

# BOARD BRIEFS



## A Monthly Review of the Actions and Highlights of the Newton County Board of Education Meetings April 2008



District 1  
Mr. Johnny Smith



District 2  
Mr. Rickie Corley



District 1  
Mrs. Cathy Dobbs



District 4  
Mr. Almond Turner



District 5  
Dr. C.C. Bates

### April 15, 2008 Monthly Work Session

#### Special Recognition:



#### SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

The School Board recognized several students for their recent accomplishments in the regional and state science fairs. In addition to the 19 students who earned awards at the Griffin RESA Regional Science Fair, two students, Cassidy Sims and Kathleen Cunningham of Indian Creek Middle School, won first place at the State Science Fair

(Pictured left to right:) Kathleen Cunningham, Cassidy Sims, and Board Chair Mr. Almond Turner.

For a complete listing of names of the Science Fair winners, visit the news section of the Newton County School System website at [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org).

#### PILOT CLUB DONATION

The Covington Pilot Club presented the Newton County School System Department of Special Education with a check for \$1,000 for the purchase of "Read It Once, Read It Again" curriculum books and materials for the NCSS Special Needs Preschool Program.



(Pictured left to right:) Ms. Suzette German, Special Needs Preschool Lead Teacher; Ms. Cathy Stubbs, Director of Special Education; Ms. Ann Brooks, Treasurer, Covington Pilot Club; and Ms. Pam Howland, Covington Pilot Club.

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**Bid for Construction of New Elementary School #14:** The school board approved Meja Construction, Inc. as the low bidder for construction of new elementary school #14. The company's bid of \$13,319,000 was the lowest of four bids submitted. The new school will be located on Kirkland Road in the western portion of the county.

**Superintendent's Recommendations in Executive Session:** The school board approved the superintendent's personnel recommendations in executive session. These recommendations included the selection of Dr. Renee Mallard as incoming principal of Indian Creek Middle School effective 2008-2009. She will replace current principal Ms. Samantha Fuhrey, who was recently approved as the new Director of Professional Learning.

## **April 22, 2008 Monthly Meeting**

**Special Recognition:** The school board recognized several students for their recent accomplishments, including the winners of the Newton County School System 2008 Young Georgia Authors Contest as well as the five high school students recently selected to participate in the 2008 Governor's Honors Program. For a complete listing of names of the Young Georgia Authors Contest winners and Governor's Honors representatives, visit the news section of the Newton County School System website at [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org).

**Public Participation:** Three parents spoke before the board to express their concerns about the following topics: request to revise current tribunal process to include non-employee members of the hearing panel; request for funding of a swim team at Eastside High School and other high schools in the county; and concern about the current requirements for participation in commencement exercises.

**Old Business:** The school board approved three policies which had been on the table for a thirty-day review period. These policies included: Policy IFBE-Use of Computers/Communication Resources; Policy IHE-Promotion/Retention; and Policy IHF-Graduation Requirements/Credentials. The board added an amendment to Policy IHF that: effective with the graduating class of 2012, students must have passed all portions of the Georgia High School Graduation Test **AND** have accumulated the required number of credits for graduation in order to participate in commencement exercises. Revised policies will be posted on the NCSS website on Monday, April 28.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bids on Contracted Services for Plumbing:** The school board approved American Residential Services, LLC of Marietta, Georgia, as the low bidder for an annual renewable contract for plumbing contractor services. The estimated value of the annual contract is \$150,000.

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**Purchase of Custodial Equipment for South Salem Elementary School:** The school board approved the purchase from Associated Paper, Inc. of custodial equipment for South Salem Elementary School. The total cost of the equipment is \$39,453.96.

**Use of Facilities (Veterans Memorial) by Mustard Seed Faith Church:** The school board approved the request for use of Veterans Memorial Middle School by Mustard Seed Faith Church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for \$160 per week.

**Proposed Policy KI-Free Material Distribution:** The board placed on the table for action in May, a proposed new policy, KI-Distribution of Free Materials. The policy clarifies for school administrators the types of materials and the circumstances under which students may be used as the mechanism for distributing materials to parents.

**Secondary Program Planning Guide:** The school board approved the secondary program planning guide with one exception; the section concerning Honor Graduates needs to be revised. That section will be added back in once revisions are complete.

**Elementary Handbooks:** The school board approved the system portion of the 2008-2009 elementary student handbook.

**Secondary Handbooks:** The school board approved the system portion of the 2008-2009 secondary handbook.

**Math Adoption for High Schools:** The school board approved the selection of textbooks from the state adoption list for mathematics in grades 9-12. These textbooks will be used for the next seven years. Only Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Accelerated Mathematics I, Accelerated Mathematics II, Support Mathematics I, Support Mathematics II, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus textbooks were adopted. The remaining high school mathematics textbooks will be adopted next year, after the GPS rollout for high school mathematics has been completed.

**Science Adoption for Grades K-12:** The school board approved the selection of textbooks for science in grades K-12. The books will be used for the next seven years.

**Bids for Desktop Computers:** The school board approved the purchase of 229 desktop computers from ByteSpeed Computers for South Salem Elementary School. The computers cost \$825 each for a total cost of \$188,925.

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**Bids for Interactive White Boards:** The school board approved the purchase of 52 Promethean AC-TIVboards 78 with ActiveStudio 3 software including an audio system from Logical Choice Technologies. The boards, which are slated for South Salem Elementary School, are \$4,175 each, for a total cost of \$217,100.

**Bids for Expansion of MediaCast:** The school board approved the purchase of upgrades to MediaCast. These include \$51,620 for the purchase, installation, and training of system upgrades to MediaCast broadcast equipment and software to enable live broadcast capabilities and cable TV in classrooms, and an additional \$8,400 for the purchase of MediaCast broadcast equipment for South Salem Elementary, and \$8,400 for the purchase of MediaCast equipment for Middle Ridge Elementary.

**Amendment of 2008-2009 Calendar:** The school board approved minor changes to the 2008-2009 school calendar, including adding a 1/2 day of professional learning on the January 5, 2009 teacher work day. In addition, the dates for the two teacher work days in June 2009 were corrected—they are Monday, June 1, 2009 and Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

**Bids for Primary Rate ISD Telephone Lines:** The school board approved at&t as the low bidder for Primary Rated ISDN (PRI) lines. The company's low bid of \$1,125.55 per PRI line per month will amount to an annual cost of \$40,519.80.

**Middle Ridge Uniform Proposal:** The school board approved the request by Middle Ridge Elementary School to implement a school uniform policy effective the 2008-2009 school year. Middle Ridge will be the fourth elementary school in the county to have school uniform requirements—Ficquett Elementary, Heard-Mixon Elementary, and Porterdale Elementary, also have school uniform policies in place.

**Modification of Attendance Lines for South Salem Elementary:** The school board approved the proposed attendance lines for South Salem Elementary School and the resulting, redrawn lines for Livingston Elementary, West Newton Elementary, Porterdale Elementary, and Oak Hill Elementary schools. Rising fifth graders in the four schools affected by the lines will be given a one-time opportunity to remain at their current school, with the understanding that transportation must be provided by parents/guardians.

**Executive Session:** The school board approved the personnel items presented in Executive Session.

For a complete listing of presentations and actions of the Newton County Board of Education, check the Board of Education [meeting minutes](#), which are posted on the Newton County School System website.

*This is a publication of the Newton County School System Public Relations Department.*