

November 10, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

By motion of Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

Approve the agenda.

Approve the board minutes from October 13, October 14, November 3, and November 8, 2011.

Approve the following field trip requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Chattanooga Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN, on December 2, 2011;

Fannin County High School MOID – Atlanta Cyclorama in Atlanta, GA, on November 16, 2011; and

Fannin County High School Economics Classes – Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, GA, on December 9, 2011.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Fannin County Middle School FCA – Sale of FCA middle school t-shirts, November 11 – 25, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School FCA – Raffle “Thirty One” totes at each school with gifts inside for teachers, November 11 – December 1, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School – Sale of Coca Cola products, November 16 – December 2, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School Golf – Hat Day, November 18, 2011;

Fannin County High School Foreign Language Club – Movie showing, bake sale, soda sale, and donations, November 11, 2011;

Fannin County High School Chorus – Sale of Oreo “turkey cookies,” November 11 – 18, 2011;

Fannin County High School Cross Country – Sale of track bags, November 11 – 20, 2011;

Fannin County High School Soccer – Sale of candy bars, November 11 – December 9, 2011;

Fannin County High School Construction Class – Sale of picnic tables, benches, bird houses, and other wood products, November 14, 2011 – May 25, 2012; and

Fannin County High School TSA – Face painting at Fannin County High School home basketball games, November 18, 2011 – March 31, 2012.

Public Comment:

None

After public comment, the Board moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2011. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in October for the month of August was \$314,866.60.

Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, gave Board members an update on the field house project. Mr. Hubbard stated the site prep was complete, footers were poured, the foundation block was complete, and the plumbing rough was 25% complete.

Mr. Hubbard shared with Board members the latest power bills. Mr. Hubbard stated the cost per day for all facilities was approximately \$330.00 less per day in a one-year analysis. This represents a savings of approximately \$120,000 per year. Mr. Hubbard stated this savings comes from a variety of conservation efforts including, the new lights, sensors, gas packs, and rooftop heaters.

Mr. Henson stated the maintenance department continues to operate short one position.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table revised policy GAK (1) – Criminal Background Check.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the resignation of Lois Taylor effective May 31, 2012, David Collins effective at the end of school year 2011 – 2012, and Sharon Elliott and Darlene Gibbs effective December 31, 2011.

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

Rhonda Calhoun

Ralph Cheek
Amy Fields
Teresa Norton

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

Jason Boskey
Jill Dyer
Kelly Hulseley
Darlene Pittman

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson explained Fannin County was one of fifteen school districts that was a part of the Georgia Educational Cooperative (GEC) Food Committee. Mr. Henson stated the GEC group recently received two awards from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Mr. Henson presented Candy Sisson, Director of School Nutrition, two awards: The 2011 Georgia Best Practice Award for Customer Service and the 2011 Southeast Region USDA Best Practice Award for Customer Service. Mr. Henson commended Ms. Sisson for her foresight in being a part of the GEC group. Mr. Henson stated participating in this group has allowed the school system to receive much higher quality food and lower costs.

Mr. Henson asked Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum & School Improvement, to give the board an update on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Mrs. Walton stated all of Fannin County Schools and the Fannin County School System made AYP. Mrs. Walton stated that 49 out of 194 systems in the state of Georgia, including county systems, city systems, and charter systems made AYP. This represents 25% of the systems.

Mr. Henson asked Benny Long, Director of Transportation & Safety, to present bus safety information to the Board, including a video demonstrating how the new bus camera system works. Earlier in the day, Mr. Long had recorded a vehicle running the stop sign as a student was exiting the bus. Mr. Long explained no students were involved, and the simulation occurred in a controlled environment on school property. He showed how the new camera system was able to display the tag of the vehicle that ran the stop sign. Mr. Long explained this new system has eight cameras per bus, and it is currently installed on one bus and will be installed on two more.

Mr. Henson thanked Bobby Bearden, Chairperson; Lewis DeWeese, Vice-Chairperson; Steve Stanley, Board member; and Dub Joiner, staff writer for *The News Observer*, for their military service to our country. Mr. Henson stated he appreciated all of the hard work that went into the Veterans' Day programs the schools presented, and he hoped these programs allowed children to understand the sacrifices our veterans have made for this country.

Board Members' Comments:

Steve Stanley stated as a veteran that he appreciated the programs the schools presented. He said it means a lot to him. Mr. Stanley also wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Lewis DeWeese stated he had spent two of the most pleasant days visiting schools. Mr. DeWeese stated he appreciated the congenial smiles on the students' faces and the beautiful experience. He also enjoyed the spirit of no discord.

Bobby Bearden stated he was grateful to be here. Mr. Bearden stated he would be the first one to make a motion to buy cameras for the buses. Mr. Bearden stated cameras told the whole story. Mr. Bearden stated Fannin was the best school system in Georgia. He also stated serving his country in the military prepared him and helped him achieve where he is at today.

Sandra Mercier stated she was also in agreement to use SPLOST money to buy cameras. Mrs. Mercier congratulated Ms. Sisson on the two awards the nutrition department had received for their exemplary job. Mrs. Mercier stated the Veterans' Day programs were wonderful, and she was glad she was able to attend.

Terry Bramlett congratulated Ms. Sisson for the quality food the nutrition department served. Mr. Bramlett commended Mr. Long for his dedication to the transportation system. Mr. Bramlett stated he was impressed with the camera system Mr. Long demonstrated, and he could see how the additional cameras could easily save a life. Mr. Bramlett stated he thought the Veterans' Day programs were a great learning opportunity for students.

Mr. Henson asked everyone in attendance to pay tribute to Robert Foster, former Superintendent of Fannin County Schools, for starting the Veterans' Day programs at each school.

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.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent