

MINUTES OF
CALLED WORK SESSION
November 7, 2016

The called work session meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Northwest Georgian College and Career Academy on November 7, 2016. Vice 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 - Arrived late and joined board in Executive Session

Others present:

Judy Gilreath
Karey Williams
Audrey Williams
Mike Ewton
Richard Hill
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 Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Executive Session

Superintendent Judy Gilreath recommended the board members move into executive session to discuss land and personnel. Vice Chairman Louis Fordham said that a recommendation had been made to move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. 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 6:15 p.m. Rodney Lock moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

November 7, 2016

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy on Monday, November 7, 2016. Chairman Bill Worley 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	Kelly Coon
Karey Williams	Eric Beavers
Audrey Williams	Carolyn Weaver
Mike Ewton	Richard Hill
Wanda Phillips	

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 Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reece Elliott, Lindy Hester, Alyce Norton, Gracie Price, and Rhett Tyson, students from Varnell Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Inspiration

Varnell Elementary School's Choral Festival Group, led the inspiration by singing, *Winter is Coming Soon*.

Recognitions and Presentations

Gerardo Favela – Helps with the Summer Reading Activities

Michelle Caldwell, Director of Elementary Curriculum, told the board that Gerardo attended Eastside Elementary School as a 5th grader last year, and he currently attends Eastbrook Middle School. She said that for the past two years, Gerardo and his mom have opened up their back yard to the neighbors and volunteers from Dalton State College for summer reading activities. Once a week through the summer, Gerardo lays out blankets and sets up chairs in order to prepare the lawn for learning. He would go to the different homes and invite the children to come and participate. He displays leadership qualities as well as kindness and care for others. The board thanked him for showing such great leadership qualities.

Mandy Owens, 1st Year Teacher at Eastbrook Middle School Receives New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power

The board presented Mandy Owens with a certificate of congratulations for receiving the New Teacher Assistance Grant from Georgia Power in the amount of \$1000.00. Brian Griffin with Georgia power presented Mandy with a small replica of a Georgia Power Truck along with a check for \$1000.00. The grant is to be used to purchase materials and supplies for her classroom. Mandy is a first year teacher at Eastbrook Middle School. Brian said that you have to be nominated by your professors and school. To be eligible, she had to be in the top 25 percent of her class and a first-year teacher at a Georgia public school.

Hearing of Individuals

None

Approval of Minutes – October 3, 2016 Board Meetings and October 17, 2016 Called Board Meeting

Chairman Bill Worley recommended the board approve the minutes for the October 3, 2016 board meetings and the October 17, 2016 called board meeting. Tony Stanley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Purchase Orders Over \$25,000

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Marc Wilson Designs	Paintings and Signs for New Gym Area at SHS (Donor Project)	\$32,879.00
CDW-G Computer Centers	Chromebooks/Carts/License/Installation EMS (Donor)	\$52,827.00

Rodney Lock 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 September 30, 2016. Bill Worley recommended the board approve the reports as presented. Bill Worley moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0. The financial reports are a part of these minutes.

Superintendent's Reports

Teaching & Learning

GOSA Implementation Grant Update

Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented the following information on the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Implementation Grant. The grant is in the amount of \$611,000.00. The project is called, Beyond the Classroom. This grant is designed to expand Power Lunches and Learning Academies:

- Cobb and Whitfield are the only two districts to earn this grant • Grant projects will deliver literacy to communities with greatest challenges
- Key Components :
 - Professional learning for K–3 teachers in Get GA Reading and Growing Readers Campaigns
 - Learning Academies
 - Ready Rosie
 - Power Lunches
 - Recipes for Success
 - Health & Wellness Classes
 - Book Blasts
 - Summer Libraries
- Community Partners

- Dalton State College
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning/Early Education Empowerment Zone(DECAL/E3Z)
- Northwest Georgia Regional Library
- Northwest Georgia Regional Healthcare Partnership
- Readers to Leaders
- Whitfield Division of Family and Children Services
- Whitfield Department of Public Health
- United Way of Northwest Georgia
- Get Georgia Reading Campaign

Assessment and Accountability

- No Report

Operations

Georgia Power Rebate Presentation

Representatives from Georgia Power presented a rebate check to the board in the amount of \$22,088.18. This check was for energy efficient savings for the remodel of Eastside Elementary School. Whitfield County has used energy-saving equipment and strategies in the remodel of this school.

