

BOARD BRIEFS



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

May 13, 2008 Monthly Work Session

PRESENTATION: Dr. Kathy Garber, Newton County School System Grant Writer, made the first of two presentations on the system's Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) program. The presentation also included information on the possibility of establishing a College and Career Academy in Newton County.

OLD BUSINESS:

The school board tabled the approval of Section F of the Secondary Program Planning Guide to allow further review. The proposed new policy, KI-Free Material Distribution remains on the table for review with the board scheduled to vote on the policy at the May 20, 2008 monthly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Sets Special Called Work Session The school board approved establishing a special called budget work session on May 15, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of further reviewing the proposed FY 2009 Tentative Budget

Executive Session: The school board approved the superintendent's personnel recommendations in Executive Session.

May 20, 2008 Monthly Meeting

Special Recognition:

The School Board recognized students as well as the teacher, Ms. Kim Newhouse, of the Alcovy High School Broadcasting Class for their recent third place award in the State Nutrition and Wellness Video Competition. Students who participated in the video production are: Chris Artis, Darrell Clark, Russell Dennis, Austin Greenway, Josh Hardge, Alanna Harris, De'Ton McElroy, Alex Reis, Brandi Seybold, and Daniel Thompson.



BOARD BRIEFS



Public Participation: A Newton High School parent addressed the board about her concern that high achievers in academics are not acknowledged or recognized appropriately for their achievements at both the school and county level. A Covington resident addressed the board in reference to a request for an easement on Agriculture Drive near Newton High School.

OLD BUSINESS: The school board approved Policy KI-Free Material Distribution. This policy had been on the table for a thirty-day review period.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bids on Alcovy High School Track Improvements: The school board approved the low bid of \$102,500 by Sports Turf, of Whitesburg, Georgia, to install the rubberized surface on the track at Alcovy High School. The company will also install an eight-foot wide concrete sidewalk along the west side of the track encompassing the catch basins. The school board received three bids for the project.

Bids on Alcovy High School Site Work: The school board approved Kevin Price General Contractors as the low bidder for site work at Alcovy High School. The project includes realignment of the service drive and relocation of fire and domestic water lines to prepare the site for the construction of the 50-classroom addition. The site work, which should be completed by July 15, 2008, was bid at \$449,000. Five companies submitted bids to the school system.

Bids on Newton High School Renovations: The school board approved the low bid of \$657,000 from Kevin Price General Contractors for the renovations at Newton High School. Some of the renovations included in this project are work in the administration, commons and gym areas; band and choral areas; the ninth-grade wing, science wing, and media center. Improvements include new carpet, tile and paint in selected areas, new railings in gymnasium, and replacement of floor covering in the science wing, media center, and ninth-grade wing. Phase II of the renovations at Newton High will occur next summer.

Bids on East Newton/Heard-Mixon Canopies and Improvements to Sharp Stadium: The school board approved Kevin Price General Contractors as the low bidder at \$224,000 for improvements to Sharp Stadium and the installation of canopies at both East Newton Elementary and Heard-Mixon Elementary. Three companies submitted bids on the project.

Contract Renewals for School Nutrition Program: The school board approved the renewal of contracts with U.S. Food Service, (food items); Sanitech Systems, Inc., (kitchen safety and sanitation program); Coca-Cola Enterprises, (non-carbonated beverages); and Royal Food Service, (produce and fresh eggs) for the 2008-2009 school year. The estimated values for these contracts are \$2,500,000; \$62,000; \$41,000; and \$358,000 respectively.

BOARD BRIEFS



Bread Bids: The school board approved a contract with Sara Lee Food and Beverage for bread purchases for the 2008-2009 school year. They were the only company to submit a bid for the contract and have been the system's vendor for the last three years. The estimated value of the contract is \$300,000.

Milk Bids: The school board approved a contract for milk to be awarded to the low bidder, Mayfield Dairy Farms, LLC. The value of the contract is estimated at \$747,962.

Bids on HVAC Contracted Services : The school board awarded a contract for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) services to the low bidder, Beam Enterprise LLC of Newborn, Georgia. The estimated value of the contract is \$300,000.

Surplus Items: The board declared numerous items as surplus and authorized their disposal through a salvage company or other proper disposal methods as they are no longer serviceable.

Adoption of FY 2009 Tentative Budget: The school board adopted the superintendent's proposed FY 2009 Tentative Budget of \$150,857,710 in expenditures. The majority of the budget, 87.2% is for employee salaries and benefits. The school board will approve the final FY2009 budget at its June 17 monthly meeting. The tentative budget presentation is available online at www.newtoncountyschools.org.

Establishing Special Called Budget Work Session: The school board approved a special called work session for May 21, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. for additional review of the budget.

Setting Dates for Public Hearings: The school board approved the following dates for public hearings on the FY 2009 Budget: June 10 at 6:45 p.m. and June 17 at 9 a.m. and again at 6:45 p.m.

Contract Renewal for DIBELS Reading: The school board approved the renewal of the contract for electronics DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). The total cost of the renewal is \$67,000.

Contract for DIBELS mClass Math: The school board approved a contract for \$50,000 with Wireless Generation for mClass Math. The software and assessment equipment will be utilized for students in grades K-3 and special needs students in grades K-5. This software was the teachers' choice for math assessment.

Bids for Graphing Calculators for HS-TI84: The school board approved the low bid of \$67,225 from Scantex Business Systems for graphing calculators and accessories. The bid includes Texas Instrument graphing calculators, View Screen packages for overhead presentation and cases.

Renewal and Additional Nova Net Licenses: The school board approved the renewal of the 50 NovaNET Subscription Licenses from 2007/2008 funds at a cost of \$54,500 and the purchase of an additional 50 NovaNET Subscription Licenses and additional training at a cost of \$57,900 on July 1, dependent upon approval of the FY 2009 budget. The software licenses provide credit recovery courses for high school students..

BOARD BRIEFS



Approval of Vocational Rehabilitation Agreement: The school board approved an agreement between Newton County Schools and the Department of Rehabilitation Services of the Georgia Department of Human Resources. This agreement is a continuation of the agreement for services approved during the 2007-2008 school year. The cost for the system's portion of the agreement is \$13,000, which will be included in the FY 09 local budget.

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.

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