Hill
Mike Ewton
Kelly Coon
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 5-0.

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. 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 6:28 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 5, 2015

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, October 5, 2015. 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	Richard Hill
Wanda Phillips	Eric Beavers
Kelly Johnson Coon	Carolyn Weaver
Mike Ewton	
Karey Williams	

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 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Zach Williams, 12th grader at Coahulla Creek High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Louis Fordham asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Hannah Conway, 12th grader at Coahulla Creek High School, presented the inspiration. She said that she had the honor and privilege of representing Coahulla Creek and Whitfield County Schools at the Governor's Honors Program this past summer. She said that she attended the program in the area of Communicative Arts, which essentially is a fancy way of saying that I like words. She said that you learn quickly in life that words are a powerful tool that can tear down. Words have the active ability to affect others at a heart level unlike any physical force. Words can also be used for more than destruction. They should be used to build others up. Words can bond nations and our world. Hannah said that she prays that all of her words may give hope and encouragement and show love and would spark these things in others. She said that that is the purpose of the tools that we have been given. She shared a quote by Marcus Zusak from one of her favorite books, *The Book Thief*, "I have hated words and I have loved them and I hope that I have made them right."

Recognitions and Presentations

Coahulla Creek High School's AP Scholars for 2015

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following Coahulla Creek High School AP Scholars for 2014-2015. Some of these students have graduated and are now in college:

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

Amber Morgan - University of Alabama
Gavin Mullis
Vanessa Suarez – University of Alabama
Zachary Williams

Evan Wright
Madison Zerbe - UGA

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Andrew Fisher – GA Tech

Southeast High School's AP Scholars for 2015

The board presented certificates of congratulations to the following Southeast High School AP Scholars for 2014-2015. Some of these students have graduated and are now in college:

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

Braydon Barnett – Lee University
Triston Findley – Piedmont College
Yolanda Melgarejo – Joined the Army
Bryan Moss

Aldara Ramirez – Dalton State

AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Emerald Pearce – Piedmont College

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Katie Cox – Dalton State

Board Member Training Certificates

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, stated that Georgia law and state board rules require school board members to obtain training in board operations, duties and responsibilities. She said that our board members have completed that training for the current year of service and she would like to present them with their certificates. She said that our board puts in long hours of service and she wants you to know how much we appreciate your willingness to serve the students of Whitfield County. Dr. Gilreath presented each board member with a certificate.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2015 Board Meetings

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the minutes for the September 14, 2015 board meetings. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Purchase Orders over \$25,000.00

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the following purchase orders for approval:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Houghton Mifflin School	SHS READ 1800 Next Generation License, rbook PacK Paid out of Title I	\$98,711.40
CDW-G Computer Centers	WMS Chromebooks, Cart and License (Striving Readers Grant)	\$58,871.00

Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to approve the purchase orders as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock 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 June 30, 2015. Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes. Louis said that this is good. The whole system has done great.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

Whitfield County Schools 1st and 2nd Grade Report Cards

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, presented the 1st and 2nd Grade Report Cards. She said that these report cards report a child's progress towards meeting the standards for 1st and 2nd grade. The standards are provided to parents at the beginning of each school year and grade level standards information is also provided. These standards are specific on the report card itself and represent the curriculum of the Whitfield County Schools and the State of Georgia and include grades for academic achievement, special classes, and work habits and initiative. She asked the board to approve the report cards as presented. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Assessment and Accountability

House Bill 91: Graduation Test Waivers

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, 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 we have given out 362 diplomas since April of 2015.

Accountability Report for Fall 2015

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the Accountability Report for Fall 2015:

- Georgia Milestones Preliminary Results (School and district scores expected later this month). The Georgia Department of Education published statewide scores for the 2014-2015 administration of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System in September.
- 761 Whitfield County Students Take the ACT/SAT
- College Credit in High School This Year
 - Advance Placement Courses
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Career Pathways
- District Grading Policy
- Whitfield County Board of Education – Board members set the millage rate-the property tax rate-each fall. The current rate is 18.756 mills, which produces approximately \$750 of revenue on a \$100,000 property (excluding any exemptions).
- Summer Feeding Program – served 224, 000 meals
- Report from the Superintendent:

- Projects under way to improve schools
- Staff working to save money by focusing on energy conservation, purchasing processes, and inventory control.
- Since this started we have saved over \$200,000 which we plan to invest it back into our students' education.
- Whitfield Education Foundation Supports Innovative Teachers – awarded \$28,668 in its Innovative Teaching Grants.
- 100% Placement for Project SEARCH – helped all Project SEARCH interns to find a job in 2014.
- Top Colleges – The College Board bundles institutions that receive the most SAT program score reports with local test scores from our students. These are the top 10:
 - Dalton State College – Received 181 Score Reports
 - Kennesaw State University - Received 93 Score Reports
 - University of Georgia - Received 73 Score Reports
 - Georgia State University - Received 39 Score Reports
 - Georgia Southern University - Received 38 Score Reports
 - University of West Georgia - Received 32 Score Reports
 - Georgia Institute of Technology - Received 25 Score Reports
 - University of North Georgia - Received 25 Score Reports
 - Northwestern Technology College - Received 25 Score Reports
 - Berry College - Received 16 Score Reports

