

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

March 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..... Present
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
Sanford Chandler, President, Appalachian Technical College..... Absent
David Simmons, Appalachian Technical College..... Absent
John Schwenn, President, Dalton State College.....Present
Joe B. Forsee, Northwest Georgia Regional Library System.....Present
Larry G. Harmon, Secretary, North Georgia RESA.....Present

Others Present: Orval Porter (Dalton City Schools), Paul Baker (NorthStar Educational and Therapeutic Services)

Chairman Petruzielo called the March board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests attending.

Larry Harmon introduced and welcomed new board member, Dr. Jim Hawkins. Dr. Hawkins spoke briefly of his background and his experiences in education. He added that he is looking forward to his tenure in the Dalton City system and on the board.

Mr. Harmon requested the March Agenda be amended to add Item IVA. NorthStar Personnel. On a motion by Randy Parson, seconded by Mike Ballew, the March Board of Control Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved by the board as amended.

On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Mark Henson, the January Board of Control Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as presented. As a quorum was not present, no meeting minutes were available for February.

Larry Harmon presented the RESA January and February Financial Reports. He briefly discussed the contents and noted that all accounts appear to be order for this time in the fiscal year. Mr. Harmon asked the board members to review these reports at their convenience and contact him with any questions. On a motion by Vickie Reed, seconded by Joe Forsee, the January and February Financial Reports were unanimously approved by the board. Dr. Paul Baker, Regional Director of NorthStar, then presented

an update of the program. He reported that his program serves between 230 and 260 students per year as an alternative to residential placement. Dr. Baker distributed information on and discussed a five-year budgetary trends report, provided IEP placement data by district, a school-based behavioral health program (Georgia Hope) proposal, the Least Restrictive Environment mandate and DOE oversight and the Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint Manual. He also spoke on proposed state and federal funding for 2009/10, capitol outlay and data-based planning and the 45-day evaluation process. Dr. Baker announced state recognition received by the program for Excellence in Therapeutic Therapy Delivery and the success of the doctoral internship program.

Dr. Baker discussed in more detail the Georgia Hope Proposal and the need to implement the school-based behavioral health program as quickly as possible. Mr. Harmon suggested the board members take the information on the program with them today for further study. Dr. Baker and Mr. Harmon will meet over the next few weeks to review the program in more detail and Mr. Harmon will be prepared to make a recommendation to the board at the May meeting regarding the fiscal, programmatic and operational impact the program would have on the systems.

Dr. Baker also requested the support of the superintendents in stressing the importance of the LRE laws.

Response to Intervention was briefly discussed and a board member requested Mr. Harmon obtain and compile information from the systems on methods being used to implement RTI.

Dr. Schwenn then commended Dr. Baker on the NorthStar program, having recently visited two of the campuses. He also encouraged all board members to visit and personally witness the program in action.

Mr. Harmon and Dr. Petruzielo thanked Dr. Baker for the very informative presentation.

Mr. Harmon next presented a list of personnel recommendations for NorthStar Educational and Therapeutic Services for FY10 (see Attachment # 1). On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by John Schwenn, all NorthStar personnel recommendations were unanimously approved.

Nominations were then opened for the representative from the North Georgia RESA Board of Control to the State School Superintendents Advisory Counsel. Mike Ballew nominated Dr. Vickie Reed to serve in this capacity. After Mark Henson seconded the nomination, the board voted unanimously to approve the appointment. Dr. Reed said she would be happy to serve in this post. Mr. Harmon added that should the need arise, he will be happy to act as a substitute

for Dr. Reed on the committee.

Dr. Reed recommended, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, that the board grant Larry Harmon an outstanding rating on his annual performance evaluation. Dr. Reed commented that the committee found Mr. Harmon's performance well above average in all areas and outstanding in several critical areas. The committee members had no substantive comments on areas in need of correction and would note that Mr. Harmon was well prepared to act in the position of executive director. On a motion by Joe Forsee, seconded by Vickie Reed, the board unanimously approved the committee's recommendation to grant Larry Harmon an outstanding rating on his annual evaluation. Mr. Harmon would not entertain the suggestion of a salary increase but thanked the board for their continued support.

Copies of new policies on hiring and purchasing were then presented to the board and discussed. These policies were originally put to the board at the November meeting for a first reading and approval and have come up this month for final approval. Please refer to Attachment # 2. On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Randy Parson, the new policies received unanimous approval by the board.

Dr. Petruzielo then provided a 2009 legislative update. He distributed information and discussed budget issues. A board member asked about the status of funding for graduation coaches, school nurses and RESA's. Also discussed were teacher furloughs.

