

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
February 1, 2016

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on February 1, 2016. Vice Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley – arrived during the vote to move into executive session

Others present:

Judy Gilreath
Karey Williams
Richard Hill
Mike Ewton
Eric Beavers
Carolyn Weaver

Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Louis Fordham recommended the board members adopt the agenda as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Executive Session

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

Adjournment

The board members having taken no action in Executive Session adjourned Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on Monday, February 1, 2016. Chairman Bill Worley called the meeting to order at 6:48 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
Karey Williams	Kelly Johnson Coon
Mike Ewton	Carolyn Weaver
Wanda Phillips	
Eric Beavers	

Also present:

A list of the public in attendance is a part of the backup minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Bill Worley recommended the board members adopt the agenda as presented. Rodney Lock moved approval and Bill Worley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ty Griffin, 5th grader at New Hope Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Chairman Bill Worley asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Inspiration

Evie Beason and Henley Green, 5th graders at New Hope Elementary School, gave the inspiration. They are best friends so they sang, *Count On Me* by Bruno Mars.

Recognitions and Presentations

Natalie Wright, 2016 National Merit Commended Student from Northwest High School

The board presented a certificate of congratulations to Natalie Wright for being recognized as a 2016 National Merit Commended Student for her exceptional PSAT/SAT scores. According to the National Merit Scholarship Program that oversees the program, approximately 34,000 Commended Students are being recognized this year for exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

New Hope Elementary School, 2016 Title I Reward School

The board presented Carla Maret, principal of New Hope Elementary, with a certificate of congratulations for being identified as 2016 Title I Reward School. This school was chosen as a "High-Progress School". A High-Progress School is a Title I school among the 10% of Title I schools in the State that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group. This is based on the 2013-2014 data.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2016 Board Meetings and January 6, 2016 Board Training

Bill Worley recommended the board approve the minutes for the January 4, 2016 board meetings and the January 6, 2016 board training. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Approval of Purchase Orders over \$25,000.00

No Report

Financial Reports

Kelly Johnson Coon, Director of Finance, presented the General Fund Balance and the Capital Projects report as of December 31, 2015. Bill Worley recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Tony Stanley 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

Whitfield County Schools Sex Education Committee 2015-2016

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent, recommended the board approve the 2015-2016 Sex Education Committee Members. The committee is made up of parents, students and representatives from each school. Louis Fordham moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Report on Crossroads Academy – Donna Harris, Principal

Donna Harris, Principal of Crossroads Academy, said that when she started at Crossroads she wanted them to have a mascot. The Falcon is the mascot they chose. The Falcon symbolism represents a higher vision, or higher knowledge in solving current dilemmas in our lives. It is a solar emblem for success, victory and rising above a situation. She said that this reminds me of the students that come to Crossroads. Donna said that they redid the website and updated Facebook. Donna said that our school program was designed to provide an alternative to long term out of school suspension for serious behavior infractions and to give students who have been unsuccessful at their home school campus a second chance at success. By attending Crossroads Academy, students have been given the opportunity to further their education as well as their personal development. She told the board that Crossroads is now a Vertical Planning Team. She said that we are no longer a team of one. She said that our staff work together to provide the skills, knowledge and concepts needed to engage our students in higher level of learning. She said our middle school program, teachers design lessons that follow the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards to meet the individual needs of each student while maintaining current grade level instruction. She said that they participate in all Benchmark testing. She said that our Whitfield County high school students use Edgenuity, a computer based on-line program, to complete required courses for graduation. She said that this gives a real time progress report. Donna told the board that she can track each student and the amount of time that they actually spend in each course. She told the board that all of her teachers are Highly Qualified and nine will be trained in SIOP. She said that we have a new staff member that has gotten two grants and we are in the process of adding a Climbing Wall to be paid for by these grants. Donna recommended a book that she read called, *If You Can't Manage Them, You Can't Teach Them*, by Kim Campbell. This is a middle school teacher that gives great advice and can-do strategies that really work. Donna told the board that in addition to the academic component of Crossroads Academy, our students also participate in group counseling sessions and other individual/group activities. Students are provided opportunities and tools to practice more effective coping skills when dealing with problems. She said that we also have a reward system for students who demonstrate good attendance, academics and attitude. Donna presented the board with a packet that included a copy of their handbook and positive letters along with other data information. Donna invited the board to visit Crossroads anytime and she thanked the board for the opportunity to share and their support. She said that we are proud of Crossroads and the great things that we are doing for our students.