Operations

Bus Purchase

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, recommended the purchase of four new school buses utilizing funds provided by the State of Georgia bond sales. Rick Holsomback, Director of Transportation, said that based on his best judgment and an in depth look at our bus inventory, he thinks that it would be in our best interest to order one new Special Needs Bus and three Regular Education 72 passenger buses this year. Rick said that we were fortunate enough to receive State Bond Funds allocated to us for these four buses in the total sum of \$308,880.00 again this year. Rick stated that the total purchase price for each 72 passenger regular education bus will be \$90,545.00 and the total purchase price for the handicapped accessible special needs bus will be \$97,804.00. This would give us a total cost for bus purchase this year of \$369,439.00. Rick stated that this would be paid for with \$308,880.00 which comes from the state bond proceeds and would require \$60,559.00 out of my Whitfield County Transportation budget. Thomas Barton moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Construction Project Update

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented an update and slide presentation with pictures of the construction of the following projects:

- Southeast High School Gym Addition – Mike told the board that the construction on the gym at Southeast is going good. There will be a room in the new addition for meetings that will hold around 300 people. This entrance and addition is going to be really nice and great for Southeast.
- Eastbrook Middle School Gym Construction – Mike said that the construction on the new gym at Eastbrook Middle has begun. Mike said that this gym will provide storm shelter for the students at Eastbrook.
- Eastbrook Baseball/Softball Field – Mike said that they are making great progress on the field.
- Eastside Elementary Renovations – Mike said that the renovations are going great. This project is being funded by ESPLOST and Capital Outlay.
- Antioch Elementary Bus Loop – This separates car traffic from bus traffic. The covered awning goes all the way across the front of the school.

Pictures of the construction sites are on the Whitfield County Website.

Support Services

Approval of After School Care Workers

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, recommended that the board approve the following persons to work the after school care program at Pleasant Grove Elementary School:

- Ester Trew
- Megan Richards

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

Request to Work in the After School Care – Tami Dodd

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, said that Tami Dodd requested to work After School Care at Westside Elementary. She stated that since she is a salaried employee and receives an administrative supplement she would not start working until 4:00 pm on the days that she is scheduled to work. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Personnel

Dr. Judy Gilreath, superintendent, recommended the board approve the October personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include the following:

Personnel Recommendations for October 5, 2015

I.		<u>Certified Personnel 2014-15</u>	II.		<u>Certified Personnel 2015-16</u>
A.	0	Resignations	A.	5	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	2	Recommendations
C.	0	Transfers	C.	1	Transfers
D.	0	Other Certified Actions	D.	0	Other Certified Actions
E.	0	Terminations	E.	0	Terminations
III.		<u>Classified Personnel 2014-15</u>	IV.		<u>Classified Personnel 2015-16</u>
A.	1	Resignations	A.	8	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	12	Recommendations
C.	0	Transfers	C.	1	Transfers
D.	0	Other Classified Actions	D.	0	Other Classified Actions
E.	0	Terminations	E.	0	Terminations

Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0. The personnel report is a part of the minutes.

Renewal of Voluntary Employee Benefits

Dr. Richard Hill, Chief Officer for Human Resources, presented a slide presentation on the Voluntary Employee Benefits for 2016. Dr. Hill said that the Open Enrollment starts October 19th and ends November 6th. Dr. Hill recommended the board adopt the Voluntary Employee Benefits for 2016 as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

No Report

New Business

Connections for Classrooms Round 2 Grant Award Agreement

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board accept funds from GOSA for the Connections for Classrooms Round 2 Grant Program to assist with funding their local match for the Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries in the amount of \$275,070.18. This will fund the approved portion of the E-rate local match for E-rate Funding Year 2015. Louis Fordham moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Whole Board Governance Training Plan for 2015-2016

Dr. Gilreath recommended the board approve the Local Board Training Plan for 2015-2016. The Board of Education is required to receive 9 hours of training each year. The plan has to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Tony Stanley moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Donations for October 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	Football Headsets	\$10,000.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Park Passes and Food Passes for Disney Leadership Trip 2015	\$20,389.37
Valley Point Middle School	Second Bus Fee for Trip to Savannah	\$3,500.00
Eastside Elementary School	Grant for ALPHA from Monarchs Across America	\$500.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Donations from Yard Sale on 9/19/15 for Cheerleaders	\$853.61
North Whitfield Middle School	Shaw Industries Donated to the Boys Basketball	\$100.00
Coahulla Creek High School	Mini Grant from Keep Dalton/Whitfield Beautiful Inc.	\$246.00
Northwest High School	Make a Difference Day Grant from United Way	\$384.80
NWGCCA	L&P Products, Inc. /DBA CIMS First Robotics Team Sponsor	\$1,000.00
Westside Middle School	Football Donations for September 2015	\$2,360.00
Westside Middle School	Operation Round Up (ORC) Grant from North Georgia Electric Membership Foundation	\$2000.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary School	Operation Round Up (ORC) Grant from North Georgia Electric Membership Foundation	\$500.00

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman