

# BOARD BRIEFS



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

### January 8, 2008 Monthly Work Session

**Referendum Relative to Newton County Homestead Exemption:** It was noted that on February 5, 2008, Newton County residents will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum that would provide a homestead exemption from Newton County school district ad valorem taxes for maintenance and operations purposes in the amount of \$30,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for Newton County residents who are 65 years of age or over and whose annual adjusted gross income does not exceed \$25,000. It has been estimated that the passage of this referendum could cost the school district approximately \$587,000 in local property tax revenue. It would also shift the tax burden to other residents.

**Presentation Relative to Suggested Names for New Schools:** School board members reviewed a list of suggested names submitted by community members for the two new schools being built on Salem Road—one elementary school and one middle school. Each board member picked his or her first choice for each school as follows:

Mr. Johnny Smith: Mills Creek Elementary  
Timber Ridge Middle

Mr. Rickie Corley: Salem Elementary  
Salem Middle

Mrs. Cathy Dobbs: Mills Creek Elementary or Salem Camp Elementary  
Timber Ridge Middle or Tall Oaks Middle

Mr. Almond Turner: Salem Heights Elementary or Salem Elementary  
Mills Creek Middle

Dr. C.C. Bates: Mills Creek Elementary  
Mills Creek Middle

The Board is scheduled to take action on naming the two new schools at the January 15, 2008 monthly meeting.

# BOARD BRIEFS



## January 15, 2008 Monthly Meeting

**Public Participation:** Mr. Marcus Hill, a representative of the Newton High School Band Booster Program, asked the board to consider funding the purchase of approximately 130 new band uniforms. The band's current uniforms are very old and in dire need of replacement. The Booster Club used this year's funds to satisfy previous debts and to keep the program running. They do not have funds available for the purchase of new uniforms.

### **Growing Leadership Personnel Presentation:**

Dr. Linda Hayden, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and Dr. Kathy Reese, Director of High Schools, presented a power point on the system's "Rising Stars" program which is focused on grooming personnel into leadership positions and providing our county with its future leaders. Current employees participating in the program are: (Left to Right) Ms. Takila Curry, Palmerstone; Ms. Vicki Thompson Gheesling, East Newton; Ms. LaSharon McClain, Heard-Mixon; Dr. Kim Coady, Porterdale; Mr. Bruce McColum, Eastside.



**Visiting International Faculty Program Presentation:** Dr. Donald Dunnigan, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, presented information on a program that can be utilized to fill teaching vacancies in our school district. The teachers in the program come from various nations and go through a lengthy process before placement. Several surrounding school systems make use of this program and our system would like to do so in the future.

**Naming of Two New Schools:** The Board members chose to delay the selection of names for the two new schools until the February 2008 monthly meeting.

**Meal Pay Plus Agreement:** The Newton County Board of Education approved by unanimous vote to enter into an agreement with the company, Retriever to manage Meal Pay Plus. The agreement will not cost the school system financially and the meal payment plan is expected to be back up and running very soon.

# BOARD BRIEFS



**Certificates of Completion for Additions to Clements and Cousins:** The school board accepted the architect's certificates of completion for the classroom additions at Clements Middle School and Cousins Middle School.

**2008-2009 Budget Calendar:** The school board approved the proposed timeline for budget process for FY 2009.

**Custodial Supply and Green Cleaning Program:** The school board awarded a contract for custodial supply and green cleaning program to Associated Paper, Inc. of Conyers, Georgia. The total estimated annual contract value is \$400,000. The contract is renewable at the end of the contract year.

**Bus Bids and Bus Purchases:** The Board of Education approved Nalley Motors of Atlanta, Georgia as the low bidder on 72-passenger conventional buses at \$81,908 each and 48-passenger special needs buses at \$92,250. The Board authorized the purchase of nineteen 72-passenger conventional buses and four 48-passenger buses at a total cost of \$1,925,252. The Board also authorized bidding financial services for the purchase of these buses.

**Contracting with Speech Pathologist:** The School Board approved an agreement between the school system and Ms. Patricia Spratley-Speaks to provide contracted speech/language therapy to students in accordance with the Individualized Education Programs. Funding will be provided by FY08 Federal Title VI-B (IDEA) funds.

**2008-2009 Meeting Dates:** The Board of Education approved the proposed schedule of meeting dates for February 2008 through January 2009. Once the calendar has been approved, the Board may only change one meeting date during the year. The 2008 meeting schedule for the Newton County Board of Education is posted online at [http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/BOECalendars/boe\\_meeting\\_dates\\_2008.pdf](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/BOECalendars/boe_meeting_dates_2008.pdf)

**Quarterly Planning Meeting:** The School Board set March 24, 2008 for its next quarterly planning meeting. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Newton County Board of Education.

# BOARD BRIEFS



## **Election of 2008 Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:**

The Newton County Board of Education unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Almond Turner as 2008 Board Chairperson and Mr. Rickie Corley as 2008 Vice Chairperson. They will assume those positions immediately and will serve through the Board's regularly scheduled meeting in January 2009. (Left to Right): Mr. Johnny Smith, Past Chair; Mr. Almond Turner, Chair; Mr. Rickie Corley, Vice Chair.

**Executive Session:** The Board approved the items discussed in Executive Session, including the resignation of Dr. Donald Dunnigan, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, who has accepted a position in Cobb County Schools.

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.