

August 8, 2013
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Sandra Mercier, Chair; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Lewis DeWeese. Steve Stanley, Vice Chair, was absent. All other members present. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated Mr. Stanley was unable to attend due to the birth of his grandchild earlier in the day.

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

Approve the meeting minutes from July 11, 2013; July 24, 2013 – 11:20 a.m.; July 24, 2013 – 11:30 a.m.; July 24, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.; July 31, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.; July 31, 2013 – 5:38 p.m.; July 31, 2013 – 6:08 p.m.; and August 6, 2013.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Northeast Georgia – Use of East Fannin Elementary School Classroom on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. from August 14 – October 30, 2013;

Girl Scout Troup #8147 – Use of Fannin County Middle School Art Room on Fridays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. from August 9 – October 25, 2013.

Approve the following field trip request:

Fannin County High School FFA – FFA floral design and land judging career development event training at Cass High School in Cartersville, GA, on August 27, 2013.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

East Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Great American Opportunities gift items – August 12 – 27, 2013;

East Fannin Elementary School Second Grade – Sale of snacks – August 12 – May 23, 2013;

East Fannin Elementary School – Sale of individual school pictures – August 23 – 27, 2013;

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Great American Opportunities gift items – September 13 – 27, 2013;

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of school yearbooks – December 2, 2013 – May 23, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Great American Opportunities gift items – January 23 – February 6, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of spring pictures – February 7, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of beef sticks – August 12 – September 12, 2013;

Fannin County Middle School Cheerleading – Sale of cheek cheers – September 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Sale of coffee to staff – August 19, 2013 – May 25, 2014;

Fannin County High School Thespians – Sale of Krispy Kreme donuts and coffees – September 2 – 20, 2013;

Fannin County High School Thespians – Sale of donuts and coffee – December 2 – 20, 2013;

Fannin County High School Thespians – Sale of tickets to talent showcase – February 23, 2014;

Fannin County High School Thespians – Sale of tickets to coffee/dessert/entertainment – March 2, 2014; and

Fannin County High School Theatre Program – Sale of tickets to annual pageant – March 23, 2014.

Public comment:

Clare Barton, Librarian of the Fannin County Public Library, asked the Board to consider contributing financial support to the library.

After public comment, a motion was made by Lewis DeWeese, second by Terry Bramlett, to approve the financial report for the month ending June 30, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in July 2013 for the month of May was \$330,480.53.

Mr. Henson shared results of the 2012 Sales Ratio Study with the Board. He explained Fannin's ratio was 33.80 percent, and the ratio should be at least 36 percent. With consideration to advice from School Board Attorney Lynn Doss, Mr. Henson said the Board should appeal this ratio. A motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to appeal the 2012 Sales Ratio Study. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Susan Jackson, Finance Director, reviewed the results of the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, including the independent auditor's reports. Ms. Jackson explained there were no findings and improper or questioned costs. The auditor's opinion was that the system's audit was "unqualified," which is the highest possible rating.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to surplus seven Blue Bird buses at the Blue Ridge Auto Auction on August 27, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the purchase of two 48 passenger special needs school buses from Peach State Trucks – Thomas – at a cost of \$102,717.00 per bus for a total of \$205,434.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve revised Policy JCDAF – Use of Electronic Devices by Students (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Buddy Benefield Construction Company, Inc. as the Construction Manager at Risk for the new CTAE classroom wing at Fannin County High School at a rate of 7.50 percent. This project is to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Policy JGFGB – Concussion Management (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, for Board members to elect to participate in the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) beginning January 1, 2014. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the deadline to opt in or out was August 31, 2013. Mr. Henson also stated based off of the current rates of the two most popular plans employees have chosen, the employer contribution per Board member rate would be either \$448.69 or \$494.09 per month/\$5,384.28 or \$5,929.08 per year. Mr. Henson also explained Board members who are retired and have coverage under the State Health Benefit Plan must elect coverage as a Board member. The Board may elect to contribute additional money toward the retired member's coverage so they are only required to pay the same amount they were paying for retiree coverage under the plan. Mr. Henson stated this would affect Sandra Mercier, a retired educator, and the current rate difference between the Board member rate and the retiree rate to keep the retiree from being adversely affected by serving on the Board would be \$19,135.56 annually. All members voted no; motion failed.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the 2013 – 2014 annual Board planning calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson provided the Board with summary discipline reports for both Fannin County Middle School and Fannin County High School for the 2012-2013 school year.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, provided Board members the 2013 – 2014 Board Governance Training Course Offerings. Mrs. Walton explained September 1, 2013, was the deadline to submit the choices for course offerings to the state. Mrs. Walton also explained Board members needed to decide on three courses for a total of nine (9) hours. After discussion it was decided Board members would receive all of their Board governance training through Pioneer RESA and would request the following three courses: 1) Analyzing Student Achievement and Outcome Data, 2) Legal Issues and Ethics for Boards of Education, and 3) Review and Revision of System Goals and Priorities.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, gave Board members an update on the AdvanceEd Standards for Quality School Systems tentative timeline.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Dannica Ball as a substitute teacher for the 2013 – 2014 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Janie Bearden as a substitute teacher for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Sandra Mercier, Lewis DeWeese, and Terry Bramlett voted yes. Bobby Bearden abstained. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson gave Board members a Board development catalog of workshops and conferences offered by Georgia School Boards Association for FY14.

