



NCSS BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY RECAP:
September 2020



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS
October 20, 2020
November 10, 2020

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our board members.](#)

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VIDEOS
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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.

IN THIS ISSUE

September 8, 2020 Work Session & September 15, 2020 Monthly Meeting

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

A. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Elementary ELA Instructional Resources

- The Board approved the purchase of *Studies Weekly* for the elementary English Language Arts program. *Studies Weekly* is an engaging and colorful weekly newspaper that aligns with the Georgia Standards of Excellence for kindergarten through fifth grade. Teachers use the weekly publication as a supplemental resource in their reading classes, social studies classes, and the integration of social studies into their reading classes. The total purchase price is \$67,000 to be paid for from FY 21 General Funds.

APPROVED: September 8, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

B. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Elementary Math Instructional Resources

- The Board approved the purchase of Student Lesson Packets and workbooks for the elementary math program from Savvas Learning Company, LLC. The Student Lesson Packets, often referred to in the district as the math work mats, are used to support math instruction for students in grades kindergarten, first, and second. The work mats are consumable, colorful leaflets that are correlated to the sixteen topics in enVision math, which is our elementary math program. Each topic and lesson has a work mat that allows the students to have a recording space for hands-on, interactive math learning. The purchase amount is \$134,264.43 to be paid for from FY 21 General Funds.

APPROVED: September 8, 2021 by 4-0 vote.

C. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Internet Connectivity

- The Board approved the purchase of internet connectivity needed for the school system from Spectrum Enterprise of St. Louis, Missouri. As school started almost entirely in a virtual format, the school system is working to help ensure internet access by providing internet connectivity to select students, on a month-to-month basis, as required by the phased re-entry plan. Parents assume responsibility for the equipment. The total monthly cost is not to exceed \$36,077.97 to be paid for with CARES Act Funds.

APPROVED: September 8, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

D. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Mobile Hotspot Devices

- The Board approved the purchase of mobile hotspot devices from Kajeet of Bethesda, Maryland. As most students are starting the year virtually, the school district is working to ensure internet access by providing Kajeet mobile hotspots to students, giving them a safe, simple wireless connection to the internet. Parents assume responsibility for the equipment. The total cost is \$178,668.89 to be paid for with CARES Act Funds.

APPROVED: September 8, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

E. Requested Board Action Relative to Membership Fee for Accreditation Services

- The Board approved the district's membership in the Cognia Network, formerly AdvancED. Based on a set of rigorous research-based standards and evidence-based criteria, the accreditation process examines the whole institution--its policies, programs, practices, learning conditions, and cultural context--to determine how well the parts work together to carry out the institution's vision and meet the needs of every learner. The total cost is \$28,800 to be paid for with FY 21 General Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

F. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Teacher Engagement Services

- The Board approved the purchase of teacher engagement services needed for the school system from Teach Upbeat, LLC of Brooklyn, New York. The Upbeat survey offers a simple, statistically-sound method for understanding teacher engagement and yields consistent, actionable insights regarding what is

motivating our employees and ultimately influencing their decision to stay or leave their school. Principals receive reports delineating the strengths and areas of growth at their school that influence teacher engagement and retention. The total contract value is \$33,600.00 to be paid for with FY 21 Title II Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

G. Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Property

- The Board approved the declaration of numerous items as surplus to be 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 items in as environmentally friendly manner as practical. This month's items came from the following locations: Eastside High, Heard-Mixon Elementary, Indian Creek Middle, Livingston Elementary, Newton County Theme School, Oak Hill Elementary, Palmer Stone, and Porterdale Elementary.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

H. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Whiteboards

- The Board approved the purchase of whiteboards from School Outfitters of Cincinnati, Ohio. The facilities departments needs to replace whiteboards at West Newton Elementary School and Oak Hill Elementary School, as well as in classrooms at select schools throughout the district. The boards are porcelain and steel magnetic dry erase boards in two different size configurations. The school system will utilize a contract managed by National BuyBoard, a national purchasing cooperative established in part by the National School Boards Association, to procure the equipment. The total cost is \$31,855.90 to be paid for with FY 21 General Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

I. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Rewards Program for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

- The Board approved the purchase of PBIS Rewards software from PBIS Rewards of Evansville, Indiana. PBIS is an evidence-based framework used by schools to improve school culture and student behavior, promoting a safe environment for learning. A key aspect of PBIS is the focus on more positive behaviors rather than an emphasis on the negative. PBIS Rewards makes this fundamental step in PBIS much easier in a school-wide support setting. The software-as-a-service solution provides automated school-wide PBIS management system that allows school administrators to clearly see how teachers are utilizing PBIS and how PBIS is improving school cultures. The total contract value is \$30,101.58 to be paid for with FY Title IV Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

J. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Laptop Computers and Accessories

- The Board approved the purchase of laptop computers and accessories from Dell Marketing L.P. of Round Rock, Texas. The technology department, as part of its ongoing technology plan, regularly refreshes computer technology throughout the district. A part of that process is a transition to mobile devices. Accordingly, the school system is purchasing laptops for teachers as well as necessary accessories. The school system will utilize a State of Georgia contract to procure the equipment and accessories. Items to be purchased include Dell Latitude 5310 2-in-1 laptops and Dell Docking Stations. The total purchase price is \$99,411.62 to be paid for with General Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

K. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Educational Resources

- The Board approved the purchase of educational resources from Nearpod of Dania Beach, Florida. 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. Accordingly, select schools have chosen to invest in Nearpod, a collaborative instructional platform that merges formative assessment and media for live and self-paced learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Schools purchasing the program include: Heard-Mixon Elementary, Livingston Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Porterdale Elementary, Rocky Plains Elementary, South Salem Elementary, West Newton Elementary, Indian Creek Middle, and Liberty Middle. The total purchase price is \$49,040.00 to be paid for with FY 21 Title I, Part A School Allocations.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

L. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Virtual Tutoring Services

- The Board approved the purchase of virtual tutoring services from Focus Care, Inc. (DBA FEV Tutor, Inc.). FEV Tutor provides a personalized, live 1-to-1 virtual tutorial experience 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The virtual tutorial experience can be delivered anytime, anyplace, through blended offerings; during the school day program, in the after-school setting, or extended in the nights and weekends. It is designed to support the individual needs of students and drive measured achievement gains. The total purchase cost is \$220,000.00 to be paid for from FY 21 General Funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

M. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of STEM Content and Materials

- The Board approved the purchase of Intelitek's Foundations of STEM content and materials from Learning Labs, Inc. of Calhoun, Georgia. The Intelitek Foundations of STEM content will be utilized in Engineering & Technology Education labs at Clements Middle School, Liberty Middle School, and Veterans Memorial Middle School. The curriculum introduces students to STEM concepts through problem-based learning and hands-on activities. This package includes four courses and over 30 downloadable projects that can be delivered remotely via a cloud-based model as well as utilizing computer workstations in our engineering labs during face-to-face instruction. The total purchase price is \$36,000.00 to be paid for with FY 21 Vocational Education funds.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

N. Requested Board Action Relative to Appointment to Fill the Unexpired Term of District 4 Board Member

- The Board approved and adopted a resolution appointing Mr. Anderson Bailey to fill the unexpired term of the late Almond Turner, who passed away on November 23, 2019. Mr. Bailey will serve as interim representative through the end of the unexpired term. He is on the ballot for the general election and is unopposed so he will assume the role and begin his first full term on January 1, 2021.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

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

- The Board approved the recommendations presented by Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey in executive session.

APPROVED: September 15, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

