

November 14, 2013  
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; Terry Bramlett; and Lewis DeWeese. Bobby Bearden was absent due to the passing of his mother.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated due to time constraints and other commitments, the approval of minutes would be removed from the consent agenda and the minutes would be presented at the next regular meeting on that consent agenda.

By motion from Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the following items on the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Northeast Georgia – Use of East Fannin Elementary School Classroom on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from November 20, 2013 – January 29, 2014;

Girl Scout Troup #8147 – Use of Fannin County Middle School Art Room on Fridays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. from January 3 – January 31, 2014;

Good Samaritans of Fannin County – Use of Fannin County High School Kitchen and Cafeteria on Wednesday, November 27, from 9:00 a.m. to Thursday, November 28, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.;

USA Wrestling, Use of Fannin County High School Old Gymnasium on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from January 2 – 30, 2014.

Approve the following field trip request:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Kindergarten – Children’s Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, TN, on May 16, 2014;

Fannin County School System ALPHA Students – Camp Explore in Greeneville, TN, on May 2 – 4, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Georgia Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta, State of Georgia Capitol, and Turner Field in Atlanta, GA, on May 15 – 16, 2014;

Fannin County High School FFA – FFA Environmental Natural Resources Career Development Event Training at Heritage High School, in Ringgold, GA, on November 19, 2013;

Fannin County High School Audio/Video Technology Students – CNN Center, Georgia State University, and Georgia Public Broadcast Studios, in Atlanta, GA, on December 4, 2013; and

Fannin County High School Thespians – Georgia Thespians Conference, in Columbus, GA, on February 6 – 8, 2014.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

East Fannin Elementary PBIS – Valentine’s Day Photo Shoot – January 31, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School Band – Christmas Concert ticket presales – November 18 – December 15, 2013;

Fannin County High School Baseball – Sale of raffle tickets from Georgia Dugout Club – November 15 – December 3, 2013;

Fannin County High School Baseball/Softball – Sale of discount cards – November 15, 2013 – January 3, 2014;

Fannin County High School Band – Sale of Florida Citrus Fruit – November 18 – December 2, 2013;

Fannin County High School Band – Christmas Concert ticket presales – November 18 – December 15, 2013;

Fannin County High School Foreign Language Club – Sale of hot chocolate at Light up Blue Ridge – November 30, 2013;

Fannin County High School Baseball – Sale of tickets to hypnosis Comedy Show – December 1, 2013 – January 11, 2014;

Fannin County High School Band – Sale of tickets to the Blue Ridge Community Theater’s Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> production of “A Christmas Story” – December 5, 2013;

Fannin County High School Baseball – Sale of Domino’s Pizza Cards – December 6, 2013 – January 6, 2014;

Fannin County High School Foreign Language Club – Sale of refreshments, cookies, and donations to the movie “ELF” in Italian with English subtitles – December 7, 2013; and

Fannin County High School Band – Miss Rebel Pageant – March 15, 2014.

Jason Campbell voiced concerns with the girl’s softball team not having a dedicated field for their program. Mr. Campbell stated all other sports programs had state-of-the-art facilities with the exception of the softball team. Mr. Campbell asked the Board to consider providing the team with a field they can call their own. He added that he would like the Board to resolve this issue within the next 30 days without the matter having to go further. Sandra Mercier, Board Chair, stated she would like more information on this issue. Mark Henson stated he would speak to the high school administration.

Public comment:

None.

After public comment, a motion was made by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in October 2013 for the month of August was \$303,435.94.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated when the Board approved the budget on July 31, 2013, a motion was made to approve the budget for fiscal year 2014 based on a millage rate of 13.90 and to reduce the Board’s contribution from the full single premium on health and dental insurance to \$75.00 towards employees’ single insurance and \$21.94 towards employees’ single dental during open enrollment. Mr. Henson stated these calculations were based on projected rates and once the final rates came in the lowest single premium on health insurance as actually \$66.28 and the lowest single dental rate applicable to dental providers in our areas as \$23.88. A motion was made by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, for the Board to revise the amount the Board will contribute toward health and dental coverage to \$66.28 toward employees’ single health insurance and \$23.88 toward employees’ single dental insurance beginning with premium’s deducted from employee checks in December for effective coverage January 1, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the purchase of a 72-passenger school bus from Peach State Freightliner Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia for a purchase price of \$87,777.00 (\$77,220.00 to be paid for with State of Georgia bond bus funds and \$10,557.00 to be paid for with SPLOST funds). All members voted yes, motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current belief statements with Board members. Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to revise the belief statements as follows:

