

BOARD BRIEFS



A Monthly Review of the Actions and Highlights of the Newton County Board of Education Meetings December 2007



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

December 11, 2007 Combined Work Session/Monthly Meeting

Presentation of 2008 Legislative Priorities: Newton County School Superintendent, Dr. Steve Whatley, presented the school board's legislative issues and priorities to members of the Newton County legislative delegation, including State Senator John Douglas, State Representative Doug Holt, and State Representative John Lunsford. The Board of Education approved the list of 2008 legislative issues at the November 2007 monthly meeting. The list of priorities and also the power point presentation for the board meeting can be accessed by visiting the page link listed below:

<http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/boe-index.html>



School board members (l-r) Dr. C.C. Bates, Ms. Cathy Dobbs, and Board Chair, Mr. Johnny Smith, speak with Rep. Lunsford and Sen. Douglas after the presentation of the school board's 2008 Legislative Priorities.

Board of Distinction: Dr. Steve Whatley recognized the Newton County Board of Education for being one of 15 Georgia school boards to be awarded the Georgia School Boards Association's "School Board of Distinction" at the Georgia School Boards Association/Georgia School Superintendents Association Annual Conference.

Newton County Board of Education members (l-r): Ms. Cathy Dobbs, Mr. Almond Turner, Mr. Rickie Corley, Mr. Johnny Smith, and Dr. C.C. Bates accept the award for being named a Georgia School Board of Distinction.



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Newton County School System Assessment Report: Dr. Shelia Thomas, Director of Testing and Georgia Performance Standards, presented a summary of student assessment programs for the 2006-2007 school year. This information included summary system-wide data on writing assessments, Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test, End-of-Course Test, Georgia High School Graduation Test, ACT, SAT, and Advanced Placement Test data.

Review of Certificate and Experience Levels: Newton County School System Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Donald Dunnigan, presented a brief overview of certificate and experience levels of Newton County School System staff. Overall, 56% of Newton County School System's teaching staff have master degrees or better; however, 61% of the teaching staff have less than ten years of teaching experience.

The Newton County Board of Education took action on the following items:

School Nutrition Program Equipment Repair: The Board unanimously approved General Service Company, Inc. as the low bidder for the annual renewable contract for repair and service of kitchen equipment for the School Nutrition Program. The estimated annual value of the contract is \$60,000. This company was previously awarded the contract in 2004 and it was renewed for three years.

Surplus Items: The Board of Education declared multiple pages of items as surplus equipment and authorized the appropriate disposal of the items either through a salvage company or other proper disposal method.

Presentation of Suggested Names for New Schools: Dr. Steve Whatley presented the school board with a packet of correspondence received by the superintendent's office regarding the naming of new elementary school #13 and new middle school #5. The deadline to submit names for consideration was December 3. The board will discuss the suggested names at the January 8, 2008 work session and narrow the list to no more than six names. At the regular meeting scheduled on January 15, 2008, the Board will take action on naming both schools.

Agreement Regarding Senate Bill 618 Students: The Board of Education approved by a 3-2 vote (Dr. Bates and Mr. Corley voted against) a Cooperative Agreement regarding Senate Bill 618 students residing at the local Project Adventure site. SB 618 requires the education of students who are in the physical or legal custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Human Resources, in a placement operated by these agencies, or in a facility paid for by these agencies or its divisions and who is physically present within the geographical area served by a school district for any length of time. The agreement specifies functions and responsibilities of both the school system and Project Adventure, Inc.

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Date of Superintendent's Annual Evaluation: The Newton County Board of Education set the date for the annual evaluation of the school superintendent at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 20 at Newton Federal.

Personnel Recommendations: The Board of Education unanimously approved the Superintendent's personnel recommendations that were discussed 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 online at <http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/boe-minutes.html> or contact the Newton County School System Public Relations Department at 770-784-2908.