

October 10, 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; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Lewis DeWeese. All members present.

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 meeting minutes from September 12, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.; October 8, 2013, at 8:00 a.m.; and October 8, 2013, at noon.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Fannin County Band Boosters – Use of Fannin County High School on October 11, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to October 12, 2013 at 11:45 p.m.; and

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 November 1 – December 20, 2013.

Approve the following field trip request:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade – Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA, on October 23, 2013;

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fifth Grade – Zoo Atlanta, Cyclorama, Turner Field, State of Georgia Capitol in Atlanta, GA, on May 14 – 15, 2013;

West Fannin Elementary First Grade – Mayfield's Dairy Farms in Athens, TN, on November 4, 2013;

West Fannin Elementary School Third Grade – Zoo Atlanta in Atlanta, GA, on November 5, 2013;

Fannin County High School FFA – Livestock CDE Training in Covington, GA, on November 8 – 9, 2013;

Fannin County High School Students – Tour of University of Georgia in Athens, GA, on November 5 or 6, 2013; and

Fannin County High School Special Education Students – PBIS reward

trip to Town Center Mall in Kennesaw, GA, on November 22, 2013.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School – Sale of Krispie Kreme doughnuts – October 11, 2013 – April 30, 2014;

Blue Ridge Elementary School – Sale of snack foods – October 28 – November 1, 2013;

East Fannin Elementary School – Hat Day – November 22, 2013;

Fannin County Middle School Relay For Life Team – Sale of 4 x 6 photos taken at Fannin County Middle School Fall Dance – October 18, 2013;

Fannin County Middle School Relay for Life Team – Face painting at select home basketball games – November 15, 2013 – January 30, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of beef sticks – October 17 – November 22, 2013;

Fannin County Middle and High School Wrestling – Sponsorships to go on the back of wrestling t-shirts – November 1 – 12, 2013;

Fannin County High School HOSA – Sale of Gourmet Cookie Dough – October 14 – November 15, 2013;

Fannin County High School Special Education Students – Poor Man's Lunch – October 14 – November 22, 2013;

Fannin County High School FBLA – Sale of personalized picture Christmas ornaments – October 14 – December 13, 2013;

Fannin County High School Soccer – Sale of coupons for money off oil change – October 14 – December 20, 2013;

Fannin County High School Soccer – Sale of program ads – October 14, 2013 – January 20, 2014;

Fannin County High School Soccer – Sale of Krispy Kreme doughnuts – October 14 – December 20, 2013;

Fannin County High School FBLA – Movie night on school campus – October 14, 2013 – May 31, 2014;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – FCCLA members will send a letter for sponsorship – November 1, 2013 – May 25, 2014;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Flamingo fund raiser – November 1, 2013 – May 25, 2014;

Fannin County High School TSA – Make and sell personalized plastic items, such as key chains and cell phone covers, using the 3D printer and software – November 1, 2013 – May 30, 2014; and

Fannin County High School Tip-Off Club – All-star skills challenge – November 9, 2013.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, presented the Board with the following fundraiser request for Blue Ridge Elementary School PTO. This was presented as information only. No vote was necessary.

Blue Ridge Elementary School PTO – Fundraiser dinner and ornament sales – October 11, 2013 – May 31, 2014.

Public comment:

None.

After public comment, a motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in September 2013 for the month of July was \$327,398.75.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated Dr. Scott Ramsey, FCSS Athletic Director, reported the baseball dugout club had raised \$9,000.00 as of October 3, 2013, to help pay for the backstop replacement project at the baseball fields.

Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, gave a presentation to Board members on Georgia school system flexibility options. Ms. Panter explained the Board would need to make a decision by June 30, 2015, on the direction they would like for the system to take. Ms. Panter explained the options were Investing in Educational Excellence School System (IE2), Charter System, Status Quo School System, System of Charter Clusters, System of Charter Schools, and Strategic School Systems.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the 2013 tax digest was artificially inflated because the value of a piece of property was incorrectly listed at \$103,421,000 instead of \$103,421. Mr. Henson stated this error was brought to his attention by both the Fannin County Tax Commissioner and Tax Assessor's offices. Mr. Henson stated this error will result in the school

system collecting \$574,446 less in property taxes. Mr. Henson said he had spoken with Harben, Hartley & Hawkins, LLP, and they stated the Board had three options on how to handle the shortfall: 1) Keep the same budget and realize the unanticipated revenue shortfall; 2) Have the board approve a budget amendment and eliminate the \$574,446 the tax assessor's office said we would not collect; or 3) Some combination of the above two options.