Mr. Henson also gave Board members information on the 2013 GSBA/GSSA annual conference to be held in Atlanta on December 6 – 7, 2013.

Mr. Henson stated Steve Stanley's grandson was born earlier in the day. Mr. Henson stated mom and baby are both doing well.

Mr. Henson stated school got off to a good start. Buses ran without any major glitches, and school nutrition got everybody fed. Mr. Henson stated all buses were finished by 5:00 p.m. on the first day. Mr. Henson also stated this was the first year he can remember rain on the first day of school, and he commended all staff for their efforts getting students successfully through the first day of school.

Mr. Henson thanked Board members for their hard work this past summer. He said the Board had dealt with the no cut practice, tax hearings, a tax increase, and Board member

insurance, just to name a few items. Mr. Henson said the Board handled each item in a professional manner.

Mr. Henson stated Mountain Education Center has a program in each county which will allow the jail population to work on credits. However, the Fannin County Sheriff's Department had not utilized the program in Fannin County.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting. Mr. Bearden stated he appreciated all the hard work that went into getting students delivered safely to school and back home. Mr. Bearden stated he was sitting with the best school Board with which he could serve. Mr. Bearden stated he planned on running again when it was time for reelection.

Terry Bramlett apologized for missing meetings on Wednesday, July 31. Mr. Bramlett stated he did agree with the Board's decision to pass the budget and increase the millage. Mr. Bramlett stated if he did not have prior work commitments and could have been present, he would have voted yes for both.

Mr. Bramlett stated he would like to address the fact Fannin's student cost per full-time equivalent was higher than the state average. Mr. Bramlett stated Fannin offers students 180 days of instruction and teachers 190 days of employment. Mr. Bramlett stated Fannin students are taught by highly experienced and highly trained teachers.

Mr. Bramlett also stated Fannin's graduation rate of 92 percent speaks volumes that all students are being treated fairly.

Mr. Bramlett thanked Benny Long for making sure students were safe, Susan Jackson, Director of School Finance, for continuing to make sure the school system received good audit reports, and Dr. Michael Gwatney, Director of Technology & Media Services, for his leadership in technology.

Lewis DeWeese welcomed everyone and reaffirmed what Mr. Bramlett had to say.

Mrs. Mercier stated she watches The Georgia Gang each Sunday and at the end of the program they state who is the winners and losers for the week. Mrs. Mercier stated her list of "Winners" would be Susan Jackson and the finance department for their hard work in ensuring the system receives good, clean audits each year. Mrs. Mercier stated her "Losers" would be the Georgia Department of Community Health for their lack of reason and logic in determining the rules for Board members to have health insurance and the rates.

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

Sandra Mercier, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

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