

April 8, 2010

6:00 p.m.

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

Per the request of Lewis DeWeese, the financial report was removed from the consent agenda.

By motion of Junior Farmer, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the following items on the amended/revised consent agenda:

Approve the agenda.

Approve the board minutes from March 11 and April 6, 2010.

Approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School First Grade – Mayfield Dairy in Athens, TN, for May 6, 2010;

Blue Ridge Elementary School News Team – CNN Center in Atlanta, GA, for May 7, 2010;

East Fannin Elementary School Fourth Grade – Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center in Blairsville, GA, for May 11, 2010;

West Fannin Elementary School Fourth Grade – Consolidated Gold Mines in Dahlonega, GA, for May 12, 2010;

West Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Fernbank Museum and IMAX Theater, for May 17, 2010;

Fannin County High School FFA – State FFA Convention in Macon, GA, for April 22 - 24, 2010;

Fannin County High School AP Biology – Bodies Exhibit and Dialog in the Dark in Atlanta, Georgia, for April 26, 2010;

Fannin County High School Wrestling – Wrestling Camps at Gilmer County High School in Ellijay, Georgia, for May 31 – June 3, 2010;

Fannin County High School Wrestling – Wrestling Camps at Gilmer County High School in Ellijay, Georgia, for June 7 – June 8, 2010;

Fannin County High School HOSA – HOSA National Competition in Orlando, Florida, for June 22 - 27, 2010; and

Fannin County High School TSA – National TSA Conference in Baltimore, MD, for June 27 – July 2, 2010.

Approve the following fund raiser requests:

Fannin County Middle School MOID – Penny Drive to determine which administrators will participate in the School Feud Game, April 9 – May 7, 2010;

Fannin County Middle School MOID – School Feud Game, May 20, 2010;

Fannin County Middle School PE – Students will be voting with money for their choice of King and Queen to represent their grade at the Spring Dance, May 3 – 7, 2010;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of Vidalia Onions, April 9 – 30, 2010;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Sale of Candy, April 9 – May 7, 2010;

Fannin County High School Soccer Program – Donations for Georgia High School Association Cancer Awareness Week for Soccer, April 12 – 16, 2010;

Fannin County High School United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors, Sale of tickets for a chance to win two baskets of donated items, April 12 – May 7, 2010;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Sale of tickets for a birdhouse placed at Monte Alban Restaurant, April 12 – May 24, 2010;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Riverstone staff and parents of students to sell tickets for a gift basket, April 12 – May 24, 2010;

Fannin County High School Soccer Booster Club – Sale of \$5 tickets to win \$200 at a cow patty drop, mid-April to May 1, 2010;

Fannin County High School Band Boosters Club – Sale of Discount Cards, April 20 – May 15, 2010;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Garage sale and bake sale at Riverstone, April 24, 2010; and

Fannin County High School HOSA – Donations accepted for blood pressure screenings at Wal-Mart in Blairsville, GA, May 7, 2010.

Public Comment:

Joe Webb, Secretary of Blue Ridge Community Theater, requested the Fannin County Board of Education donate the current maintenance facility and property to the Community Theater upon completion of a new maintenance facility.

Jim Bennett, Jr, Secretary of the Fannin County High School Soccer Booster Club, presented concerns about the operating procedures of the soccer booster club.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending March 2010. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in March for the month of January was \$241,265.20.

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

Superstars of Southern Wrestling – use of Fannin County Middle School Gym on April 10, 2010;

Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Teachers' Organization – use of Fannin County High School Cafeteria on first Tuesday of April and May 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.;

Fannin County High School Soccer Booster Club – use of Fannin County High School Soccer Practice Field on May 1, 2010; and

Fannin County High School Tea Party Patriots – use of Fannin County High School Middle School Gym or Cafeteria on the first Thursday of each month (beginning in April) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the revised policy for Level of Budgetary Control/Descriptor Code: DCK. The revised policy establishes the level of spending beyond the approved budget for which the Superintendent must seek Board approval. The revised policy was tabled at the regular meeting in March.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, presented board members with a revised policy for Federal Family & Medical Leave Act/Descriptor Code: GBRIG. The revised policy incorporates recommended changes from the Georgia School Board Association which were necessary due to changes in the federal law. The revised policy will be tabled and voted on at the May 13, 2010 board meeting.

Motion by Emily Dunn, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to award a bid for lawn mowing to Gary Stanley for Blue Ridge Elementary, East Fannin Elementary, and Fannin County Middle School for April 15 – October 15, 2010. Terry Bramlett, Junior Farmer, Bobby Bearden, and Emily Dunn voted yes. Lewis DeWeese voted no. Motion carried. Mr. DeWeese commented that the low bid was the low bid.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to award a bid for lawn mowing to Dewayne Henderson for West Fannin Elementary for April 15 – October 15, 2010. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Junior Farmer, to award a bid for lawn mowing to David Nix for Fannin County High School for April 15 – October 15, 2010. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved, seconded, and carried to seek bids from the banking community for the board of education checking accounts.

Moved, seconded, and carried to revise the 2009 - 2010 school calendar in accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-168, which provides the option of requiring students to attend 176 days for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Subsequently, the last school day for students in Fannin County schools will be May 21, 2010. (See attached resolution).

Moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session 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 no action was taken while in executive session. Mr. Bramlett also stated the superintendent's evaluation was completed while in executive session, and Mr. Henson met all of the performance standards and did so in a satisfactory fashion. Mr. Bramlett stated satisfactory and unsatisfactory were the two rating options on the evaluation tool used. Mr. Bramlett stated one board member gave Mr. Henson an A+ for his performance. Mr. Henson stated he could not have done so without the support of the board and the team of administrators who work with him.

Motion by Emily Dunn, seconded by Junior Farmer, to accept the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) legislative positions suggestions as presented by GSBA. Terry Bramlett, Junior Farmer, Bobby Bearden, and Emily Dunn voted yes. Lewis DeWeese noted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Junior Farmer, to allow Mark Henson, as Secretary of the Board, to note any items individual board members did not agree with on the GSBA legislative positions. Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, and Junior Farmer voted yes. Bobby Bearden and Emily Dunn voted no. Motion carried.

Moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Terry Bramlett as a delegate and Emily Dunn as an alternate to represent the board at the Delegate Assembly in Savannah, Georgia on June 11, 2010.

Moved, seconded, and carried to accept the resignation of Nina Stillwell as of April 2, 2010.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson asked Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, to present electrical usage comparisons to the board. Mr. Hubbard presented electricity comparisons of winter 08-09 vs. winter 09-10 for Blue Ridge Elementary main building, Blue Ridge Elementary old building and gym, and Fannin County High School new gym. Mr. Hubbard explained that the board was billed in two ways for electrical usage – kilowatts hours used and demand. Mr. Hubbard pointed out that the cost of installing the new heaters at BRES would be recouped within two years from energy savings, while the high school had already received energy savings which totaled more than the cost of the heater installation since the heaters came out of the old WFES and EFES gymnasiums and were owned by the system.

Mr. Henson asked Benny Long, Director of Transportation & Safety, to present information on the upcoming Bus Road-e-o. Mr. Long invited all board members and visitors to attend the third annual Bus Road-e-o, which will be held on May 11, 2010 at the bus garage. Mr. Long stated all bus drivers would compete in ten driving events designed to help bus drivers become more skilled. Mr. Long stated the bus drivers from Pickens County Board of Education would also be participating in the Bus Road-e-o and there would be a winner from both Fannin and Pickens County.

Mr. Henson presented board members with a project plan presented by Dana Bell, Fannin County High School Soccer Booster Club member, to Erik Cioffi, Principal of Fannin County High School, for additional events to be conducted in conjunction with the Cow Patty Bingo, which will be held on May 1, 2010. Mr. Henson stated the additional events are a pie throwing contest, bounce house, refreshments, pie walk (aka cake walk), and face painting/balloon animals.

Mr. Henson asked Erik Cioffi, Principal of Fannin County High School, to present information on the high school graduation tests. Mr. Cioffi stated juniors at Fannin County High School had one hundred percent participation in the recent four out of five required sections given of the graduation test. Mr. Cioffi explained juniors had to pass four out of five parts of the graduation test to graduate, and he appreciated the dedication the high school staff, parents, and students put into making one hundred percent participation a possibility.

Mr. Henson stated in July 2007 he started the biggest adventure of his life when he became Superintendent of the Fannin County School System. Mr. Henson stated he could not have met the challenge without the support of the board and his staff.

Board Members' Comments:

Emily Dunn stated she had attended the wrestling banquet, and she was impressed with the hard work the wrestlers had put in to the program and with the pot luck dinner the parents prepared. Ms. Dunn also stated she wished the community knew just how hard Mr. Henson worked as Superintendent and the sacrifices he makes for the job.

Bobby Bearden stated he liked seeing the amount of people at the meeting and wished there could be the same amount at each months meeting. Mr. Bearden stated he is always available if anyone would like to speak with him about any concerns or issues. Mr. Bearden also stated it was a blessing and an honor to be a board member.

Junior Farmer thanked everyone who voted him on to the board. Mr. Farmer stated he appreciated the support everyone had shown him during the recent loss of his wife, Mildred Farmer.

Lewis DeWeese stated he was glad to be here.

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for remaining around while the board was in executive session. Mr. Bramlett stated he was pleased with the performance of Mr. Henson as Superintendent and the advances he is seeing in our system.

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

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent