

January 13, 2011  
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 Steve Stanley. All members present.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson, relinquished the chair to Mark Henson, Superintendent, for reorganization of the Board.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, called for nominations for Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to nominate Emily Dunn for Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Superintendent, Mark Henson, turned the meeting over to the newly elected 2011 Chairperson, Emily Dunn.

Ms. Dunn called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to nominate Bobby Bearden as Vice-Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Dunn announced that Bobby Bearden would be the Vice-Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year.

Upon the recommendation of Mark Henson, Superintendent, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to set the Board of Education meeting date for the 2011 calendar year on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Board of Education office. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Upon the recommendation of Mark Henson, Superintendent, all agenda items that were listed on the consent agenda were moved to the regular agenda since the work session was not held on Tuesday due to inclement weather. Moved, seconded, and carried to amend the agenda as recommended.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the board minutes from December 9, 2010.

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

Fannin County School System ALPHA Students – use of East Fannin Elementary School Gymnasium for a gathering night – January 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. to January 22, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.; and

Mountain Rumble Grappling Association – use of Fannin County Middle School Gymnasium for a Martial Arts Tournament – on May 13 & 14,

2011.

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade – Turner Field, Capitol Building, Atlanta Zoo, and WSB-TV in Atlanta, GA, on May 18 – 19, 2011;

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN, on February 25, 2011;

Fannin County School System ALPHA Students – East Fannin Elementary School Gymnasium Gathering Night in Blue Ridge, GA, on January 21 – 22, 2011;

Fannin County High School TSA – Georgia TSA State Officers Interviews at Mary Persons High School in Forsyth, GA, on February 5, 2011; and

Fannin County High School FFA – Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event Training at the fairgrounds in Dalton, GA, on February 7, 2011.

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, January 14 – May 1, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School TSA – Sale of Valentine candies & flowers, January 31 – February 11, 2011;

Fannin County High School Soccer Program – Sale of tickets to Donkey Basketball Game, January 14 – 18, 2011;

Fannin County High School Soccer Program – Sale of heart necklaces, January 14 – February 14, 2011;

Fannin County High School FFA – Sale of meat sticks, January 17 – February 17, 2011;

Fannin County High School National Art Honor Society – Sale of The Original One Dollar Candy Bar, January 18 – February 4, 2011; and

Fannin County High School Baseball Booster Club – Hypnosis Show with Brent Paterline, February 5, 2011.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2010. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in December for the month of October was \$288,421.40. Mr. Henson stated as of January 4, 2011, 84% of local tax revenue had been collected. Mr. Henson stated he appreciated the hard work Beverly Weaver and her staff had put into this.

Public Comment:

None.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, presented board members with options on how to revise Belief Statements Four and Nine. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Belief Statement Four to “High school graduation is key to lifelong success,” and Belief Statement Nine to “All school system personnel should be accountable for improving student achievement” (see attached list of the revised belief statements).

Moved, seconded, and carried to allow the Superintendent to proceed with the process of bidding the Fannin County High School kitchen modification project with a construction manager at risk to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$11,203.00 from Seneca Data Distributors for 17 workstations and monitors and the quote of \$446.00 from GovConnection for 2 printers to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve board policy JGF (2) – Seclusion or restraint of students.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table until the next regular meeting board policy BHA – Board Member Conflict of Interest.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table until the next regular meeting revised board policy IDCH – Dual – Joint Enrollment Programs.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table until the next regular meeting revised board policy IED – Scheduling for Instruction.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Jenna Saxton as a paraprofessional for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Kristi Underwood as a Special Education Teacher for the 2010 – 2011 school year to be paid out of Title VI-B ARRA funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Bianca Whittenbarger as a Special Education Teacher 25 percent of the day for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Carmen Booth as a bus driver for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Traci West as a full-time District Wide Behavioral Interventionist for the 2010 – 2011 school year (1/2 to be paid out of Title VI-B ARRA funds (approved at the board meeting on December 9, 2010) and 1/2 to be paid out of Title I-A ARRA funds).

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Dustina Wooten Reece as a substitute teacher.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Robert Panter as a substitute bus driver.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson stated the Teacher of the Year Banquet (TOTY) had been moved to Thursday, February 3, 2011. Mr. Henson stated this was due to the time missed for inclement weather and to allow all of the interviews to be conducted and recorded.