Dr. Petruzielo reported that Cherokee County was responding to loss of both state and local revenues by increasing class size, reducing the number of kindergarten and special education paraprofessionals, eliminating all part-time administration and classroom positions, tightening up on the hiring of substitutes and the shifting of operating costs to capitol outlay. Also discussed was the difficulty being encountered with collecting taxes due. The need for fewer teachers has also surfaced because of a decrease in student enrollment and teacher retirement. Dr. Petruzielo noted that the State Board is expecting an increased number of waiver requests and are anticipating a difficult year.

A board member asked Dr. Petruzielo to forward a copy of Cherokee County's standard waiver form to Larry Harmon for distribution to the other members. Also discussed were the cost of part-time employees, salary freezes and supplement reductions.

The next item on the meeting agenda allowed time for informal discussion among the members on methods being used to deal with deeper and deeper budget cuts. Each member discussed particular difficulties being dealt with in their system/library and shared insight on ways and means to cut spending with the least possible impact on services offered to students.

Mr. Harmon then commended Dr. Schwenn for Dalton College's initiative in opening a new facility in Ellijay, thereby providing

students who may not otherwise have the opportunity, to complete a college degree. Dr. Schwenn reported that the college is very pleased with the positive response to the new campus.

Mr. Harmon then presented the State Board of Education Liaison Committee Meeting Report. He thanked Dr. Reed for participating in his place at the February meeting and reported that a meeting was held by teleconference on March 11. He reported a change in the schedule of the SBOE meetings, the fact that bond sales for construction will be released and sale dates set and Forsythe County's implementation of the IE2 plan for extended flexibility.

Mr. Harmon then discussed the Amended FY09 budget and the governor's agreement to use the approximately \$ 145M in stimulus money to offset some of the additional austerity cuts that have come about since July 1, 2008. He also reported that none of the additional cuts in the formula have been passed on to the local systems as of today which means that all additional cuts will come in the final three months of this fiscal year. He discussed systems' lack of reserves making deficit spending a stark reality. In closing, he talked about a one-year variance for contracts from April 15 to May 15 and several waivers to be dealt with as well as multiple charter applications.

Mr. Harmon then presented his RESA Directors Report.

Mr. Harmon reminded the board members that the state-wide visiting team will be on the RESA campus next Wednesday through Friday to apply the RESA Standards of Service/Rubric. He asked the Board of Control members to be present next Thursday, March 26, at 9:30 a.m., to participate in a group interview. He provided them with a sample listing of questions provided by the review team. He thanked the board members in advance for their cooperation in this important event.

Mr. Harmon reported that the 2009/2010 Annual Needs Assessment will be conducted in the same manner in which it has been done for several years. The systems' curriculum personnel and assistant superintendents will be contacted soon.

Mr. Harmon also reported that RESA will be distributing a Satisfaction Survey for 2008/09 to curriculum directors/directors of instruction for completion at the conclusion of this year.

Mr. Harmon next announced that the North Central GLRS will be relocating as of July 1, 2009 to the Pickens County School System, due to facility space issues. This will have no effect on the services offered by GLRS and the only change will be in location and fiscal agency.

Mr. Harmon then updated the members on RESA funding for next year. At present, the funding will remain as a line item and not part of the QBE formula. Also, it appears there will be no change in the law as it relates to mandatory membership for districts,

division of services or number of sites. A resolution has been set in motion to establish a Joint Study Committee for the State RESA Network with findings due by December 31, 2009.

In closing, Mr. Harmon provided a state financial update. Georgia tax revenues and tax collections continue to plummet, along with individual income taxes, corporate income taxes, motor fuel taxes, tobacco taxes and alcoholic beverage taxes. Property taxes were one of the few to see an increase. All indications are that it will most likely be the last quarter of 2009, but more likely 2010, before we see any significant changes in the state's economy.

Dr. Petruzielo thanked all members for attending the meeting and, with all business complete and all comments heard, on a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Mark Henson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman

Larry G. Harmon, Secretary

- Therapeutic Classes
- Psychological Services / Intervention
- Diagnostic Evaluation

NorthStar

Educational and Therapeutic Services

- Neurocognitive Intervention
- Psychiatric Services
- Family / Caregiver Support
- Consultation

Dr. Paul W. Baker,
Regional Director
paul.baker@cherokee.k12.ga.us

104 Fort Hill Terrace
Dalton, GA 30721
Office- 706-271-2684 Fax- 706-271-2682

Ms. Pam Massingale,
Coordinator
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TO: Mr. Larry Harmon, Executive Director
North Georgia RESA

FROM: Dr. Paul Baker, Regional Director
NorthStar Educational and Therapeutic Services

REFERENCE: 2009-10 Staff Recommendations

DATE: March 17, 2009

The following NorthStar staff pattern is recommended for consideration by North Georgia RESA and the Board of Control contingent upon available funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Contract Renewal/Certified Positions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>
Paul Baker	All	Regional Director
Cindy Ford	All	Super. Teacher for Curriculum & Instruction
Debbie Cook	Dalton	Lead Facilitator for Parent/Student Services
Christine Coverdale	Dalton	Lead Teacher
Pam Massingale	Dalton	Coordinator
Jessica Moore	Dalton	Lead Teacher
Jean Potter	Dalton	Lead Teacher
Anne Velez	All	School Psychologist
David Applegate	Canton	Coordinator for Student Support & Building
Andrew Baugh	Canton	Lead Teacher
Julie Bell	Canton	Lead Teacher
Susan Brownlee	Canton	Lead Teacher
Kelli Clendenin	Canton	Lead Teacher
Allison Doerr	All	Supervisor for Clinical Services/Psych.
Curtis Freeman	Canton	Lead Teacher

Serving:

Cherokee County, Pickens County, Gilmer County, Fannin County, Whitfield County, Murray County, and Dalton Public Schools

A Member of the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Supports

Ben Harris	Canton	Lead Teacher
Margaret Jordan	Canton	Lead Teacher
Kathleen Murphy	Canton	Lead Teacher
Ashlee Smallwood	Canton	Lead Teacher
Linda Spicer	Canton	Coord. for Intake, Instruct. & Supervision
Dian Stevenson	Canton	Lead Teacher, Creative Therapist
Amber Taylor	All	School Psychologist
Gayle Wilkins	Canton	Lead Teacher
Tiffany Brown	Blue Ridge	Lead Teacher
Margaret Cox	Blue Ridge	Lead Teacher
Kim McFarland	Blue Ridge	Lead Teacher
Libby Shook	Blue Ridge	Lead Teacher
Nancy Jane Turner	Blue Ridge	Lead Teacher

II. Continued Employment/Non-Certified Positions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>
Alan Bryant	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Debbie Broadrick	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Brenda Hales	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Debbie Harrell	Dalton	Secretary
Wilma Harolson	Dalton	Building Services Facilitator Part-time
Jean Hill	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Yolonda Jefferson-Perry	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Alex Lewis	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Fee McDade	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Judy Murphy	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Kaye Parker	Dalton	Secretary
Robbie Sane	Dalton	Paraprofessional
Joan Teems	Dalton	Health Facilitator
Kathy Bierce	Canton	Lead Secretary
Charity Courson	Canton	Paraprofessional
Stephanie Foster	Canton	Paraprofessional
Debra Hewett	Canton	Paraprofessional
Sheri Hodges	Canton	Paraprofessional
Phyllis King	Canton	School Nurse Part-time
Barbara Liford	Canton	Paraprofessional
Phyllis Merricks	Canton	Data Entry
Marie Ngo-Mbeleke	Canton	Paraprofessional
Angelia Pearson	Canton	Paraprofessional
Bill Peck	Canton	Paraprofessional
Charlon Robertson	Canton	Social Worker Technician
Becky Rogers	Canton	Paraprofessional
Maria Rogers	Canton	Paraprofessional
Dorothy Scott	Canton	Social Worker Technician
Laurie Kish	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional


Philip Marshall	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional
Julia McHan	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional
C'dell Foster Nelson	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional
Louise Merrell	Blue Ridge	Secretary
Sheila Quick	Blue Ridge	Social Worker Technician
Hope Ross	Blue Ridge	Due Process Facilitator
Aimee Warren	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional
Julie Welch	Blue Ridge	Paraprofessional

III. Certified Employee Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Karen Porter	Dalton	Lead Teacher	Position not funded
Barbara Morris	Blue Ridge	Coordinator	Retiring

IV. Non-Certified Employee Resignations

Paula Mosley	Dalton	Paraprofessional	Position not funded
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PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The North Georgia RESA Board of Control through its Executive Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to expend state funds as authorized by law or applicable regulations. Any purchase with a value of more than \$7,500 shall require approval of the Board of Control.

In purchasing goods and services, the Executive Director shall meet the needs of the RESA at most economical cost. The competitive process shall be utilized and documented as determined by Executive Director for each purchase. No purchase shall be made from Board of Control or Executive Director in violation of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-505.

Any purchase using funds designated for specific programs shall be made in accordance with any regulation, agreements or assurances applicable to that program.

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Nepotism Conflict of Interest Procedures

In the employment and assignment of personnel, it is preferable that immediate family not be employed in the same program or under the same administrative unit head. No employee shall supervise or be supervised by his or her immediate family member.

For the purpose of this procedure, immediate family shall be defined as including father, mother, brother, sister, child, grandchild, grandfather, grandmother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, husband or wife of the employee concerned, or a relative living in the residence of the employee.

The provisions of this procedure may be waived by the Board of Control when it determines that the employment or assignment is in the best interest of the RESA.

These procedures shall not apply to any employees currently employed as of October 1, 2008 and assigned by the RESA.