



NCSS BOARD NOTES

**A MONTHLY RECAP:
JULY 2020**



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 11, 2020

August 18, 2020

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BOE MEETING AGENDAS & VIDEOS

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NCSS POLICY MANUAL

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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

JULY 21, 2020 COMBINED WORK SESSION/MONTHLY MEETING

Old Business

A. Requested Board Action Relative to Flexible Creativity

- The Board had tabled this item in June and did not vote to move from the table as the motion dropped.

New Business

A. Requested Board Action Relative to FY 2021 Tentative Budget

- The Board adopted a tentative budget for FY 2021 for all governmental funds to be advertised in the newspaper before the approval of a final budget on August 18, 2020. The budget for board approval consisted of all governmental funds: General Fund, State Grants, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, Debt Service Funds, School Food Service Funds, School Principal Accounts, and the After School Program.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

B. Requested Board Action Relative to Setting Millage Rate

- The Board adopted the FY 21 millage rate as follows: M&O Millage Rate of 19.788; Debt Service Millage Rate of .000; for a Total Millage Rate of 19.7888. The millage rate may not exceed 20.000 mills by law. For FY 21, the millage rate for M&O will be 19.788 which is more than the rollback millage rate of 19.031. The Debt Service Millage rate will remain at 0 mills as we will use ESPLOST V funds to pay the principal and interest on our bonds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

C. Requested Board Action Relative to August 2020 Spending Resolution

- The Board approved a spending resolution for August 2020. The Georgia Legislature is responsible for the preparation and approval of the statewide budget, which includes funding for public education, by June 30, of each year. Preliminary funding numbers are typically provided to school districts for planning purposes in March of each year. However, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Georgia Legislature suspended the 2020 legislative session on March 12, 2020. Preliminary funding numbers could not be provided before the suspension of the legislative session. As such, the Newton County School System did not have adequate information to prepare a FY 2021 budget for board approval by June 30, 2020 in accordance with Georgia law. Therefore, the board must adopt a spending resolution each month for fiscal year 2021 until the board adopts a budget.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

D. Requested Board Action Relative to 2021 Carl D. Perkins CTAE Program Improvement Local Plan

- The Board approved the 2021 Newton County Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Program Improvement Plan. In accordance with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, each eligible local school system shall submit an annual Local Plan/Application for Career and Technical Education. According to the Perkins law, federal funds are now tied to the date that the Local Plan is approved by the Local Board of Education. Board approval allows for these funds to begin to be used for the 2020-2021 school year.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

E. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Assessments

- The Board approved the purchase of IOWA assessments for use in elementary and middle schools. The assessments will be administered during the month of September 2020. The purchase amount is \$239,500 to be paid for with general funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

F. Requested Board Action Relative to the Purchase of Internet Content Filter Software

- The Board approved the annual renewable contract for internet content filter software with Family Zone Inc., of San Diego, California to provide an education-focused content filtering solution that provides scalable, customizable protection for all devices that access the network. The solution provides cloud applications and social media controls as well as cyber-security protection. The school system will utilize a contract managed by PEPPM, a national technology bidding and purchasing program to purchase the software. The effective date of the contract will be July 1, 2020 with an expiration date of June 30, 2021. The total contract value is \$44,321.66 to be paid for with general funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

G. Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contracts and Purchases for the Technology Department

- The Board approved annual renewable contracts for the following items: Instructure (Canvas Learning Management System) for a total cost of \$77,681.31; Byteworks (Maintenance Agreement for Cisco Infrastructure) for a total cost of \$51,274.48; FileWave (Technology Asset Management Software) for a total cost of \$67,209.84; and Bridgetek Solutions (Network Solutions) for a total cost of \$75,525.28. The items will be purchased using general funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

H. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Technology Devices

- The Board approved the purchase of Chromebooks, laptop computers and accessories needed for the school system from Dell Marketing L.P. of Round Rock, Texas. The technology department, as a 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 Chromebooks and laptops (for students and teachers respectively) as well as necessary accessories. The school system will use a State of Georgia contract to procure the equipment and accessories. The total cost of the contract is \$1,797,297.18 to be paid for with CARES Act Funds, FY 21 General Funds, and Title I Part A School allocations.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

I. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of Laptop Carts

- The Board approved the purchase of laptop carts needed for the school system from CDW-G of Vernon Hills, Illinois. The AC-GO carts charge, secure, store and transport 32 devices and support multiple types of Chromebooks and tablets. The school system will utilize a contract managed by the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies, a national purchasing cooperative, to purchase the carts. The total price, which includes delivery, is \$47,595 to be paid for from Digital Learning Grant funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

J. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchase of CARES Act Funded Technology for Non-Public Schools

- The Board approved the purchase of technology needed for two non-public schools from Dell Marketing L.P. of Round Rock, Texas. The Coronavirus Aid, Relieve, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides funding for schools to help them respond to, and recover from, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both public school systems and private schools are eligible to receive funds; however, the funds may not go directly to non-public schools. Instead, public school systems will function as Lead Educational Agencies (LEA). Funds will be channeled through the LEA to eligible private schools who request said funds for purchases approved in the legislation. Control of funds and title to materials,

equipment, and property must remain with the LEA. Two non-public schools requested access to funds through the school system acting as an LEA. They include Guardian Christian Academy and Peachtree Academy. Their intent is to purchase mobile computer technology (Guardian Christian Academy will order seven Chromebooks and Peachtree Academy will receive 170 Chromebooks). The school system will utilize a State of Georgia contract to procure the equipment. The total cost of the purchases is \$61,065 to be paid for with CARES Act funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

K. Requested Board Action Relative to Renewal of Contracts for Facilities

- The Board approved the annual renewable contracts with Ozburn Electrical Contractors, Inc. (electrical services) and Air Conditioning Specialist, Inc. (HVAC services) for an additional contract term. Both vendors have performed satisfactorily, met all contractual requirements, and agreed to continue their service under the current terms and conditions of the contract. The estimated contract value for Ozburn Electrical Contractors, Inc. is \$125,000 while the estimated value of the contract with Air Conditioning Specialist, Inc. is \$450,000, with both to be paid for with general funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

L. Requested Board Action Relative to Contract for School Resource Officers

- The Board approved the annual renewable contract with the Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Newton County Sheriff's Office for school resource officers. The effective date will be July 1, 2020 with an expiration date of June 30, 2021. The school resource officers are members of law enforcement who teach, counsel and protect the school community. When integrated into the school system, the officers' value extends beyond reducing violence in schools. They prevent and respond to school-based crime; foster positive relationships among law enforcement, educators, and youth; and help promote a positive school climate conducive to learning. To improve the services provided by the officers, the Sheriff's Office provides a Canine (K-9) School Resource Officer Unit. The dog is trained to detect illegal drugs and firearms. A trained, certified law enforcement officer accompanies the dog throughout the inspections. The contract provides for full day visits, focused on the middle and high schools. The total contract amount is \$1,099,575.30 to be paid for with CARES Act funds.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

M. Requested Board Action Relative to Surplus Property

- The Board approved identified 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.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

N. Requested Board Action Relative to Completion of Local Board Governance Annual Report

- The Board approved the completion of the Local Board Governance Annual Report required by the Georgia Department of Education. Yearly training requirements are set forth by the Georgia Department of Education for local school board members and superintendents. Approved training sessions, by approved trainers, are offered during the school year on a variety of topics and

also at the Georgia School Boards Association conferences. A record of the completed training has to be recorded with the Georgia Department of Education at the end of the school year.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

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

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

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

P. Requested Board Action Relative to Purchases for School Nutrition Program

- The Board approved the purchases of milk and ice cream needed for the school system from Mayfield Dairy Farms LLC of Athens, Tennessee. The school system will utilize a Georgia Educational Cooperative contract to purchase the milk and ice cream. The estimated contract values are \$600,000 for milk and \$35,000 for ice cream.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

Q. Requested Board Action Relative to Superintendent's Contract

- The Board approved a contract extension for Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey that will extend her contract through June 30, 2023.

APPROVED: July 21, 2020 by 4-0 vote.

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
[WWW.NEWTONCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG]

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