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 382 diplomas since April of 2015.

Accountability Report Winter 2016

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the following information on the 2016 Winter Accountability Report:

- Graduation Rates Continue to Increase – she said that graduation rate has increased from 63.4 percent in 2011 to 75.1 percent last year. The state average for school districts last year was 78.7 percent.
- Georgia Milestones: District Results – comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. They measure how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students are ranked into four levels:
 1. Beginning Learners
 2. Developing Learners
 3. Proficient Learners
 4. Distinguished Learners
- WCS: Strategic Waivers School System – Dr. Gilreath said that on December 10, 2015 Whitfield County Schools and the Georgia Department of Education entered into a Strategic Waiver Contract. The system receives flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance.
- Spending Per Pupil Improves Over Previous Years – Dr. Gilreath said that Whitfield County Schools spent approximately \$8,117 per pupil during 2015 school year. The state average for that period was \$8,665. An average of 68 percent of annual spending goes toward instruction. All remaining categories make up the remaining 32 percent.
- Foundation's Celebrity Spelling Bee More Popular Than Ever – Dr. Gilreath said that the Spelling Bee was a great success. They raised almost \$28,000 to support its innovative teaching grants. Nancy Whaley a former executive director of the WEF was the winner.
- Message from the Superintendent – Dr. Gilreath said that our school district is continuing to make progress toward the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. She said that the Whitfield County Board of Education was named a Quality Board by the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA). She said that our board has earned this distinction for it works hard to support our students and staff.
- Cafeteria Workers Stay Busy Feeding Students – Dr. Gilreath said that there is a chart in this report that shows the percent of students served daily districtwide in elementary, middle, and high school based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA).
- Demographic Data – Dr. Gilreath said that student enrollment decreased slightly from 13,410 in October 2014 to 13,278 in October 2015. This data is provided by the GaDOE.
- Positive Framework for Student Discipline – WCS suspension rate for 2014 was below the state average. We believe there are areas we can improve to benefit our students. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is the framework that we will implement this fall in 10 schools:
 - Cohutta Elementary School
 - Cedar Ridge Elementary School
 - New Hope Elementary School
 - Pleasant Grove Elementary School
 - Eastbrook Middle School
 - New Hope Middle School
 - North Whitfield Middle School
 - Valley Point Middle School
 - Westside Middle School
 - Crossroads Academy

Operations

Employees Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement (Revised 7-19-15) (For Information Only)

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, told the board that this is an updated version and that all employees are supposed to sign. This is for their information.

Construction Update – Mike Ewton

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, gave an update on the following construction projects:
 Eastbrook Middle School Gym – Mike told the board that weather has been a problem. The gym will be the last to be poured. Substantial Completion Expected: September 16, 2016. Pictures of the construction are posted on the Whitfield County Schools website.

Eastbrook Ball Field – Mike told the board that they are waiting to lay the sod because of threat of freezing weather. Substantial Completion Expected: May 15, 2016. Pictures of the construction are posted on the Whitfield County Schools website.

Eastside Renovation / Modernization – Mike told the board that this project is in five phases. We are in the third phase. Substantial Completion Expected: August 1, 2016. Pictures of the construction are posted on the Whitfield County Schools website.

Southeast Gym Addition – Mike told the board that this is being paid by donor money. It is really going to be nice. There will be a meeting room that will hold about 300 people. Substantial Completion Expected: May 15, 2016. Pictures of the construction are posted on the Whitfield County Schools website.

Mike thanked the board and said that we are very excited for these schools.

Support Services

Wanda Phillips, Chief Officer of Support Services, recommended that the board approve the following After School Care Worker:

- Cailyn Callahan – Eastside Elementary School

Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The Board approved 5-0.

Personnel

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

Personnel Recommendations for February 1, 2016

I.		<u>Certified Personnel 2014-15</u>	II.		<u>Certified Personnel 2015-16</u>
A.	0	Resignations	A.	7	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	3	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.	0	Resignations	A.	6	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	12	Recommendations
C.	0	Transfers	C.	3	Transfers
D.	0	Other Classified Actions	D.	0	Other Classified Actions
E.	0	Terminations	E.	0	Terminations

Thomas Barton moved approval and Louis Fordham, seconded. The board approved 5-0. The personnel report is a part of the minutes.

