

March 10, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

Bobby Bearden, Vice-Chairperson acting as Chair, relinquished the Chair to Mark Henson, Superintendent, for reorganization of the Board.

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

Terry Bramlett nominated Bobby Bearden. Lewis DeWeese nominated Sandra Mercier. Sandra Mercier declined since she had been associated with the school board for such a short period of time. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, Sandra Mercier, and Steve Stanley voted in favor of Bobby Bearden for Chairperson. Motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, turned the meeting over to the newly elected 2011 Chairperson, Bobby Bearden.

Mr. Bearden called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson for the 2011 calendar year. Steve Stanley nominated Lewis DeWeese. Terry Bramlett nominated Sandra Mercier. Sandra Mercier again declined since she had been associated with the school board for such a short period of time. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Sandra Mercier, and Steve Stanley voted in favor of Lewis DeWeese for Vice - Chairperson. Lewis DeWeese abstained. Motion carried.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the board minutes from February 10, February 15, February 25, and March 8, 2011.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Youth Garden Club Feed Fannin (3rd – 5th grade students) – use of Blue Ridge Elementary School classroom or media center every Tuesday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. from March 15 – May 31, 2011.

Approve the following field trip requests:

West Fannin Elementary School Third Grade – Ruby Falls in Chattanooga, TN, on April 8, 2011;

West Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA, on May 10 – 11, 2011;

Fannin County High School United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors – Federal Reserve Bank & State of Georgia Capitol in Atlanta, GA, on April 15, 2011;

Fannin County High School Students – College Success Investigators Workshop at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA, on April 15, 2011;

Fannin County Middle & High School 9/11 Chorus Group – Sound of Music Performance in Franklin, NC, on April 16, 2011; and

Fannin County High School Art Classes & National Art Honor Society – Georgia Renaissance Festival in Fairburn, GA, on April 27, 2011.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

West Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, March 14 – April 1, 2011;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of Country Meats Meat Sticks, March 28 – April 22, 2011;

Fannin County High School Skills USA – Sale of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, March 16 – May 25, 2011;

Fannin County High School Band – Chicken Dinner, April 9, 2011;

Fannin County High School FFA – Sale of Vidalia Onions, April 1 – 30, 2011; and

Fannin County High School Softball – Dairy Queen breakfast fundraiser, April 23, 2011.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2011. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in February for the month of December was \$240,981.09.

Public Comment:

Jenny Martin, friend of Steve Penley, presented the book Ronald Reagan and the American Ideal, written by Steve Penley with a forward by Newt Gingrich, to each board member and school media center.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Buddy Benefield Construction Company, Inc. as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Fannin County High School Cafeteria Expansion project at a rate of 8 ½ percent. This was the only bid received for the project. This project is to be paid out of SPLOST II funds. James W. Buckley & Associates will be the architect firm used for this project.

Moved, seconded, and carried to seek bids for the Fannin County High School Field House project to be paid out of SPLOST II, and, if needed, SPLOST III funds. Southern A & E, LLC will be the architect firm used for this project.

Moved, seconded, and carried to purchase a generator with SPLOST II funds to be installed at the bus garage. The cost of the generator will be less than \$25,000.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table until the next regular meeting board policy JCDAG – Bullying.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve revised board policy GARH – Leaves and Absences.

Moved, seconded, and carried to set the 2011 Fannin County High School Prom for Saturday, April 30, 2011, at North Georgia Technology College, and to set the graduation date for the 2010 – 2011 school year for Friday, May 27, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. in the football stadium. The rain date will be Saturday, May 28, 2011, in the Fannin High Football Stadium at 10:00 a.m. If necessary due to weather, the graduation ceremony will be moved to the new high school gym.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Option 2 of the 2011 – 2012 school calendar.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) New Board Member Orientation training for Sandra Mercier to be conducted June 15 – 16, 2011, in Savannah, GA.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the attached list of items as salvaged property. These items will be sold for scrap at a recycling center (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to allow Michael Gwatney, Director of Technology, to proceed with application for a Priority 2 E-Rate project to install wireless network access at the three elementary schools and the middle school. The vendor is Xirrus Wi-Fi at a rate of \$179,710.00. Once the E-Rate credit is applied Fannin will only be responsible for approximately 12 percent of this cost, and the remainder will be paid by E-Rate funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$4,481.00 from MCA Information Technology Solutions for a WatchGuard firewall to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$3,411.99 from CreekPointe, Inc. for a LANDesk Management Gateway appliance to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the quote of \$8,740.03 from Follett Software Company for media hardware for all five schools to be paid out of SPLOST II funds.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the resignations of Martha Breeden, Ann Helton, Brenda Jones, Connie McFarland, Vellanea Reed, and Paulette Warren effective May 31, 2011, and Brenda Payne effective July 1, 2011.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Donald McNutt as a substitute bus driver.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Willie B. Burke and Charles Hogsed as substitute custodians.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson extended an invitation from the Fannin County Middle School Leadership Team for board members to attend the spring dance they are hosting on Friday, April 1, 2011, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the middle school gymnasium.

Mr. Henson also extended an invitation from the Fannin County Middle School "Trout in the Classroom Program" for board members to attend their annual trout release at Tammen Park on Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Henson stated the five school board members in the Fannin County School System are in the spotlight the week of March 6th for the 2011 School Board Appreciation Week. Mr. Henson stated "Board members here truly represent their neighbors as the voice for public schools, both in this community and with their fellow elected representatives. This year, in particular, they are facing tremendous challenges because of the economy and funding increasing cutbacks that directly impact students, staff, and services. At the same time, they must think ahead as we plan for future needs, such as buildings, instructional programs, and personnel. Board decisions affect some 3,049 students, 472 employees, 223 substitutes, and five schools." The members are Terry Bramlett, a businessman with seven years of board experience; Bobby Bearden, a businessman with nine years of board experience; Lewis DeWeese, a businessman with 18 years of board experience; Sandra Mercier, a businesswoman serving her first year as a board member; and Steve Stanley, a businessman serving his first year as a board member.

Mr. Henson asked Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum & School Improvement, to give board members copies of the latest annual report. Mr. Henson stated a strategic planning session would be held in April to further discuss the report along with the budget. Mrs. Walton thanked Mary Ann Walker, District Technology Specialist, for her assistance in compiling the report.

Mr. Henson welcomed Sandra Mercier to the board.

Board Members' Comments:

Sandra Mercier stated her heart has always been with the Fannin County School System, and she appreciated the vote of confidence from each board member. Mrs. Mercier stated she was proud of the strides Fannin County School System has made, and it was an easy decision to say yes when she was asked to serve on the board.

Terry Bramlett stated he was appreciative of Sandra Mercier for her willingness to serve on the board and to share her knowledge and expertise. Mr. Bramlett thanked Candy Sisson, School Nutrition Director, for having a backup plan in case the high school cafeteria renovation was not completed in time for when school resumes in the fall. Mr. Bramlett thanked Benny Long, Transportation Director, for his willingness to search out opportunities and commended him for his research of scrap prices for the items presented as surplus. Mr. Bramlett thanked Mrs. Walton for the time she put into compiling the annual report. Mr. Bramlett complimented Michael Gwatney, Technology Director, for staying ahead of the curve on technology and for taking the time to seek out opportunities to save the school system money, such as the E-Rate grant. Mr. Bramlett stated he was appreciative of taxpayer support of SPLOST.

Steve Stanley stated he was a former student of Sandra Mercier, and he had a high level of respect for her. Mr. Stanley welcomed her to the board. Mr. Stanley thanked Bobby Bearden for visiting the schools with him, and he complimented the nutrition department on the outstanding lunches provided at each school.

Lewis DeWeese stated Mark Henson made a good talk about the job board members have done; however, he felt Mr. Henson and his leadership team is what makes board members and the school system great. Mr. DeWeese stated these employees were on the battleground daily, and he appreciated their treating the children with pride and precious consideration as they made decisions for the system. Mr. DeWeese thanked Mr. Henson for driving board members to the capitol earlier in the month.

Bobby Bearden welcomed Sandra Mercier to the board. Mr. Bearden stated Mrs. Mercier had a lot of expertise to share. Mr. Bearden stated he was thankful the board chose him as chairperson, and he hopes everyone will make sure he runs the board as he should. Mr. Bearden stated the board currently works as a family, and he hopes they can continue to do so. Mr. Bearden thanked everyone for their attendance.

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.