

March 12, 2009

6:00 p.m.

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

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes from all previous meetings.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending January 2009. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in February for the month of December was \$341,031.21. Mr. Henson also stated the fourth quarter 2008 and first quarter 2009 TVA payments were received February 17 and March 4 respectively. Mr. Henson thanked Lynn Doss, School Board Attorney, and Representative Nathan Deal for their help in getting these payments processed.

Public Comment:

None

Steve Phillips, Energy Manager for Fannin County Board of Education, gave the board an update on the amount of money the system saved from November 2005 to December 2008. Mr. Phillips stated the goal is for the Fannin County School System to become an Energy Star partner. Also, Danny Shinpaugh, Maintenance Lead, gave the board a demonstration on the software used to monitor temperatures remotely throughout the system.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the lowest propane bid of \$1.09 per gallon from Budget Propane for a term of one calendar year starting on the date of acceptance by the board.

Moved, seconded, and carried to set the 2009 Fannin County High School Prom for Saturday, May 9, 2009, at North Georgia College and Technology School and the graduation date for the school year 2008-2009 for Friday, May 22, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. The rain date will be Saturday, May 23, 2009, in the Fannin High Football Stadium at 10:00 a.m. If at that time the weather is not cooperating, the graduation ceremony will be moved to the new high school gym.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve a memorandum of understanding with The Board of Regents of the University of Georgia on behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension for the County Extension Personnel.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, informed the board that Calendar Option #3 was chosen by staff for the 2009-2010 school year. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Calendar Option #3 (see attached).

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

Fannin County Recreation Department – use of West Fannin Elementary School Cafeteria to serve breakfast & lunches to day camp participants, June 8 – July 17, 2009

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade News Team – CNN in Atlanta, GA for March 21, 2009

North Star Elementary Students – Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA for April 2, 2009

Fannin County High School GACHE Grant Activity – tour of University of Georgia campus for April 22, 2009

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, March 13 – May 1, 2009

East Fannin Elementary Kindergarten Class – Sale of Ingles Glazed Doughnuts, March 16 - 27, 2009

East Fannin Elementary – Online fundraiser through Support our School (SOS), March 23, 2009 – March 20, 2010

Fannin County Middle School TSA Students– Sale of Easter Bunnies by World's Finest Chocolate, March 13 – March 27, 2009

Fannin County Middle School Seventh Grade Science Students – Sale of tee shirts designed by seventh grade students, April 1 – May 22, 2009

Mr. Henson recognized Susan Jackson for her hard work in the budget planning process and stated that the Board had reviewed several options for possible budget cuts for the FY10 school year during the Tuesday work session in an effort to trim approximately \$1.4 million from the upcoming budget. Because of the difficult financial times we are facing, we are in a position that requires us to make some hard choices. Keeping in mind that we want to maintain a quality instructional program for our students, avoid laying off personnel if at all possible, and continue to meet our responsibility to the Fannin County taxpayers, he recommended that the Board approve Option #2 on our Budget Reduction Options Spreadsheet. This option should save approximately \$1,465,000 and includes:

- A 2% reduction in the local supplement from 6% to 4% for all employees
- Reducing Central Office administrators' supplemental days by five (5)
- Reducing principals' supplemental days by five (5)
- Minimizing extended day system wide
- Eliminating summer school
- Streamlining the tutoring process
- Eliminating four(4) teaching positions through attrition and absorbing our current 5 half-time academic coaching positions
- Trimming maintenance and operations expenses
- Eliminating Thinkgate software
- Reducing the School Nutrition Program subsidy

- Purchasing three(3) fewer buses

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Option #2 for building the FY10 budget.

Moved, seconded, and carried to accept the following resignations:

Angela Berrong	Effective 7-1-09
Genevieve Clow	Effective at the end of the 2008 -2009 school year
Donald Mull	Effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year
Cynthia Panter	Effective 8-1-09
Anthony Raffaelli	Effective 2-13-09
William L. Turpin	Effective 4-1-09

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following administrators for the 2009-2010 school year:

Patricia Adams	
Bonnie Angel	
Lori Chastain	
Theresa Dillard	
Robert Ensley	
Randy Gambrell	
Michael Gwatney	
Cynthia Hicks	
Art Hubbard	
Betsy Hyde	
Benny Long	
Cynthia Panter	Effective 9-1-09 @ 49%
Glenn Patterson	
Brenda Payne	
Wendy Reynolds	
Candice Sisson	
Karen Walton	
Jeff Wilbanks	
Shannon York	

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following transfers:

Karen Walton – Transfer to Director of Instructional Services, School Improvement & Federal Programs
Robert Ensley - Transfer to Principal at West Fannin Elementary School
Jeff Wilbanks – Transfer to Assistant Principal at Fannin County Middle School

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Shannon Wright as a substitute bus driver for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following substitute school nutrition workers for the 2008 - 2009 school year:

Pamela Chastain
Alanna Edwards
Theresa Johnson

Linda O. Pack
Ann Panter
Sherry Rogers
Phyllis Walker

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2008 – 2009 school year:

Johnny Cronan
John Dunson
Jenny Lansing

Moved, seconded, and carried to hold the April work session on Thursday, April 2, 2009, starting at noon since Tuesday, April 7, 2009 is a 12 month holiday for employees.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson showed board members what the center logo would look like for the new stadium.

Mr. Henson invited everyone to attend the release of trout at Tammen Park through the "Trout in the Classroom Program" on Thursday, April 2, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m. The seventh grade science teachers hope to release about 300 fish this year. Fannin County Middle School sent their thanks to Mr. Bramlett for his generous donation of trout after the initial trout that the school received died. Mr. Henson stated this year's release would not be possible without Mr. Bramlett's generosity.

Mr. Henson stated the Fannin County Middle School leadership team would be hosting a spring dance on Thursday, April 16th from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the middle school gym.

Mr. Henson stated Dennis L. Wilson, FCHS Head Wrestling Coach, would like to invite everyone to attend the 2009 Wrestling Banquet. It will be held in the Fannin County High School Lunchroom, March 24 @ 7 p.m.

Mr. Henson announced School Board Appreciation Week is March 9 – 13, 2009. Mr. Henson stated he could not imagine Fannin County with no voice in the operation of its public schools. He asked everyone to think about an education system where all policy is set at the state or national level and to imagine putting the future of our children or grandchildren in the hands of people we don't know and then being asked to pay the bill.

Mr. Henson shared that fortunately, we here in Fannin County elect our friends and neighbors as school board members and rely on them to make tough educational decisions on our behalf. While their occupations and life experiences are varied, when they come together in regular public meetings, they are there to make education their common business. They are willing to invest countless hours making sure our schools reflect local traditions and unique needs. Their decisions often reach far beyond classrooms to impact local businesses, economic development, and ultimately, the future of this community.

While most of their efforts go unrewarded, when they are acknowledged, it is usually in the form of criticism. Mr. Henson asked everyone to think for a moment, what

would we do without our board members? To whom could we easily go with our concerns and our questions?

Each March, School Board Member Appreciation Week in Georgia provides an opportunity to recognize these men and women who serve so faithfully.

We are particularly fortunate in this community to have board members whose vision and sense of accountability are making sure our children can compete successfully in college and the work place when they graduate from high school.

On behalf of all of the Fannin County School System stakeholders, Mr. Henson expressed his appreciation to each board member for their commitment and the hard work they do to ensure that all of our children have bright futures.

Board Members' Comments:

Emily Dunn commended Mr. Henson and his team for their work on the budget.

Bobby Bearden also thanked Mr. Henson and his team for their work on the budget. Mr. Bearden stated he was blessed to be here.

Junior Farmer stated he had talked to several employees in the system, and he felt like everybody was willing to give up just a little bit to ensure their coworkers could keep their jobs. Mr. Farmer also thanked everyone for their visits and calls while he was in the hospital and recuperating.

Lewis DeWeese stated he looked forward in the future to watching other systems and seeing how they fare with the budget cuts. Mr. DeWeese stated he expected to see millage increases for other systems. Mr. DeWeese stated he thinks we have done a good job in Fannin planning for the budget cuts.

Terry Bramlett welcomed Mr. Farmer back. Mr. Bramlett expressed appreciation to Mr. Henson and his staff for their exceptional work on the budget. Mr. Bramlett stated he was impressed with the job Steve Phillips and Danny Shinpaugh did with the Energy Education Program.

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.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

slj