Fiber Optic Easement for Dalton Utilities

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented a Fiber Optic Easement agreement with Dalton Utilities. This is to add fiber optic cable at Crow Road by Coahulla Creek High School. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Support Services

After School Care Workers

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

- Taylor Smith and Joleen Cline – New Hope Elementary School
- Sharon Muse and Macey Morgan – Valley Point Elementary School
- Olivia Beavers and Kaitlin York – Westside Elementary School

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

Personnel

Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended the board approve the November personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include the following:

Personnel Recommendations for November 7, 2016

I.		<u>Certified Personnel 2015-16</u>	II.		<u>Certified Personnel 2016-17</u>
A.	0	Resignations	A.	1	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	1	Recommendations
C.	0	Transfers	C.	1	Transfers
D.	0	Other Certified Actions	D.	1	Other Certified Actions
E.	0	Terminations	E.	0	Terminations
III.		<u>Classified Personnel 2015-16</u>	IV.		<u>Classified Personnel 2016-17</u>
A.	1	Resignations	A.	7	Resignations
B.	0	Recommendations	B.	10	Recommendations

C.	0	Transfers	C.	2	Transfers
D.	0	Other Classified Actions	D.	0	Other Classified Actions
E.	0	Terminations	E.	2	Terminations

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

Chairman Bill Worley recommended the board vacate and rescind Dr. Judy Gilreath's current contract and replace it with the new contract as superintendent beginning on November 7, 2016 and ending October 31, 2019. She will be paid a base annual salary of \$160,000.00 and \$600.00 a month for transportation. Bill Worley moved approval and Louis Fordham seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Previous Business

Second Reading for Replacement of Board Policy GAE: Complaints and Grievances

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the second Reading of Board Policy GAE: Complaints and Grievances. Dr. Gilreath said that our attorney has advised that the policy is out of date with current laws and state board rules and needs to be replaced. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

New Business

First Reading of New Board Policy JRA: Student Data Privacy Complaints

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading of the new Board Policy JRA: Student Data Privacy Complaints. Dr. Gilreath said that this is to comply with state requirements under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

First Reading of Changes in Board Policy BH: Board Code of Ethics

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the First Reading of Changes in Board Policy BH: Board Code of Ethics. Dr. Gilreath said that this is to align LBOE policy with state changes. The State Board has amended Rule 160-5-1-.36 Local School Board Governance and its Model Code of Ethics to incorporate language from SB 275. The amendment removed the requirement that local board members only express opinions before votes are cast and added the requirement that local boards shall not adopt or follow any code of ethics which prevents the members of the board from discussing freely the policies and actions outside of a board meeting.

Discussion of Certificate of Distribution

Dr. Gilreath, Superintendent, told the board that with the Educational Local Option Sales & Use Tax, the amount that each school system receives, Dalton Public Schools and Whitfield County Schools, is based on student enrollment. The ESPLOST III FTE formula for Whitfield County Schools was at 67.84% because enrollment was higher than the ESPLOST IV FTE formula. This is because student enrollment went down for our school system but Dalton Public Schools enrollment had increased. We were never notified that the formula had changed so Whitfield County Schools continued to collect the same taxes based on the ESLOST III formula. Dalton Public Schools and Whitfield County Schools were notified of the mistake and that our FTE formula should have been changed to 65.38%. Dalton Public Schools formula increased to 34.62%. Whitfield County Schools will now have to pay Dalton Public Schools \$1,509,875.42 for ESPLOST IV. Dr. Gilreath said that she does not know how this happened and who was supposed to make us aware of the change. The Certificate of Distribution has been corrected. She told the board that we have put a hold on any other projects until we know exactly where we are with ESPLOST IV and that the funds are there to complete the projects. She also told the board that a business in Whitfield County had over paid in sales taxes and that we would have to pay them \$330,000.00. She told the board that we had just been notified of this. She said that this is hard on us and she just wants to make sure that the money is there to pay for projects that are already in progress and any upcoming projects.

ESPLOST Project Discussion

Mike Ewton, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, told the board that in preparation for the upcoming

ESPLOST V vote, we request consideration of the following projects for inclusion in the referendum to be voted on in March of 2017. He told the board that unless specifically noted, projects may include multiple locations.

1. Replacement of the Valley Point Middle School facility
2. Replacement of the North Whitfield Middle School facility
3. Replacement of the gymnasium at Westside Middle School
4. Renovation of Westside Elementary School – Mike told the board that the HVAC and the roof are 20 years old.
5. Construction of a car rider driveway at Tunnel Hill Elementary School – Mike said that this is the only school that has bus and car traffic letting out in the same place. For safety matters this needs to be changed.
6. HVAC unit and system replacements
7. Roof replacements
8. Restroom renovations
9. Paint and flooring
10. Energy efficient lighting retrofits
11. Safety and security equipment and systems
12. Sewer system tie-ins
13. Athletic facility renovations, construction, and modifications
14. Land purchase
15. Technology replacement and upgrades
16. School bus purchase and enhancements

Stewart Melvin & Frost Attorney at law for Bonds

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve Stewart Melvin & Frost as a bond counsel in connection with the ESPLOST V Bond Referendum set for March 2017. She said that this firm came highly recommended by our lawyers Harbin, Hartley, and Hawkins. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Raymond James & Associates, Inc., ESPLOST Underwriting Services

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve Raymond James & Associates as the underwriter for the potential Whitfield County School District General Obligation Bonds, and/or other obligations, to be issued in connection with a possible ESPLOST renewal (collectively, the “Bonds”) that it currently anticipates potentially voting and potentially issuing. As an underwriter, RJA may provide advice to Whitfield County School District on the structure, timing, terms, and other similar matters concerning the Bonds. Rodney Lock moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 5-0.

Request to Change January 2, 2017 Board Meeting to January 3, 2016

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, recommended that the board change the board meeting from January 2, 2017 to January 3, 2017. She said that New Year’s Day is on Sunday so that makes Monday, January 2, 2016 a legal holiday and Government offices will be closed. Board members Thomas Barton and Tony Stanley have to be sworn for their new term and Judge Blevins could not be there to do that. So we need to change the meeting to Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Bill Worley moved approval and Tony Stanley seconded. Board approved 5-0.

Donations for November 2016

Dr. Judy Gilreath, Superintendent, presented the following donations to the board for approval:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Description of Donation</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
All Five Middle Schools	Civic Engagement Trip Inauguration in Washington DC (Donor)	\$67,500.00
Valley Point Middle School	Marcus DSC Emory Project (Donor)	\$5,700.00
Eastbrook Middle School	Chromebooks (Donor)	\$52,827.00
Southeast High School	Commercial Washers and Dryers (Donor)	\$30,000.00
Antioch/Eastside Elementary Schools	Disney Leadership Balance	\$29,809.18
New Hope Middle School	Fieldtrip Scholarships	\$15,000.00

Westside Middle School	Donations for September 2016 for Football, Archery, Leadership, Athletic Ball Fields, Softball	\$3395.00
Westside Middle School	NGEMC STEM Grant	\$2000.00
Westside Middle School	Donations for October 2016 for Football and Counseling	\$995.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Engineered Floors for General Purposes	\$1000.00
Dug Gap Elementary School	Keep Dalton/Whitfield Beautiful Mini Beautification Grant	\$250.00
Southeast High School	GA Young Farmers Grant from Farm Bureau	\$355.55
Tunnel Hill Elementary School	Indigent Fund from Mt Vernon Methodist Church	\$500.00
Tunnel Hill Elementary School	NGEMC STEM Grant	\$500.00
North Whitfield Middle School	NGEMC STEM Grant	\$2000.00
North Whitfield Middle School	Donations for Softball, Cross Country, and Football	\$922.00
NWGCCA	Robotics Shaw Sponsorship	\$10,000.00

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman