

February 9, 2012
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Sandra Mercier, Chair; Steve Stanley, Vice-Chair; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Lewis DeWeese. All members present.

By motion of Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

Approve the consent agenda.

Approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2012, and February 7, 2012.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Fannin County Tea Party – use of Fannin County Middle School cafeteria or gymnasium on March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and

Milestones Learning Center – use of Fannin County Middle School gymnasium on May 17 and 18, 2012, from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Kindergarten – Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA, on May 15, 2012;

West Fannin Elementary School Third Grade – Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN, on March 30, 2012;

Fannin County High School Forensic Science – GBI Crime Lab in Atlanta, GA, on April 16, 2012;

Fannin County High School Special Needs Students – Turner Field in Atlanta, GA, on April 18, 2012;

Fannin County High School Band – Compete in the National Adjustor's Invitational, tour the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame in Chattanooga and Nashville, TN, on April 26 – 30, 2012; and

Fannin County High School Skills USA – The Capitol in Atlanta, GA, on February 22, 2012.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School – Sale of school spirit t-shirts, February 9 – May 25, 2012;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of beef sticks, February 13 – March 23, 2012;

Fannin County Middle School Seventh Grade Science – Sale of trout t-shirts designed by seventh grade students, March 1 – May 25, 2012;

Fannin County High School Chorus – Sale of candy bars, February 9 – March 31, 2012;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Sale of Orange Crush and chocolate Hershey’s Kisses, February 10 – 16, 2012;

Fannin County High School Boys and Girls Soccer Teams – Sale of candy bars, February 10 – March 12, 2012;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Sale of Gourmet Cookie Dough, February 15 – March 16, 2012;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Sale of flower bulbs, February 15 – April 15, 2012;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Sale of Krispy Crème Doughnuts, February 27 – March 15, 2012;

Fannin County High School Weight Training Students and Athletes – Lift-a-Thon, March 1 – April 30, 2012; and

Fannin County High School FFA – 10% of profits for sales from Zaxby’s, March 6, 2012.

Public Comment:

Eric Cioffi, Principal of Fannin County High School, shared information with the Board regarding the following recent accomplishments of the school:

- 2011 Platinum Award – Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (Fannin County High School was one of eight schools that received the award);
- AP Challenge Award - College Board;
- All 18 participating students placed at the Skills USA Regional Competition (16 – First place awards and two third place awards);
- Five awards were received at the Mock Trial competition; and
- Sally Jones was the District Winner for the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award – only four in the state (the final winner will be determined at a later date).

Mr. Cioffi also presented the Board and Superintendent with “Elite 8” t-shirts, which all students and staff at the high school will receive in recognition of Platinum Award. Mr. Cioffi stated the t-shirts were made possible by donations from Jostens and the Fannin County Academic Booster Club.

After public comment, moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2011. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in January for the month of November was \$333,044.40.

Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, gave Board members an update on the ongoing construction projects. Mr. Hubbard stated the following items were completed on the field house project: 1) the interior plumbing rough work has been completed; 2) the exterior masonry work is complete; 3) the interior masonry work is 95% complete; 4) the HVAC ductwork installation is complete; 5) weatherproofing is 95% complete; 6) the interior electrical rough is 60% complete; 7) locker pads are poured in the varsity locker room; and 8) the door frames are installed.

Mr. Hubbard stated paving of the baseball parking area was underway, and the re-contouring and seeding of the drainage area was complete.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current Board Code of Ethics Policy BH and the Board Member Conflict of Interest Policy BHA with board members. Mrs. Walton stated the purpose of this review was to ensure the Board is in compliance with the mandate issued by the Georgia Department of Education regarding local board training.

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Director of Technology & Media Services, reviewed with the Board the current Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Due to a recent order from the FCC, school districts receiving e-rate funds must have an Internet safety policy in place that provides for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior. The change is an addition to the existing federal requirement that school districts monitor online activity.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table revised policy IFBG – Internet Acceptable Use (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the FY2013 budget calendar (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Phil Pressley as a teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Patricia Fish and April M. Jones as substitute custodians.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Jason Boskey and Suzanne M. Borowski as substitute school nutrition workers.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following substitute teachers:

April M. Jones
Lisa M. Loudermilk
James K. McBride
Chuck Soriero

Valarie Taylor
Diane Thomas
William Wells

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson congratulated the high school for all the accolades. Mr. Henson stated he was very proud of their latest achievement, the AP Challenge award. Mr. Henson stated this award was issued by the College Board for schools of 900 or fewer students with students testing in four of the core areas (English, math, science, and social studies).

Mr. Henson thanked Dr. Gwatney and his staff for their help with the transition from laptop computers to iPads for use during meetings. He said the transition was very smooth, and the iPads were better suited to the needs of the Board and more economical compared to a laptop.

Mr. Henson stated if other school systems around the state had board members as ethical as our Board members, then there would be no need for school systems to have a code of ethics and conflict of interest policy in place.

Mr. Henson reminded the Board about the 2012 GSBA/GSSA Ninth District visit to the Georgia Capitol on Tuesday, February 28.

Mr. Henson also reminded Board members of the 2012 GSBA summer conference and delegate assembly to be held in Savannah, GA, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Friday, June 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Henson stated there had been a conflict in the previous date set for the strategic planning session on February 14, and Mr. Henson asked for alternate dates. All members agreed to hold the session on Friday, March 2nd. Mr. Henson stated breakfast would be at 7:30 a.m. at the central office, and the planning session would be 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Mr. Henson asked Susan Jackson, Director of Finance, to present the Board members with a summary of the State Health Benefit Plan changes that are being implemented.

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett stated it was a honor to be a part of the Fannin County Board of Education. Mr. Bramlett expressed his appreciation to his fellow board members for their understanding of missing the Tuesday work session while he was in Dallas, Texas, working with the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Bramlett stated he is excited about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiative the Boy Scouts are rolling out and how it partners with education. Mr. Bramlett also stated he appreciated Dr. Gwatney moving forward with technology for Fannin County Schools. Mr. Bramlett stated it was convenient to be able to follow the meeting information online via his computer or phone while he was out of town.

Lewis DeWeese stated it was a very good meeting.

Steve Stanley congratulated Eric Cioffi for the many accomplishments at the high school during his tenure as principal.

Sandra Mercier congratulated the following system-wide winners on behalf of all board members:

- Will Shirah – winner of the system-wide Spelling Bee for three years;
- Sally Ann Jones – district winner for Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award;
- Holly Sloan – Fannin County Board of Education Teacher of the Year;
- Other teacher of the year recipients from each school; and
- Fannin County High school – AP Challenge award from the College Board.

Bobby Bearden stated he was in agreement with previous board member comments, and he thanked God for iPads.

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 Chair when deemed necessary.

Sandra Mercier, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

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