

December 10, 2009

6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Terry Bramlett, Chairperson; Bobby Bearden, Vice-Chairperson; Lewis DeWeese; Junior Farmer; and Emily Dunn. All members present.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes from all previous meetings.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2009. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in November for the month of September was \$298,438.84.

Public Comment:

None.

Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, shared with the board a presentation on the new evaluation tool that was being used for teachers and administrators.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following facility use requests:

Fannin County Recreation Department - use of Blue Ridge Elementary School gymnasium from January 4 – March 5, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fannin County Recreation Department - use of East Fannin Elementary School gymnasium from January 4 – March 5, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fannin County Recreation Department - use of West Fannin Elementary School gymnasium from January 4 – March 5, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Army Recruiting Station – use of Fannin County High School track from December 7 – 31, 2009

Army Recruiting Station – use of Fannin County High School track from January 1 – May 31, 2010

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary Kindergarten – Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA on March 5, 2010

East Fannin Elementary Kindergarten – Tennessee Aquarium & IMAX in Chattanooga, TN on January 15, 2010

Fannin County High School Chorus – Lee Honor Choir Performance at Lee University in Cleveland, TN on February 5 – 6, 2010

Fannin County High School Thespians – Georgia Thespian Conference in Columbus, GA on February 11 – 13, 2010

Fannin County High School National Art Honor Society – National Art Honor Society State Conference at Savannah College of Art & Design in Savannah, GA on February 12 – 13, 2010

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following fund raiser requests:

Fannin County Elementary Schools ALPHA students – Students will draw pictures which will be placed at local banks when a donation from the community is received from January – February 2010

Fannin County High School Chorus – Sell Warhead candy & chocolate bars from January 19 – February 3, 2010

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following school requests for purchases made on behalf of students in the aggregate sum of \$100.00 or more:

Blue Ridge Elementary – Memory Book Company (school annuals), QSP (fundraiser), and Strawbridge Studio (student pictures)

East Fannin Elementary – Strawbridge Studio (student pictures) and Memory Book Company (school annuals)

West Fannin Elementary – Lifetouch Studio (student pictures and school annuals) and QSP (fundraiser)

Fannin County Middle School – Jostens (school annuals) and Lifetouch (student pictures)

Fannin County Comprehensive High School – Lifetouch Studio (student pictures) and Jostens (graduation items and annuals).

Moved, seconded, and carried to sale the property located at 8731 Lakewood Highway in Mineral Bluff, GA to Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. for \$10.00 (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to secure bus lease purchase bids for the two special needs buses which the board approved to purchase from Nalley Motor Trucks at the October board meeting at \$92,610 per bus for a total of \$185,220.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve an amendment to the 403(b) retirement plan which incorporates the required legislative and regulatory changes of both Pension Protection Act of 2006 (“PPA”) and the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (the “HEART” Act).

Moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session to review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal (Hearing Officer, Panel); (OCGA 20-2-757) and to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6)).

Moved, seconded, and carried to resume regular session.

Terry Bramlett, Chairman, announced that the only action taken in executive session was in regard to an appeal made concerning a student disciplinary tribunal decision. The summary of the incident and the deposition is as follows: A student at the middle school was charged with making inappropriate comments in class. A student disciplinary tribunal was convened and the student pled guilty to the offense. The tribunal decision placed the student at the alternative school until the completion of the third nine weeks grading period. On appeal, the board unanimously agreed to allow the student to return to school at the beginning of the third nine weeks contingent upon successfully completing the remainder of the second nine weeks.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Dawn Thompson as a full-day Special Education teacher for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson asked stated several board members had approached him about rescheduling the December 18 work session to work on board standards since it was in conflict with the White Christmas programs conducted by the elementary schools. Mr. Henson asked board members what day they would like to reschedule the work session for. Mr. Bramlett suggested Mr. Henson get with his staff and come up with several options for after the first of the year. Mr. Henson stated he would contact board members with options.

Mr. Henson asked Betsy Hyde, Director of Student Services, to present the board with two certificates the school system received at the annual fall conference of the Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). Ms. Hyde explained the Fannin County School System received recognition for excellence in the education of students with disabilities by achieving a higher percentage of graduates with regular education diplomas. Ms. Hyde stated the Fannin County School System also received recognition for excellence in the education of students with disabilities by meeting state target for education students in the least restrictive environment, by meeting state target for graduates with regular education diplomas, and by meeting state target for reducing the students who drop out of school. Ms. Hyde stated only twenty other school systems throughout the state met more targets than Fannin County.

Mr. Henson commended Ms. Hyde for the work she does for Fannin County Board of Education.

Mr. Henson also congratulated Benny Long, Director of Transportation and Safety, for receiving first place for originality at the 51st Copperhill Kiwanis Christmas Parade with the transportation departments magic school bus float.

Board Members' Comments:

Emily Dunn stated the recent school board conference was an eye opener of how other systems are weathering the economy. Ms. Dunn stated she is very proud of where Fannin County BOE is situated financially compared to other school systems throughout the state.

Bobby Bearden stated he appreciated the presentation Ms. Panter gave on evaluations. Mr. Bearden commended Benny Long and his department for the excellent job they do in making sure students are safe. Mr. Bearden thanked Terry Bramlett for doing an

outstanding job as board chairperson during the past year. Mr. Bearden also thanked fellow board members for working together on issues.

Junior Farmer stated he appreciated the job central office employees did in making sure Fannin schools ran efficiently.

Lewis DeWeese stated it was a pleasure to go home for the holidays with all of the positive things happening in the school system. Mr. DeWeese also commended the parent who came before the board for the student discipline appeal.

Terry Bramlett stated it was great to work with people who put children first and were willing to go the extra mile. Mr. Bramlett wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated he hoped everyone enjoyed the holiday break.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned subject to being called into special session by the chairman when deemed necessary.