Previous Business

Second Reading of Changes in Board Policy DJD: Expense Reimbursements

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the Second Reading of the following change in Board Policy DJD: Expense Reimbursements. She said that this policy is required by the Title auditors. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0

New Business

The following are the first readings of board policies to rescind or change. A vote is not required on the first reading:

First Reading to Rescind Board Policy GBRI: Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to rescind Board Policy GBRI: Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences. She said that we are combining Professional and Classified into one policy.

First Reading to Rescind Board Policy GBRI-R(1): Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences – Earned Sick Leave

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to rescind Board Policy GBRI-R (1): Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences - Earned Sick. She said that we are combining Professional and Classified into one policy.

First Reading to Rescind Board Policy GCRG: Classified Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to rescind Board Policy GCRG: Classified Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences. She said that we are combining Professional and Classified into one policy.

First Reading to Rescind Board Policy GCRG-R(1): Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences-Earned Sick Leave

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to rescind Board Policy GCRG-R (1): Classified Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences-Earned Sick Leave. She said that we are combining Professional and Classified Leaves and Absences into one policy.

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy GARH: Employee Leaves and Absences

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to change Board Policy GARH: Employee Leaves and Absences. She said that we are combining Professional and Certified Leaves and Absences into one policy so that there is consistency.

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy JKA: Solicitations of Students

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to change Board Policy JKA: Solicitations of Students. She said that this would add principal to approval required. This would bring consistency to all fundraising policies.

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy JKB: Solicitations by Students

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to change Board Policy JKB: Solicitations by Students. She said that there are no longer any requirements by our accrediting agency, AdvancEd. This would delete requirement that policy conforms to SACS/AdvancEd requirements since they have been eliminated by this group.

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy JHC: Student Organizations

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to change Board Policy JHC: Student Organizations. She said that this would add principal to approval required. This would bring consistency to all fundraising policies.

First Reading of Board Procedure/Regulations JKB-R(1) Solicitations by Students – Fundraising

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading to change Board Policy JKB-R (1) Solicitations by Students – Fundraising. She said that this is required by Board of Education policies.

Donations for February 2016

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 Project Last Installment	\$663,000.00
Dug Gap Elementary	Spring Art Classes	\$23,100.00
Antioch Elementary	Chromebook Fill-ins with Warranty	\$29,480.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary	Mount Vernon United Methodist Church for Indigent Fund	\$1,000.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary	Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church for Indigent Fund	\$200.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary	PTO Gave \$250.00 to each grade to help supplement the cost of field trips	\$1,500.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary	Landon Sawyer gave a donation to purchase a Chromebook and license to be used by students in the classroom	\$415.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Linda Cagle gave a donation to the Band	\$50.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Homeroms gave a donation to Indigent Fund	\$1,924.89
North Whitfield Middle School	Archery Team received a donation from Dalton Carstar South	\$200.00
Operations	Thermal/Vacuum Sign Making System Donated by Mr. Edward Cowart	

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
February 24, 2016

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy on February 24, 2016. Chairman Bill Worley called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley

Staff members present:

Judy Gilreath
Mike Ewton
Carolyn Weaver

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Judy Gilreath asked the board to amend the agenda because of time sensitive information that has to be presented to the State Board of Education. This is a waiver that was omitted from our State Board of Education contract. The waiver is OCGA 20-2-940 through 948. Bill Worley recommended the board approve the amendment to the agenda to include the adoption to add Waiver OCGA 20-2-940 through 948 to our contract with the State Board of Education and to adopt the agenda as presented. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss land. Chairman Bill Worley said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session to discuss land. Tony Stanley 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 8:20 a.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

**Adoption to Add Waiver OCGA 20-2-940 through 948 to State Board of Education Contract
SWSS/IE2**

Chairman Bill Worley made a recommendation to vote on the addition of Waiver OCGA 20-2-940 through 948 to our contract with the State Board of Education. Louis Fordham moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF JOINT BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2016

A joint meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy Board was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy. Chairman Brian Cooksey called the meeting to order for the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy at 8:37 a.m. Whitfield County Board Vice Chairman Louis Fordham called the meeting to order for Whitfield County Schools at 8:37 a.m.

