

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

September 17, 2008
9:00 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman, Cherokee County Schools.....Absent
Orval Porter, 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.....Present
John Schwenn, President, Dalton State College.....Present
Joe B. Forsee, Northwest Georgia Regional Library System.....Present
Larry G. Harmon, Secretary, North Georgia RESA.....Present

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

Larry Harmon introduced and greeted Dr. Robb Sinn from North Georgia College and State University and welcomed back Dr. Raiford Cantrell, retired Superintendent of Gilmer County Schools.

On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Randy Parson, the September Board of Control Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved by the board.

On a motion by Orval Porter, seconded by Randy Parson, the August Board of Control Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Larry Harmon presented the RESA June Financial Report and the Financial Report for Year Ended June 30, 2008. He briefly discussed the contents of each and noted that all accounts were in order at year end. Mr. Harmon asked the board members to review these reports at their convenience and contact him with any questions. On a motion by Mark Henson, seconded by John Schwenn, all financial reports were unanimously approved by the board.

The North Georgia RESA FY2009 Budget was presented to the board for final approval (Attachment # 1). Mr. Harmon reported that the budget had been advertised for two weeks in the local newspaper and no changes had been made since it received preliminary approval at the August meeting. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Orval Porter, the board unanimously approved the North Georgia RESA FY2009 Budget.

Mr. Harmon reported that each RESA is required to submit to the Georgia Department of Education an Accountability Plan/Report by September 30. This lengthy report is new and replaces two documents required in past years; the Annual Plan for the upcoming year and Annual Report from the past year. Due to the delay in receiving instructions for the preparation of the report, it was not ready for presentation at the time of the meeting. After a brief discussion by the board, Mr. Harmon was directed to finish the report and submit it to the Georgia DOE without the signature of the Chairman of the Board. Mr. Harmon agreed to send this report electronically to each board member when submitting it to the GDOE and asked each member to examine the document and be prepared to vote to approve it at the next meeting. If, in the meantime, the GDOE requires a signature on the report, Carol Weaver will contact each board member to receive verbal approval to supply the signature. This arrangement was acceptable to the board.

Mr. Harmon introduced and welcomed Dr. Robb Sinn from North Georgia College and State University. Dr. Sinn first thanked the board for their continued support of the North Georgia Summer Honors Program. He gave a brief report on the program from this past summer providing data on participation and costs, sustainability, additional partnerships, successes and challenges for the program and he also discussed tentative plans for next year. Dr. Sinn noted that the leadership component of the program is what sets it apart from other summer academic offerings giving students the opportunity to interact with peers in leadership roles. Dr. Sinn then discussed a National Science Foundation grant and an upcoming workshop being provided with funds from this grant. At his request, North Georgia RESA will assist with the advertisement of this workshop.

Mr. Harmon thanked Dr. Sinn for all his work on the Summer Honors Program and reiterated what a positive impact this program has had on so many students in the North Georgia area. As Dr. Petruzielo was unable to attend the meeting, a GSSA Board of Directors Report and a GSSA Legislative Committee Report were unavailable.

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/college/library and shared insight on ways and means to cut spending with the least possible impact on services offered to students.

Mr. Harmon then presented the State Board of Education Liaison Committee Meeting Report. He reported that the Budget Committee looked at several issues and did finalize the Department of Education's FY09 supplemental budget and made FY10 recommendations, along with reviewing several contracts. The State Board delayed the sale of \$140M in bonds from October until

December, 2008, for facilities attached to projects primarily undertaken in the 2006/07 school years. The Board discussed re-writing the application for potential Charter School applicants and the appointments to the Charter Schools Commission.

Ms. Cox announced that the monthly Superintendent's Conference Call has been discontinued because of cost and stated that future conferences will be through the state contract with *Illuminate*.

As a final note, Mr. Harmon reported that the SBOE is dealing with the Middle Grades Math questions for Carnegie Credits through Board Waivers. If a system wants to award credit(s) for Math courses taken in middle schools, the system must submit and have approved a waiver request by the SBOE in official action.

Mr. Harmon then presented his RESA Directors Report. He discussed in more detail the RESA Accountability Plan and Report, an earlier agenda item. Mr. Harmon next discussed RESA's involvement with the DOE since May regarding the language of the Memorandum of Agreement documents for G-NETS and GLRS. He reported that the RESA's affected retained legal assistance and proceeded to question the intent and motivation of numerous late additions to the MoA's. As of last week, he reported being notified that we have "executable assurances" for the G-NETS and GLRS programs operated by North Georgia RESA. A copy of each of these documents was distributed and Mr. Harmon asked the board members to review these at their convenience and approval of the agreements will be an agenda item for the next RESA Board of Control meeting. Funds will be released from the GDOE upon receipt of our signed forms.

Mr. Harmon reported that State Board of Education Representative Larry Winter, Northwest RESA Director Dexter Mills, Pioneer RESA Director Sandy Addis and he will meet on September 29 to discuss G-NETS, GLRS and other program issues. He added that, as a result of his attendance at the May RESA Board of Control meeting, Mr. Winter has visited the NorthStar campus in Dalton recently and was very positively affected by the visit. He has asked to visit the Cherokee and Fannin campuses as well.

Mr. Harmon next discussed budget and financial issues, the current economic crisis in the country and particularly in Georgia. He noted that to meet the current budget, the state needs growth of somewhere between 8% and 9% but, at this point, we not only do not have this growth level but rather are experiencing a negative level of 6.8%. In conclusion, Mr. Harmon recommended we all prepare for a difficult year ahead.

At this time, Larry Harmon and Vickie Reed, on behalf of all the members, presented Dr. Raiford Cantrell with a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for his service on the North Georgia RESA Board of Control and wished him good fortune and happiness in his retirement. Dr. Cantrell graciously accepted the certificate saying that he has and will continue to value the friendship of the membership.

Larry Harmon thanked Dr. Reed for chairing the meeting and, with all business complete and all comments heard, on a motion by Mark Henson, seconded by Joe Forsee, Dr. Reed adjourned the September meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Vickie Reed, Vice Chairman

Larry G. Harmon, Secretary