

May 12, 2016  
4:30 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in a strategic planning session/local board training session and regular session with the following members present: Bobby Bearden, Chair; Terry Bramlett, Vice-Chair (arrived at approximately 5:50 p.m.); Lewis DeWeese; Sandra Mercier (arrived at approximately 5:30 p.m.); and Steve Stanley. All members were present. The meeting was held at the Fannin County High School to accommodate stakeholders who were interested in speaking during public comment.

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Bearden, Chair.

Dr. Mark Wilson, Leadership and School Improvement Consultant for Pioneer RESA, conducted the local Board training session on "Legal Issues." This completed the fourth of the four trainings to be completed this year. No action was taken.

By motion from Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the following items on the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the meeting minutes from April 14, 2016, and May 10, 2016.

Approve the following request:

Fannin County Recreation Department to use four school buses for camps offered during the summer.

Public Comment:

Concerned citizens aired views on both sides of a reported transgender situation in the Fannin County School System.

Lynn Doss, Attorney for the Fannin County Board of Education stated there has not been a teacher, an administrator, a staff member, a bus driver, or a resource officer who has had their job threatened over this issue. Mrs. Doss stated there is seldom a time when there are more people who have something in common on opposite sides of the issue than there is here tonight.

Mrs. Doss stated we all want what is best for all of our children regardless of their sexual orientation. Mrs. Doss addressed comments of "don't vote on this," "secret meetings," and "changed policies." Mrs. Doss stated there was nothing the Board is or has voted on regarding transgender policies. Mrs. Doss stated any time a policy is implemented, it is brought to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting, laid on the table, put on E-Board, and then voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Doss stated no statute or court ruling exists that refers to anything other than traditional boy/girl identification. What does exist is an executive order, a federal administration mandate, guided by President Barack Obama, which has opened a "Pandora's Box" authorizing a legislative ruling redefining "sex" in Title IV to include gender identity.

Mrs. Doss stated if the local Board fights the Feds, they risk losing the near \$3.5 million in federal funding and also be fined up to \$75,000 a day by the Department of Civil Rights. She indicated that the local Board would not be altering any of its policies as to bathrooms, locker rooms, or any other policy without first presenting the same in a public meeting. She also urged

citizens to contact state and federal elected officials in order to voice any concern to those that had the authority to implement safeguards and /or change.

After Public comment, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the financial report for the month ending March 31, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in April for the month of March was \$374,036.21.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to rescind the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with the Fannin County Board of Commissioners (FCBOC) approved on April 15, 2016. Mr. Henson explained the FCBOC requested that the IGA be modified to reflect that the Fannin County Board of Education (FCBOE) would construct a road to the property line between the FCBOE and FCBOC, and it would be the responsibility of the FCBOE to construct any road it might want across its property. Also, the FCBOC would give an easement to the FCBOE for utilization of its road. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the revised IGA with the FCBOC to reflect the changes noted above. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the purchase in FY17 of 4 – 72 passenger school buses at \$87,777.00 each for a total of \$351,108.00 from Peach State Freightliner, Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia to be paid out of SPLOST funds. Peach State Freightliner extended their bid price from September 12, 2012. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve technology hardware as salvage for Blue Ridge Elementary School, West Fannin Elementary School, Fannin County Middle School, Fannin County High School, and the Technology Office (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to increase Fannin County Board of Education school nutrition lunch prices by \$0.10 for school year 2016 – 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve no bids received for the two school nutrition can racks bid for surplus on May 4, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to declare two school nutrition can racks as salvage, which were previously bid as surplus and no bids received. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the district strategic plan to include the addition of eight Georgia Vision Projects recommendations. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the offer of the City of Blue Ridge to convey the property known as the Farmer's Market and adjacent property to the Fannin County Board of Education for the sum of \$350,000.00, subject to the receipt of a favorable NOVA risk assessment. Bobby Bearden, Sandra Mercier, Lewis DeWeese, and Steve Stanley voted yes. Lewis DeWeese voted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to accept the resignation of Mayra Estep effective October 1, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Kate George effective the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to accept the resignation of Arthur Hubbard effective the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Raven Nicholson effective May 11, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to accept the resignation of Debbie Parmer effective the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Sara Stewart effective the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Misty Nelson, Chelsey Noblet, Taylor Neyenhouse, Dwight “David” Queen, and Lauren Travis as teachers effective the 2016 – 2017 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Noah May and Curtis Weldy as paraprofessionals effective the 2016 – 2017 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Jordan Shepherd as a secretary effective the 2016 – 2017 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following administrators for the 2016 – 2017 school year:

Patricia Adams	Betsy Hyde
Erik Cioffi	Benny Long
Darren Danner	Shannon Miller
Theresa Dillard	Cynthia Panter @ 49%
Patricia DuBois	Mathew Price
Robert Ensley	Scott Ramsey
Sarah Finch	Lucas Roof
Heather Finley	Candice Sisson
Michael Gwatney	Anthony Tichler
Connie Huff	Karen Walton

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Danny Shinpaugh as Director of Maintenance and Facilities effective May 13, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Clark Keith Nuckolls as an administrator effective the 2016 – 2017 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following certified personnel for the 2016 – 2017 school year:

Allen, Rebecca	Daves, Jeffrey	Herndon, Stacy
Anderson, Natasha	Daves, Penny	Hicks, Cynthia
Armstrong, Jill	Davis, Kyle	Hinman, Christine
Armstrong, Neil	Davis, Michelle	Holloway, Kathrin
Ayers, Jon	Davis, Sarah	Holsonback, Betty
Babcock, Laura	Dillard, Melinda	Hood, Christina
Bailey, Diane	Dixon, Amanda	Howard, Sabrina
Ball, Melissa	Dockery, Valdora	Hubbard, Charlene
Barnes, Cindi	Dyer, Brenda	Huffman, Kimberly
Barnes, Rebecca	Dyer, Jill	Hughes, Danette
Barnstead, Julia	Dyer, David	Hulsey, Kelly
Barnstead, Scott	Eavenson, Amanda	Jantti, Joan
Baugh, Celeste	Eggleston, Scott	Jessen, Nancy
Baxter, Gary	Eisenhart, Lora	Johnson, Michael Lee
Birchmore, Jodi	Ensley, Maranda	Jones, Angela
Boyce, Pam	Estep, Mayra	Jourdan, Katrina
Brannon, Kimberly	Evans, Robert	Kaye, Julia
Breeden, Joseph	Evans, Stephanie	Keener, Elaine
Brown, Kelly	Fleeman, Shannon	Kendall, Jill
Bryant, Scott	Forney, David	Kephart, Cherie
Burch, Lynn	Franklin, Katherine	Key, Jill @ 49%
Callihan, Cassie	George, Karen	King, Barbara
Callihan, Robbi	Geren, Todd	King, Jeremy
Callihan, Samantha	Gibbs, John	King, Melissa
Callihan, Terry	Gilliam, Cindy	Kribbs, Kimberly
Callihan, Tonya	Gilreath, Stacey	Ladd, Donna
Cantrell, Tara	Glover, Jessica Combs	Lambert, Jill
Chambers, Amanda	Gobble, Althea	Lansing, Jenny
Chapman, Buffy	Goss, Rebekah	Lapham, Pamela
Clonts, Walter	Gray, Donna	Larson, Jennifer
Colbert, Erin	Grubb, Michele	Lord, Nicole
Collis, Alan	Hamby, Michelle	Lowman, Kelly
Collis, Heather	Harper, Dana	Majors, Kayla
Collis, Troyia	Harper, Marcie	Martin, Teresa
Cooke, Crystal	Hartness, Seajae	Mashburn, Chris
Corbin, Mary	Hyatt, Paula	Mathews, Rhonda
Culpepper, Kathy	Hemming, Anona	Mathis, Pamela
Culpepper, Shannon	Henry, Vicki	McBride, Amanda
Danner, Alison	Henson, David	Miller, Nicholas
Davenport, Betty	Henson, Stacy	Mills, Robert

Minear, Carrie	Rittenberry, Jennifer	Taylor, Peggy Susie
Mitchell, Amber	Roberson, Katy	Tesoriero, Brian
Moates, Elden @ 49%	Roberts, Tammy	Thigpen, Christopher
Morgan, Jodi	Robinson, Lora	Thomas, Amanda
Nave, Linda	Roof, Miranda	Thomas, Dewayne
Newton, Brittany	Rose, Christie	Thomas, Michelle
Newton, Sydney	Russell, Siegrid	Thomas, Tammy
Odom, Diana Bice	Saxon, Jenna	Turner, Adam
O'Neal, Joey	Scearce, Yvette	Turner, Blake
Pace, Mary Jean	Scheuknecht, Nicole	Viccaro, Holly
Pack, Kimberley	Scott, Diane	Walden, Sandra
Padgett, David	Seber, Lauren	Walker, Jennifer
Padgett, Sharon	Shinpaugh, April	Ware, Beth
Padgett, Zachary	Smith, Ashley	Watkins, Nancy
Parris, Angela	Herendon	Watkins, Serena
Pass, Blake	Smith, Susan	Weaver, Jeffrey
Pass, Suzanne	Smith, Stacey Lee	Weaver, Michael
Passmore, Lena	Soriero, Anne	Weaver, Vanessa
Patterson, Angela	Sowers, Hope	Weeks, Krystal
Patterson, Kim	Sparks, Ashley	Weeks, Lynn
Patterson, Pamela	Stanley, Jason	Welch, Sarah
Pavao, James	Stewart, Daniel	West, Austin
Payne, Lauren	Stiles, Alesha	Whitener, Alex
Pearce, Justin	Stone, Mark	Wilbanks, Jeff
Pickelsimer, Courtney	Stone, Travis	Williams, Amy
Pressley, Phil	Stover, Brandy Morgan	Williams, Martha
Putnam, Annette	Strobel, Erica A.	Wood, Cindy
Ragsdale, Trista	Summers, Tami	Workman, Jennifer
Reist, Lynn	Tamberino, Ashley	Young, Angela
Reynolds, Wendy	Tate, Teresa	Young, Caprice
Rice, Milicent	Taylor, Chrisi	Young, Mark
Rice, Sarah Owenby	Taylor, Khalisa B.	
Rich, Selena	Taylor, Lisa	

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Heather Boyle as certified personnel for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Lewis DeWeese abstained. Bobby Bearden, Sandra Mercier, Terry Bramlett, and Steve Stanley voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Virginia “Gini” Bramlett as certified personnel for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Terry Bramlett abstained. Bobby Bearden, Sandra Mercier, Lewis DeWeese, and Steve Stanley voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Betty J. Garland as certified personnel for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Steve Stanley abstained. Bobby Bearden, Sandra Mercier, Terry Bramlett, and Lewis DeWeese voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Kathryn Harris Durham as a WIA Grant Coordinator for the 2016 – 2017 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Thomas “Andy” Mashburn as a substitute custodian. All members voted yes; motion carried.

#### Superintendent’s Comments:

Mr. Henson thanked staff members in his office and administrators for all of the hard work they do for Fannin County School System, and he stated he will do everything in his power to keep children safe.

Mr. Henson stated the Fannin County Board of Education Board members are some of the finest people in Fannin County, and he stated all of the Board members care about kids.

Regarding public comment, Mr. Henson stated no school employee jobs are in jeopardy for simply sharing how they feel. He said as long as rules are followed an employee will always have a job. He asked Larry Williams, a district employee, if his job had been threatened for speaking out on transgender restrooms, and Mr. Williams indicated it had not been threatened. Mr. Henson added it is crucial for everyone to cut down on the rhetoric and Facebook posts.

Mr. Henson stated the College & Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) scores are in and Fannin County High School is the highest in the Pioneer RESA district and ranked 11 percent in the State of Georgia. He also commended the Board for starting a Pre-K program next school year.

Mr. Henson challenged those present to not let the issue of transgender restrooms tear down our school system. Mr. Henson stated the community had to trust that he and the Board will do the best they can. Mr. Henson stated regardless of what is thrown at us from Washington, we are going to find solutions as best we can. Mr. Henson stated “Here is what you have got to trust. None of us on this board and me as superintendent have a good answer right now. As Mrs. Doss said, we are going to take the summer to cool down and back off a little bit to look at options. I will resign before I let this school system fall apart. I give you my word on that. I have worked in it far too long and care for it far too much.”

Mr. Henson stated there are not really real good quick answers as to what the proper solution is. Mr. Henson stated we are going to find the best solution we can for all the students of Fannin County. Mr. Henson stated there were six more days of school and everyone needed to cool down and back up. Mr. Henson stated we could not let the school system fall apart.

Mr. Henson stated the Board was to be commended for purchasing the Farmer’s Market. Mr. Henson stated the plan was to build a state of the art agriculture facility.

#### Board Members’ Comments:

Steve Stanley stated the cannery is going to stay where it is located. He stated he was excited and very passionate about the FFA barn. He also stated he is very appreciative of those who came out and spoke.

Lewis DeWeese stated he wished people present at the meeting knew what kind of caring people they have on watch for the students. He stated he was proud of Mark Henson, the central

office staff and administrators, school administrators, and teachers. Mr. DeWeese stated these are God-fearing people.

Terry Bramlett stated he thanked everyone for coming out, and he encouraged everyone to not let their voice stop here. Mr. Bramlett encouraged everyone to share their passion with representatives in Washington. Mr. Bramlett stated his father is critically ill in the hospital, and he appreciated everyone's prayers and concerns.

Sandra Mercier stated for the past five years she has worn a bracelet that states "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." Mrs. Mercier stated that in the five years she has been wearing this bracelet, the guidance applies now more than ever.

Bobby Bearden stated this meeting was good for him. He stated he would like to have this level of input and participation at each meeting.

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

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Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

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Mark Henson, Superintendent

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