



# NCSS BOARD NOTES

**A MONTHLY RECAP:  
AUGUST 2020**



## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

September 8, 2020  
September 15, 2020

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# WELCOME

**Our vision: All students will be well-rounded and prepared for the future.**

**Our mission is to provide educational excellence for ALL students.**

Welcome to Newton County School System's BOARD NOTES, a monthly recap of actions taken by the Newton County Board of Education. Official minutes of school board meetings are approved the following month and then posted on the Newton County School System website located at [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org).

## IN THIS ISSUE

**August 7 Special Called Meeting; August 11 Work Session; and August 18 Meeting.**

### August 7, Special Called Meeting

#### A. Requested Board Action Relative to Revision of Reopening School for FY 2021

- During this meeting Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey presented the need and later announced the decision to begin the school year in an all virtual format. She also presented a new calendar option to postpone the start of school until

September 8, 2020. The Board approved the superintendent's proposed calendar change.

**APPROVED: August 7, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

## **August 11 and August 18, 2020 Meetings**

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Requested Board Action Relative to Professional Learning Services**

- This item was removed from consideration.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Property**

- The Board approved the purchase of 5.818 acres of property from East Newton Baptist Church, Inc. at a purchase price of \$12,062.00 per surveyed acre for a total cost of \$70,177.00. The purchase is to be paid for with bond funds.

**APPROVED: August 11, 2020 by 3-1 vote; Mr. Eddie Johnson dissenting.**

#### **B. Requested Board Action Relative to Video and Web Conferencing Software**

- The Board approved the purchase of video, web conferencing software, Zoom, needed for the school system from CDW-G of Vernon Hills, Illinois. The software will be procured through its reseller CDW-G, utilizing a contract managed by E&I Cooperative Services, a national purchasing cooperative. The total purchase price is \$35,572.00 to be paid for with general funds.

**APPROVED: August 11, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

#### **C. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Technology Devices**

- The Board approved the purchase of Chromebooks needed for select schools to be purchased from Dell Marketing L.P. of Round Rock, Texas. Individual schools are allowed the flexibility to use their allotted Title I funds in a way that supports and aligns with strategies identified in their Title I School-wide Plan. The following schools selected to invest in additional Chromebooks: East Newton Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Flint Hill Elementary, Heard-Mixon Elementary, Live Oak Elementary, Livingston Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Rocky Plains Elementary, Cousins Middle, Liberty Middle, Veterans Memorial Middle, Eastside High, and Newton High. The system will utilize a State of Georgia contract to procure the equipment. The total cost of \$360,525.00 will be paid for with FY 2021 Title I Part A School Allocations.

**APPROVED: August 11, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

#### **D. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Hand Sanitizer**

- The Board approved the purchase of hand sanitizer and dispensers needed for the school system from Buckeye Cleaning Centers of Norcross, Georgia. The school system is purchasing hand sanitizer and dispensers (both classroom, and hallway stands) and will replenish throughout the year as circumstances dictate. The sanitizer and equipment will be purchased utilizing a contract managed by National BuyBoard, a national purchasing cooperative established in part by the National School Boards Association. The estimated contract value is \$70,000 to be paid for with general funds.

**APPROVED: August 11, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**E. Requested Board Action Relative to FY 2021 Budget**

- The Board adopted the FY 2021 budget for all governmental funds as approved in the tentative budget in July. The tentative budget used a digest of \$3.032 billion and a millage rate of 19.788 mils. Total expenditures are projected to be \$191,233,026 which is a decrease of 2.77% from the FY 2020 budget mainly due to a reduction in the TRS employer contribution rate and a reclassification of several expenditures which will be covered through CARES federal funding. The budget will provide a projected ending fund balance of \$27,949,639 in FY 2021.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**F. Requested Board Action Relative to 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant**

- The Board approved the acceptance and use of 21st Century Learning Center grant funds in the amount of \$1,400,000.00. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program is a federally funded grant program supporting the creation of community learning centers throughout the country. The centers provide after school academic assistance for children, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, or who face other barriers to success. The program is designed to assist students to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math. The school system will utilize the grant funds to fund after-school programs for 600 students at eleven schools and the Washington Street Community Center. The schools include Alcovy High, Clements Middle, Cousins Middle, Eastside High, Fairview Elementary, Flint Hill Elementary, Heard-Mixon Elementary, Indian Creek Middle, Liberty Middle, Veterans Memorial Middle, and West Newton Elementary.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**G. Requested Board Action Relative to Washington Street Community Center Contract**

- The Board approved the continued partnership program and contract with the Washington Street Community Center. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program is a federally funded grant program supporting the creation of community learning centers throughout the country. Community-based organizations may be utilized to support these programs. The Washington Street Community Center was included in the school system's grant proposal and approved by state administrators as one of the program sites. The total contract value is \$60,000.00 to be paid for with FY 2021 Title IV-B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Fund.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**H. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Progress Monitoring Software**

- The Board approved the purchase of Fastbridge software, a component of the comprehensive assessment solution, from Illuminate Education. Illuminate Education's comprehensive student assessment solution provides a turnkey platform to handle the school system's student assessment needs and documentation. One component, Fastbridge, a computer adaptive tool, provides the information needed to implement an effective RtI/MTSS framework with evidence-based reading, math, and behavioral screening and progress monitoring assessments. The total purchase amount is \$98,350.00 to be paid for with general funds.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**I. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Sports Lighting**

- The Board approved the purchase of sports lighting needed for the replacement Eastside High School to be purchased from Musco Sports Lighting, LLC of Oskaloosa, Iowa. The lighting selected is a complete turnkey solution for the sports lighting needs at the new, replacement Eastside High School. It includes all

required poles, fixtures, foundations, electrical components and control cabinets. It covers the football, practice baseball, softball fields, and tennis courts. The total cost of the purchase is \$935,000.000 to be paid for from bond funds.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**J. Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Property**

- The Board approved a list of items to be declared as surplus and disposed of per Board Policy DO. The school system makes every effort to redistribute and reuse its equipment and property throughout the component's useful life, or as long as practical. Items are only designated as surplus when they are deemed no longer necessary for school purposes. They are then aggregated and disposed of utilizing one or more of the approved methodologies outlined in Board Policy DO. Care is taken to discard of items in as environmentally friendly manner as practical. The items on this month's list came from the following NCSS locations: Clements Middle, Cousins Middle, East Newton Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Veterans Memorial Middle, and West Newton Elementary.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**K. Requested Board Action Relative to Resolution to Support "The Georgia Vision Project for Public Education"**

- The Board approved its support of the work embedded in The Georgia Vision Project for Public Education. The strategic goals in the Newton County School System's recently adopted five-year strategic plan mirror the recommendations of the "Vision Project" all of which will support the school system's work to ensure all students are well-rounded and prepared for the future.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**L. Requested Board Action Relative to Authorizing Superintendent to Employ and Transfer Staff**

- The Board approved the superintendent's request to receive authorization to employ and transfer staff during the first month of school as enrollment and class size equity with the district demands. The district is committed to maintaining K-12 class sizes as follows: Kindergarten = 21; Grades 1-3 = 25; Grades 4-5 = 30; Grades 6-8 = 31; and Grades 9-12 = 32. Daily review of the numbers occurs in order to add or collapse classes early in the school year. Based on those reviews, the Superintendent has historically been granted the authority to employ or transfer staff as needed in order to effect the change prior to the September Board meetings. These additions or transfers will be included in the September personnel recommendations for ratification. The FY 2021 budget contains \$200,000 in contingency funds to offset any additions to personnel.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**M. Requested Board Action Relative to 2020-2021 Local Board Governance Training**

- The Board approved the completed proposed Local Board Training Plan. With the passage of Georgia Senate Bill 84 and State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.36, each local school board in the State of Georgia is required to submit a Local Board Training Plan to the Georgia Department of Education. School System Board members are required to complete a specific number of training hours for each individual board member. New board members are required to complete fifteen hours of training; veteran board members are required to have completed nine hours; in which three of those hours have to be completed as whole board training.

**APPROVED: August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

**N. Requested Board Action Relative to Superintendent's Recommendations in Executive Session**

- The Board approved recommendations submitted by Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey during executive session.

**APPROVED: August 11, 2020 and August 18, 2020 by 4-0 vote.**

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