Present were the following Whitfield County Board Members:

Thomas Barton
Louis Fordham
Rodney Lock
Tony Stanley
Bill Worley - absent

Also present were the following Whitfield County School System staff members:

Dr. Judy Gilreath
Dr. Audrey Williams
Mike Ewton
Eric Beavers
Carolyn Weaver

The Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy's Board was also in attendance.

Also present:

A list of the public in attendance is a part of the backup minutes.

Approval of the Agenda

Louis Fordham recommended the board approve the agenda as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and Rodney Lock seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Strategic Waiver School System/IE² - Dr. Judy Gilreath

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent of Whitfield County Schools, presented information on the Strategic Waiver School System/IE². A packet of information explaining the Strategic Waiver was given to each board member. Dr. Gilreath told the boards that each school system in the state of Georgia must notify the Georgia Department of Education of its intention of operating as an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) School System, a Charter System, or a Status Quo System. Whitfield County Schools chose to be a Strategic Waivers School Systems/IE². Under the SWSS/IE² the system receives flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance. The flexibility granted does not include a requirement for school-level governance, but it does require specified minimum targets each year for each school. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) have agreed to a structure that sets those targets and provides for a "second look." CCRPI at each school shall annually increase by 3% of the gap between the baseline year CCRPI score. All waivers are held by the district, not at the school level. All accountability measures are the same for all schools. Failing to meet accountability may lead to Opportunity School District. It would authorize the state to temporarily step in to assist. This would require a constitutional amendment. The General Assembly passed the the constitutional amendment resolution and the implementing legislation during the 2015 legislative session. It now requires a majority approval by Georgia voters in the 2016 general election which is on the ballot for voters in November. Our contract is in place for five years. Our first year is a data gathering year. Dr. Gilreath said that we are excited about school data rooms. She said that we added an additional waiver this morning at the Whitfield County Called Works Session this morning.

Career Academy Strategic Plan (Accomplishments and In-process Items) – Brian Cooksey and David Moeller

Dave Moeller, CEO of the Career Academy, said that the Career Academy's Strategic Plan is aligned with Whitfield County Schools Strategic Plan. He presented the following information:

Goal 1: Offer and strengthen career development programs that align with local needs of business and industry.

- IMCP work and creation of AMBA led to deep partnership with local industries and Chamber of Commerce.
- Continually evaluate programs for effectiveness and value for graduates. GNTC, DSC and Chamber working together to open the Chem Tech Lab. Students can take part of this program in high school as upon graduation they can enter the business industry making \$20 an hour immediately. The program develops basic sound skills to enter the workforce or 2-4 year degree.

Goal 2: Strengthen partnership with post-secondary partner (resources, staff, and dual-enrollment).

- Cosmetology was eliminated because it did not align with the needs in our community. A second healthcare program was added. IT was added and will be updated working with WCS Technology Director to help determine needs in this program.
- Staff Development – Staff was able to visit different industries. They toured Shaw, Engineered Flooring and they toured the Dalton area looking at the demographics of the area and industry. Brian Cooksey said that the exchange between staff and business has allowed teachers to bring the business world into their classrooms.
- Apprenticeship program is doing great – we have 7 apprenticeship students at this time and 6 applications waiting. The industry is excited about increasing skills of growing workforce. Students are eligible for local high-paying jobs. Opportunities within the industry to pursue post-secondary education. David said that the current hiring pool seems to be high school or 4-year degree, leaving a gap for jobs that could be filled by graduates with a 2-year degree. Automation is now the next big thing in local industry. Brian Cooksey introduced Martin Hutcheson, engineer with Shaw. Brian said that he is the one that has been helping the students on the Robotic Team.

Goal 3: Strengthen marketing strategies for NWGCCA.

- We have partnered with GaDOE. Billboards have been placed up all over state of Georgia. There is one on Cleveland Hwy about the Career Academy featuring our Mechatronics program and one of our students. A commercial for NWGCCA is in the works. We have presentations to all 8th graders, visits from 7th graders, and middle school meeting with robotics team. We have parent's night at all of the high schools. The CA goal is to have 740 enrolled by 2017. Working hard to inform people about the great opportunities in our district and the Career Academy. Louis Fordham told the boards that the Communities That Work Partnership is a spinoff of the IMPC and the Department of Commerce Initiative. He told the board that the Secretary of Commerce will be visiting Dalton on May 6, 2016. Louis said that the Advance Manufacturing and Business Academy (AMBA) must be put in front of industry and manufacturers so that they will be aware. There has to be a strategy to make this happen. Brian Cooksey said that Matthew Quarles, an apprenticeship at Shaw and his dad who is employed by Shaw had a story done on them and it was shared internally with Shaw employees. The Shaw population responded very favorable of the story for both the student and the parent. This is about caring about the students' needs and about adding value to our industry partners. David Moeller stated that this is clearly a two way conversation.