1. All students can learn, but they learn in different ways, at different rates, and with different learning styles.
2. All students deserve equal access to quality education.
3. Higher expectations result in higher achievement.
4. High school graduation is an essential key to lifelong success.
5. Parent and community involvement increase student achievement.
6. Education and learning are shared responsibilities and should take place in the home, at school, and in the community.
7. All students deserve the opportunity to learn, achieve success, and become productive citizens.
8. A safe and secure environment is essential for teaching and learning.
9. All schools should be accountable for improving student achievement.
10. Quality education requires quality staff, programs, facilities, equipment, and technology.
11. All policy, administrative, instructional and educational-support decisions should be based on student needs and what is best for students.
12. All students must be prepared for a knowledge-based, technologically rich, and culturally diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century.

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Rose Shinpaugh effective January 1, 2014; Melissa Long, contingent upon being hired by Gilmer County Board of Education; Emmie Allmon effective January 1, 2014; and James Creed Gilliam effective December 20, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to employ Brian Ledford as a 49% Planning & Evaluation Coordinator for the 2013 – 2014 school year pending verification of a criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to employ Heather Cobb as a School Nutrition Assistant Manager. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to employ Amy Garton as a WIA Coordinator for the 2013 – 2014 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson shared with Board members several items students had recently canned at the Blue Ridge Cannery. Applesauce, apple butter, and homemade dog food with personalized

labels. Mr. Henson stated students worked on the Family and Consumer Science standards that covered selecting, storing, preparing, and serving nutritious, safe, and appealing food. These standards included the selection, storage, and cooking techniques for meats, dairy, grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Mr. Henson stated he was proud of teachers and students for coming together and supporting the veterans of our community. Mr. Henson stated Robert Foster started the first Veterans' Day program, and it is exciting to see how the programs have evolved through the years.

Mr. Henson stated the Georgia Department of Education released a list of 2013 Reward and Alert Schools as part of the state's waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Mr. Henson stated East Fannin was a 2013 "Highest Progress" reward school. Mr. Henson stated a "High-Progress School" is a Title I school among the 10% of Title I schools in the State that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments. A school may not be classified as a High-Progress School if it has been identified as a Priority, Focus, or Alert School. Mr. Henson commended Ms. Sarah Finch, Principal of East Fannin Elementary School, and her staff for a job well done.

Mr. Henson presented Board members with Certificates of Training from Pioneer RESA for the successful completion of Review and Revision of System Goals and Priorities on October 8, 2013.

Mr. Henson presented a certificate from GSBA Risk Management Services presented to Fannin County School district Member for 10 years of Risk Management Fund services.

Mr. Henson stated the superintendent evaluation and board self-assessment would be ready for Board members before the December Board meeting.

#### Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett stated it was an honor to be a part of the Fannin County school system. Mr. Bramlett stated he was proud of the achievement of the students and proud of facility for the quality of instruction they delivered to students. Mr. Bramlett stated Fannin was lucky to have teachers with such high training and experience. Mr. Bramlett stated he was proud of the participation in the cannery and what a wonderful tool the cannery was to teach students about food. Mr. Bramlett stated he thought it was great to put an emphasis on recognizing Veterans.

Lewis DeWeese stated he wanted to add to Mr. Bramlett's comments that Fannin County was a beautiful, precious part of the country, and our people are special.

Steve Stanley said he was proud to be a part of the Fannin County school system. Mr. Stanley stated the system is the greatest there is. Mr. Stanley wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and we should all be thankful.

Sandra Mercier said kudos to East Fannin Elementary for their accomplishment. Mrs. Mercier stated it takes everybody working together to achieve that kind of success. Mrs. Mercier wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and said she appreciated all participants of the meeting.

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

---

Sandra Mercier, Chairperson

---

Mark Henson, Superintendent

slj