

February 10, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

By motion of Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

Approve the agenda.

Approve the board minutes from January 13 & February 8, 2011.

Approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fourth Grade - Fernbank Science Center and Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, GA, on May 9, 2011;

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Imagine It Children’s Museum in Atlanta, GA, on April 28, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School Eighth Grade – William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum & the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta, GA, on May 13, 2011;

Fannin County High School TSA – CTSO Legislative Luncheon at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta, GA, on February 15, 2011;

Fannin County High School FFA – FFA Greenhand Jamboree and Success Conference at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington, GA, on March 4 – 5, 2011;

Fannin County High School Students – visit North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, GA, on March 10, 2011; and

Fannin County High School Key Club – State Key Club Convention at the Atlanta Hilton in Norcross, GA, on March 11 – 13, 2011.

Approve the following fund raiser requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, March 1 – May 6, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School – Back to front day – clothes are worn backwards for a \$1.00, February 14, 2011; and

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of meat sticks, February 14
– March 4, 2011.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2010. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in January for the month of November was \$286,473.98.

Public Comment:

Mary Corbin, District ESOL Teacher, stated she was participating in Lincoln Memorial University's (LMU) leadership degree program, and it was a requirement to attend two board meetings. Ms. Corbin stated she appreciated the board's conservative approach in deciding when to cancel school due to inclement weather.

Karen George, Second Grade Teacher at Blue Ridge Elementary, stated she was also participating in the LMU leadership degree program, and she appreciated all of the hard work board members put into performing their jobs.

Donna Sellers, Kindergarten Teacher at East Fannin Elementary, stated she was also participating in the LMU leadership degree program.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum & School Improvement, presented October and December benchmarking data for ELA and math in grades 1 - 5, and in reading, ELA, math, science, and social studies in grades 6 - 8. A third benchmark will be administered in March. Schools will also participate in a "mock" CRCT prior to the April administration.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve revised board policy IDCH – Dual/Joint Enrollment Programs.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve revised board policy IED – Scheduling for Instruction.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table until the next regular meeting board revised policy GARH – Leaves and Absences.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$36,539.00 from GovConnection for 64 computers to be paid out of Title I funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$7,535.49 from Dell for a server to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$20,551.00 from GovConnection for 36 computers to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the FY2012 budget calendar (see attached).

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson thanked Candy Sisson, School Nutrition Director, for the wonderful Teacher of the Year Banquet (TOTY) held last Thursday. Mr. Henson congratulated Shannon York for being chosen as the district TOTY.

Mr. Henson stated Georgia ranks 11th in the Nation on Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Mr. Henson further stated Fannin County High School was 1 of 147 Georgia high schools recognized as being a 2011 AP Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Schools. To be recognized as a STEM school, a school has students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses. Mr. Henson stated Fannin County High School was also 1 of 80 Georgia high schools recognized as being a 2011 AP STEM Achievement School. To be recognized as an AP STEM Achievement School, a school has students testing in at least 2 AP math courses and 2 AP science courses and at least 40% of the exam scores on AP math and AP science exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

Mr. Henson complimented West Fannin Elementary School for receiving the Platinum Award for making the greatest gains in achievement during the 2009 – 2010 school year. West Fannin was named 1 of 46 schools in the state for the 2010 school year by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett thanked Mrs. Walton for her presentation on benchmarking. Mr. Bramlett stated benchmarking was testing at its best since it was important to be able to identify the problem before you can fix it. Mr. Bramlett thanked Dr. Gwatney for always looking for better quotes for the system on technology equipment. Mr. Bramlett thanked Ms. Jackson for her diligence on the budget. Mr. Bramlett thanked Ms. Sisson for the exceptional food served at the TOTY banquet. Mr. Bramlett stated as a parent it was exciting to see the accolades Fannin County High School was receiving for their AP participation. His daughter was able to enter pharmacy school and still have two years of HOPE scholarship since she completed so many AP that went toward college credits when at Fannin County High School.

Bobby Bearden thanked everyone for their attendance and stated he was glad everything was going well.

Steve Stanley stated he was pleased with all of the positive news the school system was receiving.

Lewis DeWeese stated the TOTY program was a wonderful way to show all of the teachers in the schools how appreciated they were for their hard work.

Emily Dunn stated the previous day she had been elected to serve on the State of Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) Board as the District Nine representative. Ms. Dunn stated she was excited about this new endeavor; however, this appointment would require her to resign from the Fannin County Board of Education board. Ms. Dunn stated she had spoken with Attorney Phil Hartley, and he stated she had to present her resignation, but the board does not have to accept it. Ms. Dunn also stated the board could appoint a replacement, and she hoped they would do so quickly to ensure continuity in the important

decisions forthcoming. Ms. Dunn stated she has enjoyed her time on the school board, and that it has been fun, a challenge at times, and very rewarding.

Lewis DeWeese stated Ms. Dunn was the finest board member with whom he had worked.

Steve Stanley stated Ms. Dunn was an inspiration to him and one of the reasons he ran as a school board member.

Bobby Bearden stated he had commented when Angela Berrong retired no one could replace her, and Mrs. Walton had done a fine job in Mrs. Berrong's position. Mr. Bearden stated what he had meant with his statement was Mrs. Berrong was one of a kind, and he felt the same way about Ms. Dunn. Mr. Bearden stated when he first ran for the school board, Ms. Dunn beat him. At the time he did not understand; however, God knew what was best, because Ms. Dunn had done an outstanding job on the board and serving the Fannin County School System.

Terry Bramlett stated Ms. Dunn would leave a positive permanent mark on education in Fannin County. Mr. Bramlett stated Ms. Dunn was an inspiration to all and he thanked her for her service to Fannin County's schools. He appreciated her passion for education.

Mark Henson stated he knew Ms. Dunn cared a lot for the students of Fannin County and knew this was a hard decision for her. Mr. Henson stated he selfishly did not want her to go; however, he knows Ms. Dunn was the perfect candidate for the DOT position, and he knew she would serve Fannin County well in this capacity.

Bobby Bearden suggested the board have a called meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. to discuss a replacement.

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.

Emily Dunn, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