Goal 4: Provide the educational foundation and opportunities to accelerate all students to achieve expected or high academic growth.

- The Career Academy will offer Math and Science classes for FY17. This will allow for the academics to align with the CTAE course and will help with scheduling issues, and will enhance this school. Dr. Gilreath said that the sense of cooperation between our high schools and community is to do what is best for our students is very exciting.
- Brian Cooksey thanked Marten Hutchinson and others who have spent endless hours working with the students and the First Robotics Team. He said that adding these programs and changing to math and science will enhance the opportunities for students. Martin Hutchinson emphasized again the need for the math and science programs. He said that the students are so excited about this Robot. Brian told everyone that on March 18-19 The First Robotic Teams are hosting a

- competition here in Dalton at the Dalton Convention Center. Our First Robotics Team will be competing in this competition. This is one of four competitions in the state.
- Goal 5: Improve facilities and resources through strategic objectives and economic availability
- Right now the biggest obstacle will be space
- Goal 6: Write 10-Year charter application
- Charter Renewal – We are beginning the process this week. Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) coming on February 26, 2016 for preliminary visit. This is the certification process with the technical college. This will help with the charter renewal. If we receive the certification then an addendum can be submitted with the certification then that will be the charter renewal. A letter of intent must be submitted.
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – this is in process. This is an official document required by the state for charter renewal.

Students from the Apprenticeship Program

- Brian Cooksey said that we have two students from the Advanced Manufacturing Business Academy apprenticeship program who are going to share their experiences. Brian said that companies offering the apprenticeship program are Beaulieu, J&J Industries, Shaw, and Mohawk. These companies will provide paid apprenticeship opportunities in manufacturing, logistics, and administrative fields. Brian introduced Lucas Delay and Matthew Quarles. They are both in the apprenticeship program at Shaw Industries. They work at Plant #2. This is the training facility. Lucas said that he wants to be an electrician and thought this would give him the opportunity to learn. Allows him to help his dad in his business. Matthew said that it was a good idea to get an early start in business. He works on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday he is in school. He said that he takes one online class. He said that credit is given as an elective for working. This helps the school and can take these skills home and allows him to help other students in the Mechatronics program during his off period. Lucas and Matthew said that they are both working at Shaw in Industrial Maintenance which is part of the Mechatronics Engineering program at the Career Academy. Brian Cooksey said that they will be graduating in May and Shaw is willing to offer them a full time employment if they are interested after high school. Shaw has an internal process to bring in talent for their maintenance department and this is their single biggest need. Brian asked them about their manufacturing image and what do you see? Matthew said that he did not really know about Shaw but listening to his father talk he did not realize how many opportunities that they provide. He said that they allow someone to meet their dreams while being paid and learning.

Advanced Manufacturing Academy Update

- Dave Moeller said that we are moving full steam. We are aligning programs within the manufacturing/business academy for needs in the community. We are expanding automotive to include diesel engines. We are working to open a logistics call center next year. The job descriptions need to be written for the introduction programs. We will be working with Dr. Hill, Chief Officer for Human Resources, to develop those. The person must be willing to bring the energy to the students and get them excited about this academy. Graphic Design will be the largest challenge to implement. This came from the IMCP initiative, work force development group and post-secondary partners to implement the need for more competitive educational levels in the region. Brian and David talked about the CA website. You can go there for information on AMBA. They said that the traffic on the website and social media has increased since it's implementation. They said that space will also be determining factor in moving forward due to the limitations at this time. The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) has put their stamp on this academy and any of the students that have gone through this process. When we met with the IMCP group one thing they required going through the AMBA that you could take this framework to any manufacturing community.

Board Members – Comments/Remarks

- Louis Fordham said that he is very excited to see what is going on at the Career Academy. The collaboration and commitment of the CA along with the community and the important initiatives

is what is going on here. This is good for the Career Academy, Whitfield County Schools, Community, but most important the students.

- Brian Cooksey said that our community is getting recognized over the state and nationally. This is good.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary