

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

January 20, 2010
9:00 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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| Frank Petruzielo, Chairman, Cherokee County Schools..... | Present |
| James Hawkins, Superintendent, Dalton City Schools..... | Present |
| Mark Henson, Superintendent, Fannin County Schools..... | Absent |
| Randy Parson, Superintendent, Gilmer County Schools..... | Present |
| Vickie Reed, Superintendent, Murray County Schools..... | Absent |
| 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..... | Present |

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Paul Baker, NorthStar

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

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

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

Larry Harmon presented the RESA November and December Financial Reports. He asked the board members to review these reports at their convenience and contact him with any questions. A discussion was held on an expected additional reduction of supplemental FY10 funds and how it was to be handled. Mr. Harmon also responded to a question concerning projected year-end fund balances. On a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Randy Parson, all presented financial reports were unanimously approved by the board.

Paul Baker thanked the superintendents for the continued financial support provided to NorthStar in these difficult economic times. He then presented a NorthStar program report discussing the FY2010 and proposed FY2011 budgets and the potential impact proposed reductions could have on personnel staffing patterns. He discussed instruction and curriculum issues and the periodic service review procedures in place.

Dr. Baker discussed recent visits made to the NorthStar Program by the GDOE staff, the Lieutenant Governor's office, members of the Georgia legislature and Georgia School Board members. Dr. Baker stated that NorthStar greatly benefits by these visits and stressed the importance of raising awareness about the program's value to the students and the significant savings to the systems as compared to equivalent services being provided and financed by the systems. He discussed professional development outreach to LEA's and several mental health/core service provider partnerships. In closing, Dr. Baker discussed the continuation and past success of the APPIC Internship Program.

Dr. Baker noted that no major personnel issues have arisen for NorthStar in the past 18 months. One superintendent suggested a review and update, if necessary, of the NorthStar Policy Manual regarding reduction in workforce and layoffs.

Dr. Baker reported that NorthStar enrollment is currently at capacity and further placement priority must take into consideration additional contributions made by the systems when expansions to the program are necessary. A discussion was held concerning each member system's responsibility to contribute to various NorthStar services when functional capacity and the ability to serve each child safely and successfully is reached.

At the direction of the board, Larry Harmon and Dr. Baker will meet with and discuss this issue with the appropriate parties.

Dr. Petruzielo updated the board on GSSA business of interest to the members. Funding and further expected cuts were the main items of concern for all board members. A member stated that confusion over where to go to obtain accurate information and clarity was causing even more frustration. A memo from Herb Garrett was read and discussed. A conversation was also held on the crisis that will be eminent when federal stimulus funds end.

Mr. Harmon pointed out that the RESA organization statewide has been eliminated entirely from the governor's FY2011 proposed budget and requested the assistance of the superintendents in reinstating this funding at the current level for another year.

The board agreed that North Georgia RESA provides services that are an integral part of their educational systems and offered their continued support.

Randy Parson distributed information and provided a brief update on discussions held at the State Board of Education Liaison Committee teleconference he participated in at Larry Harmon's request.

Larry Harmon did not have an official RESA Director's Report as he has been out of the office recuperating from surgery for most of the month of January. He thanked the members for all their kind thoughts, cards and calls during his recovery.

Mr. Harmon did distribute a copy of a report submitted in December to the Senate Study Committee assigned to evaluate RESA services and their cost effectiveness to the systems. The members reviewed the report and commended the work done on gathering this comprehensive data.

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

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman

Larry G. Harmon, Secretary