

March 13, 2014
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Steve Stanley, Chair; Sandra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Lewis DeWeese. All members present.

The meeting was called to order by Steve Stanley, Chair.

By motion from Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the following items on the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., March 11, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., and March 11, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Fannin County Recreation Department – Use of Blue Ridge Elementary School PE Facility on Mondays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from April 7 – June 30, 2014.

Fannin County Recreation Department Under 10-year-old baseball team – Use of East Fannin Elementary Lower Ball Field on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. from March 14 – June 27, 2014.

Approve the following field trip requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Dollywood Amusement Park in Pigeon Forge, TN, on May 9, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School Fourth Grade – Funk Heritage Center of Reinhardt University in Waleska, GA, on May 14, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School Sixth Grade Honor Band – Sixth Grade Honor Band Clinic at Habersham Central High School in Mt. Airy, GA, on March 22, 2014;

Fannin County High School Marketing Principles and Web Design Class – Chick-Fil-A Dwarf House and Chick-Fil-A home office in Atlanta, GA, on March 19, 2014;

Fannin County High School Senior Class – Dollywood Amusement Park in Pigeon Forge, TN, on April 17, 2014;

Fannin County High School Gifted Students – Shakespeare Tavern

in Atlanta, GA, on April 22, 2014;

Fannin County High School Special Education Students – Town Center Mall in Kennesaw, GA, on April 23, 2014;

Mountain Education Charter High School – Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA, on March 14, 2014; and

Fannin County 4-H Club – Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA, on July 7 – 11, 2014.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Fannin County Middle School Relay For Life – Sale of t-shirts – March 14 – April 25, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School Relay for Life – Hat day – March 21, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of beef sticks – March 24 – April 24, 2014;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Solicit funds – March 15, 2014 – July 5, 2014;

Fannin County High School Track & Field – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts – March 21 – 28, 2014; and

Fannin County High School FFA – Sale of Vidalia onions – April 1 – May 1, 2014.

Public Comment:

Connie Galloway, Chair of Feed Fannin, thanked the Board for approving Feed Fannin to lease the district's property on Ada Street.

After public comment, motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in February for the month of December was \$298,744.49.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve a lease agreement for Feed Fannin, Inc. to lease tracts A & B of the property owned by the Board

located at 762 Ada Street, Blue Ridge, GA, 30513 for the purpose of the development of a community garden for an annual fee of \$1.00 with the opportunity to renew for five additional years (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Automated Creations bid of \$43,507.28 to upgrade cameras at Blue Ridge Elementary School to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve a maximum class size resolution for the 2014 – 2015 school year authorizing an increase in class size from 1 to 4 students in grades K-12 in Regular Education, 1 to 4 students in English Language Learners (ELL), 1 to 8 students in Gifted, 1 to 4 students in Early Intervention Program (EIP), 1 to 4 students in Remedial Education Program (REP), 1 to 4 students in Vocational (CTAE), 1 to 4 students in Alternative Education Program (AEP), and 1 to 4 students in Special Education (see attached resolution). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to set the 2014 Fannin County High School Prom for Saturday, May 3, 2014, at North Georgia Technology College, and to set the graduation date for the 2013 – 2014 school year for Friday, May 23, 2014, at 8:00 p.m. in the football stadium. The rain date will be Saturday, May 24, 2014, in the Fannin High Football Stadium at 10:00 a.m. If necessary, due to weather, the graduation ceremony will be moved to the new high school gym. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Option 1 of the 2014 – 2015 school calendar (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the upcoming Advance Ed SACS/CASI external review team schedule with the Board.

Mrs. Walton discussed training date options with the Board, and it was decided the next training for members would be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Tammy Denise Long effective March 3, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Brenda Patterson effective at the end of school year 2013 – 2014; Debra Jones effective June 1, 2014; Loretta Jones effective at the end of school year 2013 – 2014; and Hoyt Millholland effective March 1, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Heather Cobb as a School Nutrition Manager. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Kimberly Spade as a Speech-Language Pathologist for the 2014 – 2015 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Garry McPeek as a Teacher for the 2014 – 2015 school year contingent on renewal of Georgia teaching certificate. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Charlotte Boshart as a part-time Speech-Language Pathologist for the 2014 – 2015 school year contingent on getting a Georgia teaching certificate. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Gay Buford Vann as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson asked Betsy Hyde, Director of Student Services, to present Pamela Garrett, paraprofessional at Fannin County High School with the Phillip Wright Award. Ms. Hyde stated that Georgia Learning Resource System sponsors this award each year. Each school system chooses someone from their system who has made the greatest contribution to students with disabilities. Ms. Hyde stated Philip Wright is an extensive advocate for children with special needs. He has assisted in the establishment of many special education programs in school systems throughout Northeast Georgia and is currently working as a consultant for multiple school systems within the state. Ms. Hyde stated that Pam was chosen as the first recipient of this award for her 18 years of service to our special needs students and their families.