Mr. Henson presented board members with a Power Point presentation of pictures of roads and bus routes that were still unsafe to travel on due to ice and snow. Mr. Henson pointed out all of the pictures had been taken earlier that day. Mr. Henson reminded everyone transporting students safely was the number one priority in determining when to return to school.

Mr. Henson stated students had missed eight instructional days due to inclement weather and the plan was to use emergency make-up days January 17, February 17, 18, and 21, March 16, 17, and 18, and April 25 from the calendar (previously designated as holidays but reserved for makeup) to become regular school days.

Mr. Henson commended the county road department for their support to the school system in getting school parking lots cleared.

Mr. Henson stated it was an honor and pleasure to work with Terry Bramlett as Chairperson for the past two years. Mr. Henson thanked Mr. Bramlett for all his help and time he had dedicated to the Fannin County School System.

Mr. Henson welcomed Steve Stanley and stated he appreciated his willingness to serve.

Mr. Henson stated his goal for 2011 was for Fannin County School Systems to be a productive year and a year of growth.

Mr. Henson shared with board members an inquiry received from *The Associated Press* in regards to Fannin County Schools using Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 17, 2011, as a make-up day due to inclement weather. Mr. Henson stated changing the school calendar was never easy, and he regretted that he had to make this decision, but he believed that it was in the best interest of the students to be in school as much as possible so that they can be successful in life.

Board Members' Comments:

Emily Dunn stated she appreciated all of the work staff put in on the inclement weather days. Ms. Dunn thanked Terry Bramlett for being Board Chairperson the past two years and for bringing the board to Board of Distinction status. Ms. Dunn stated she

appreciated Steve Stanley for his willingness to serve on the board. Ms. Dunn stated she appreciated the board's confidence in electing her as Board Chairperson for the upcoming year. Ms. Dunn stated she supported Mr. Henson and his staff in recalling days for instruction.

Bobby Bearden stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the board for four more years. Mr. Bearden thanked Terry Bramlett for his service as board chairperson for the past two years. Mr. Bearden stated he would be glad to help Steve Stanley in any way possible to help him have a positive experience serving on the board. Mr. Bearden stated he appreciated everyone's hard work on the inclement weather days. Mr. Bearden thanked Art Hubbard for his work on the high school cafeteria expansion design. Mr. Bearden stated this would be an asset to both the high school and the community. Mr. Bearden stated he appreciated working with the board members and the fact they could disagree but in the end always making sure their decisions put students first.

Steve Stanley stated he was fortunate to be part of a board that had reached the level of Board of Distinction. Mr. Stanley thanked Mr. Henson and his staff for making him feel welcome, and he appreciated all the help they have given him to understand E-Board and the various issues being discussed.

Lewis DeWeese stated he wanted to give Mr. Stanley a special welcome to the board. Mr. DeWeese thanked Mr. Henson for his dedication on inclement weather days. Mr. DeWeese stated he knew there were many roads in the county that had tire tracks from Mr. Henson's jeep where he had personally checked the roads.

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone for their kind words. Mr. Bramlett stated he had two great examples to follow as Board Chairperson since he had served as Vice-Chairperson under both Emily Dunn and Bobby Bearden. Mr. Bramlett stated it was an honor to serve on the board. Mr. Bramlett stated he was excited about the plans to expand the high school cafeteria. Mr. Bramlett stated he thought the cafeteria expansion would be a morale booster for students, just as the bathroom project was. Mr. Bramlett stated he appreciated the work that went into Mr. Henson's decisions to determine whether it was safe to have school and athletic events on inclement weather days. Mr. Bramlett stated he appreciated Mr. Henson putting the student's safety first.

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.

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Emily Dunn, Chairperson

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Mark Henson, Superintendent

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## FANNIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. All students can learn, but they learn in different ways, at different rates and with different learning styles.
2. **All** students deserve **equal access** to **quality** education
3. Higher expectations result in higher achievement.
4. High school graduation is key to lifelong success
5. Parent and community involvement increases student achievement.
6. Education and learning are shared responsibilities and should take place in the home, at school, and in the community.
7. All students deserve the opportunity to learn, achieve success, and become productive.
8. A safe and secure environment is essential for teaching and learning.
9. All school system personnel should be accountable for improving student achievement.
10. Quality education requires quality staff, programs, facilities, equipment and technology.
11. All policy, administrative, instructional and educational-support decisions should be based on student needs and what is best for students.
12. All students must be prepared for a knowledge-based, technologically rich, and culturally diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century.