

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

November 18, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Nell C. Hallford Memorial Board Room
North Georgia RESA
Ellijay, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman, Cherokee County Schools.....Present
James Hawkins, Superintendent, Dalton City Schools..... Absent
Mark Henson, Superintendent, Fannin County Schools.....Present
Randy Parson, Superintendent, Gilmer County Schools.....Present
Vickie Reed, Superintendent, Murray County Schools.....Present
Mike Ballew, Superintendent, Pickens County Schools..... Present
Katie Brochu, Superintendent, Whitfield County Schools..... Absent
Lex Rainey, Chattahoochee Technical College..... Absent
John Schwenn, President, Dalton State College..... Absent
Joe B. Forsee, Northwest Georgia Regional Library System.....Present
Larry G. Harmon, Secretary, North Georgia RESA.....Absent

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Merry Boggs, Dr. Robb Sinn, Dr. Dianna Spence

Chairman Petruzielo called the November board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests attending. Dr. Petruzielo explained Larry Harmon's absence and Carol Weaver updated the members on the outcome of his surgery. Mr. Harmon should be home from the hospital on Friday and, at his request, reiterated that he will be happy to accept both business and social calls from the board members at home during his recovery. Mr. Harmon's home phone number is (706) 692-4409 and his cell number is (706) 273-0421. His mailing address is 660 Hunter's Ridge, Jasper, Georgia 30143.

On a motion by Randy Parson, seconded by Mark Henson, the November Board of Control Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Randy Parson, the September Board of Control Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as presented. As a quorum was not present, there were no meeting minutes to approve for October.

Dr. Petruzielo, on behalf of Larry Harmon, presented the RESA July, August, September and October Financial Reports. He asked the board members to review these reports at their convenience and contact Mr. Harmon with any questions. On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Mark Henson, all presented financial reports were unanimously approved by the board.

The North Georgia RESA 2009/10 Accountability Plan/Report is in the process of being completed and is due to be sent to the Georgia Department of Education as soon as approved. A copy of the lengthy report (over 200 pages) will be posted on the RESA website for the members to read. The plan/report was unanimously approved for submission on a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Mark Henson. Chairman Petruzielo asked that a brief executive summary of the 2010/11 report be provided when approval for submission is requested next November.

Dr. Robb Sinn from North Georgia College and State University, reported on the 2009 Summer Honors Program and briefly discussed plans for 2010. He thanked the superintendents for their continued, steadfast support of the program. He presented a proposal requiring a small parent-paid fee to be added to the Summer Honors registration process beginning Summer 2010. This proposal would allow school districts to cap their maximum contributions for the next three years while Summer Honors would have funds to grow and develop. One board member noted that alternative arrangements should be made to assure that students whose parents are unable to pay the fee have an equal opportunity to participate in the program. On a motion by Vickie Reed, seconded by Joe Foresee, the board unanimously approved the new funding proposal. Dr. Sinn thanked the board for their support and reported that the program will begin recruiting in February for the 2010 session.

Dr. Dianna Spence, NGC Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, discussed the NSF-funded Statistics Education Grant that was received in 2006. For the past three years, using these grant monies, the college has been working on course development, instrumentation development, pilot testing and research with preliminary results showing solid improvement over previous methods. Dr. Spence will lead a team in January 2010 that will submit a \$ 500,000 grant proposal to continue this work, expand to more college settings and develop the vertical integration "downward" into Math I and Math II. In closing, Dr. Spence requested a letter from North Georgia RESA on behalf of its seven member school systems be drafted supporting the grant. The board members agreed to declare their support and Carol Weaver will prepare this letter of support to be included in the grant application and will have it to North Georgia College by December 15.

Dr. Merry Boggs, Dean of Education for Dalton State College and University, thanked the superintendents for all of the positive feedback received. She updated the board on DSC's assessment system, new secondary teacher preparation programs, partnerships with the districts, two active student groups in the department and the NCATE/GaPSC accreditation visit scheduled in February. In closing, Dr. Boggs distributed a pamphlet describing DSC's School of Education degree offerings and responded to questions and comments from the board members.

Dr. Petruzielo thanked the three guests for attending the meeting and the useful information they provided.

Two NorthStar personnel recommendations were submitted for consideration. The acceptance of the resignation of Anne Valez, school psychologist for all centers, and the employment of Jacob Wilkins in a paraprofessional position at the Canton Center. Due to the fact that North Georgia RESA has a nepotism policy and Mr. Wilkins' mother is also employed by NorthStar, Carol Weaver received verbal approval from you to hire Mr. Wilkins on September 18, 2009. On a motion by Vickie Reed, seconded by Mike Ballew, both of these personnel recommendations were unanimously approved.

Dr. Petruzielo updated the board on GSSA business of interest to the members. He distributed and discussed the Cherokee County School District's 2010 Legislative Program. He called attention to the fact that state funding for operations in Cherokee County Schools has been reduced from 61% in 1997/98 to 49% in 2009/10 although Cherokee County is still experiencing growth in the student population. He also warned of the potential fiscal crisis that looms on the horizon for public education in Georgia. Dr. Petruzielo discussed other recommendations made in the pamphlet and the School Board's major system priorities. Methods by which sales tax collections might be increased and the cost to school systems for collecting taxes due were also discussed. In closing, Dr. Petruzielo stated that it is anticipated that funding cuts will not end soon and will continue to be painful.

Mr. Forsee briefly discussed the difficult budget issues facing the library system.

Mr. Harmon emailed his State Board of Education Liaison Committee Report to the board members last week.

Carol Weaver distributed copies Mr. Harmon's RESA Director's Report.

Also distributed was a copy of a survey that the Cherokee County Speech and Language Pathologists have requested permission to conduct with other SLP's in the North Georgia RESA area. This survey is part of an Educational Specialist degree program they are completing. RESA does not have a policy regarding this type of request and, in the past, we have asked the board members to review the survey and direct the Director to allow or not approve.

After a brief discussion, the board concluded that the best course of action would be for those interested in conducting the survey to contact each system directly for approval as each system has its own policy on releasing email addresses and allowing this type of activity.

It is not clear what the governor's 2010 recommendation, if any, will be regarding the state-side RESA organization. However,

the Senate has commissioned a "Study Committee" on the RESA's whose findings are to be concluded by December 31, 2009. A report has been prepared for this committee analyzing the savings to the systems for various services provided by North Georgia RESA as opposed to the cost of these services if obtained from other vendors. The board members studied the report. Chairman Petruzielo noted that a cover letter should be attached pointing out that, if not available through RESA, many services would not be available to the systems at all at any cost. It was also suggested that the report include letters of support for North Georgia RESA from the system superintendents. Both suggestions will be taken into consideration and carried out prior to the filing of the report. If, after looking more closely at the report, any questions should arise concerning this data, please call Alice Ellis at RESA or Larry Harmon at home. When the report is submitted with the suggested changes made, a copy will be emailed to each board member.

In ending his report, Mr. Harmon wished all board members a wonderful Thanksgiving.

With all business completed and all comments heard, on a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Vickie Reed, Dr. Petruzielo adjourned the November meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman

Larry G. Harmon, Secretary