Mr. Henson asked Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, to share with Board members a resolution passed by the Georgia State Senate. Ms. Panter stated the resolution commended Fannin County High School students and faculty for their success in the Taco Bell Graduate for Mas Program. Ms. Panter stated the Taco Bell Graduate for Mas Program is a free, incentive-based program that inspires teenagers to graduate from high school and become caring, educated, and productive adults. The program aims to encourage students to graduate from high school by providing counselors and teachers with posters, pledge cards, coupons, and notebooks. Ms. Panter stated Fannin County High School finished second nationally in the "Pledge Challenge," a completion involving approximately 1,000 high schools throughout the United States. Ms. Panter said Fannin County High School maintains a five-year cohort graduation rate of 91.8 percent, a daily attendance rate of 95 percent, and was only one of eight schools to receive the "Platinum Award" in 2011 from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Ms. Panter stated that due to the students and their dedication to their education and future, Fannin County will be visited by a Taco Bell truck to recognize the students for their investment in their own future. Ms. Panter added that members of the Senate commended Fannin County High School students and faculty for recognizing the

importance of graduating from high school and for their success in the Taco Bell Graduate for Mas Program, and expressed their most sincere best wishes for continued academic success.

Mr. Henson stated Fannin County School System is joining in a statewide celebration this week to salute the efforts of local school board members. The week of March 17 – 21, 2014, has been proclaimed School Board Member Appreciation Week in Georgia. The weeklong observance calls attention to the contributions of members of local boards of education. Mr. Henson stated our school system benefits every day from the energy and countless hours that the members of our local board of education devotes to fulfilling its responsibilities to the public school system and to the citizens who elected them. School board members contribute their time and talent toward the advancement of public education. Because they are elected officials, they represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education.

Mr. Henson stated he thought the upcoming SACS committee would be amazed with the governance structure of our Board. He said the Board constituents are not voters, but the students. Mr. Henson stated unfortunately the children Board members support do not pull the voting lever. He added that all five Board members are here for the children. Mr. Henson stated it is an honor to work with the Board.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated Mr. Henson was going to have to put up with him four more years. Mr. Bearden thanked Pam Garrett for her service. Mr. Bearden stated kids are number one. He thanked Blue Ridge Elementary for the candy they sent to honor Board members for their work and congratulated Fannin County High School for their accomplishments. Mr. Bearden stated he appreciated everyone coming to the meeting.

Terry Bramlett stated it was an honor to serve on the Board and be an advocate for children of Fannin County. Mr. Bramlett stated he is so proud of Fannin students and their high level of achievement. Mr. Bramlett stated he appreciated the partnership with Feed Fannin. Mr. Bramlett stated Pam Garrett was his pastor's wife, and her level of dedication to Fannin students amazed him.

Lewis DeWeese stated he reaffirmed his fellow Board members comments and would like to add the goal was for students to continue to improve achievement every day. Mr. DeWeese stated he would like to thank the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce for the great job they do for Fannin County, and this in turn helps Fannin County schools.

Sandra Mercier stated she enjoyed hearing all of the kudos and accolades. She is proud of the district's relationship with Feed Fannin. Mrs. Mercier thanked the Fannin Leadership participants for attending the meeting. Mrs. Mercier said she admired Pam Garrett for her dedication to students. She also congratulated Fannin High School for their accomplishments and hoped this would be added to our SACS documentation. Mrs.

Mercier commended Karen Walton and all of the staff members working with her for the work that goes into preparing for the SACS process. Mrs. Mercier thanked Blue Ridge Elementary for the wonderful chocolate.

Steve Stanley stated students are what the Board is all about. Mr. Stanley also commended Pam Garrett for her accomplishment and stated we could use a lot more employees like her.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Steve Stanley, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

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