Building Tomorrow ~ Preserving Today

Newton County Tomorrow
Executive Board Meeting

January 16, 2025 8:00AM

Executive Committee Members:

- Debbie Harper (Chairman)
- Fleeta Baggett (Vice Chairman)
- Nancy Schulz (Secretary/Treasurer)
  David Eady
- Michael Patterson
- ~~Gregg Ellwanger~~ Denise Spitler
- Blair Northen
  Marcello Banes
- Mike Hopkins
- Dr. Duke Bradley, III
- Shamica Tucker

At-Large Seat Members:

Lindsey Petrini
Avis E. Williams
Duane Ford
Laura Gafnea
Michael Barr

- Serra Hall
  Stephanie R. Lindsey
  Dr. Tavarez Holston

Hillary Edgar - Legal

Guests: Brent Bennett, John King, Vicki Short, David Johns, Michelle Elliott, Randy Smith, Tres Thomas, Laney White, Trey Bailey, Bill Andrew, Kim Johnson, Ashlan Troutman.

Welcome & Call-to-Order : Debbie Harper, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:59am

- Michael Patterson moved to approve AGENDA. Second, by Fleeta Baggett. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Michael Patterson moved to approve December 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Blair Northern. Unanimously approved.
- Nancy Schulz moved to approve December 2024 Financial Report. Second, by Fleeta Baggett. Unanimously approved.

New Business/Action Items:

- HB 581- Chair Harper presented 3 slides defining HB 581, delineating Opting in vs Opting out, and the role of Newton County Tomorrow as a safe space for discussion. Dr. Bradley shared in detail the position of the school system and

the financial impact of the legislation. Attached is a document from ACCG titled “HB581 FAQs-FINAL”. Also attached is a document titled “HB581 Public Hearing Procedures and Summary”. These documents provide additional information for NCT stakeholders.

A consensus was reached to ask Chair Harper to contact ACCG requesting a presentation on HB 581 to the Municipalities. If ACCG is unable to present the suggestion was made to reach out to Aaron Myer of Jarrard & Davis.

The Newton County School System will host Opt out public hearings on 1/21/2025 at 11am at the Board of Education, 1/29/2025 at 6pm at the Career Academy and 2/5/2025 at 4pm at the Board of Education.

Matters of the Members:

- Mayor Patterson agrees that Porterdale will host 3 public meetings to discuss HB 581.
- Fleeta Baggett stated that the City of Covington will run the required advertising related to HB 581.
- Representatives from Mansfield, Newborn and Oxford stated that they will discuss with their city councils whether to schedule the public hearings
- Newton County BOC stated that they will schedule public meetings to discuss opting out.

Adjourn to Archway Michael Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15am. Serra Hall seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: Executive Committee: February 21 2025 8:00am
Full Board: February 21. 2025 8:30am