Mr. Henson recommended the Board keep the budget already approved for FY14 and realize the unanticipated revenue shortfall since expenditures are already locked in place (teacher contracts have already been issued and signed) and to transfer committed funds to the general fund to cover the revenue shortfall of \$574,446. Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to keep the budget already approved for FY14 and realize the unanticipated revenue shortfall and to transfer committed funds to the general fund to cover the revenue shortfall of \$574,446. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the request for approval of maximum price for the new CTAE lab building and media center at \$2,222,146.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. Buddy Benefield Construction was approved as Construction Manager at Risk at a previous Board meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the request for approval of maximum price for the new maintenance building at \$591,953.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. Buddy Benefield Construction was approved as Construction Manager at Risk at a previous Board meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the purchase of 50 iPad's for East Fannin Elementary School for a total of \$27,900.00 to be paid out of Title I funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson shared the school council 2012 – 2013 annual reports with Board members for information purposes.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current vision statement with Board members. Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the following vision statement: "The Fannin County School System will be recognized as a world class school system that holds a vision of excellence for all students with successful progression at each level and a 100% graduation rate." All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current mission statement with Board members. Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the following mission statement: "Mission – Developing young futures... learning for tomorrow, today." All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current belief statements with Board members. Mrs. Walton asked members to review the belief statements and she would ask for their recommendations at the regular meeting in November.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, gave Board members an update on the AdvanceEd Standards for Quality School Systems tentative timeline.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Erin Colbert as a teacher for the 2013 – 2014 school year. All members voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve David Ware as a custodian. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Amy Denise Hawkins as a school nutrition manager pending verification of a criminal background check and completion of requisite paperwork. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Mary Lou Davis and Alexandra Whitener as substitute teachers. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Amy Garton as a substitute teacher pending completion of requisite paperwork. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Charles Hood, Thomas Mills, and Jeremiah Weeks as substitute school bus drivers.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Lisa Adams, Sadie Alsobrook, Melissa Ballew, Cathy DeMar, Alethia Hood, Sheryl Millholland, and Peggy Wilson as substitute school nutrition workers. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson presented Candy Sisson, School Nutrition Director, the 2013 Georgia Best Practice Award for excellence for promoting a healthy school environment. Mr. Henson stated this award was presented by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Southeast Regional Office. Mr. Henson stated the award was presented to West Fannin Elementary School for their work to encourage students to eat calcium-rich foods back in October 2012.

Mr. Henson shared with Board members the 2013 GHSWT writing test results for systems in Pioneer RESA. Mr. Henson stated 96% of Fannin students met or exceeded expectations, and Fannin was the highest ranking system out of the 14 systems in the Pioneer RESA region.

Mr. Henson told Board members he appreciated their support in moving to Pioneer RESA.

Mr. Henson complimented all central office staff for a job well done. Mr. Henson stated everyone in central office worked extremely hard, and their efforts made his job easier to perform and helped principals in running their schools more efficiently.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated he was glad to be here. Mr. Bearden stated he enjoyed the information presented earlier in the week at the strategic planning session. Mr. Bearden stated he liked having presenters come to Fannin County as opposed to traveling to the GSBA conference, as the information presented was much more specific to the needs of Fannin County.

Mr. Bearden stated he wished there was a way to assist the public library financially. Mr. Bearden asked Dr. Michael Gwatney, Director of Technology & Media Services, to help create an open line of communication with the school media specialists and the public library.

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone for being at the meeting. Mr. Bramlett commended Benny Long, Director of Transportation, for all he does to keep Fannin's children safe. Mr. Bramlett congratulated Ms. Sisson on her department's recent award. Mr. Bramlett thanked Dr. Gwatney for his forward thinking and planning. Mr. Bramlett also thanked central office staff for the critical role they play in making the school system work. Mr. Bramlett thanked all stakeholders for their input. Mr. Bramlett stated stakeholder involvement was a critical element of Fannin County School's success. Mr. Bramlett thanked the media for telling the school system's story and for their link between what is done in the schools and the public.

Lewis DeWeese stated he was in agreement with Mr. Bearden and Mr. Bramlett's statements, and he welcomed all visitors.

Steve Stanley commended the work students do in the 4-H program. Mr. Stanley stated a student had recently won a state competition through the 4-H program.

Lynn Doss, School Board Attorney, commended the Board for their foresight in designing the Fannin County High School athletic complex and performing arts center. Mrs. Doss stated the band would be hosting a band festival the upcoming weekend, and that 14 high schools and a college were planning to participate in the event.

Mrs. Mercier stated she also agreed with statements made by her fellow Board members. Mrs. Mercier commended Candy Sisson for the nutrition department's healthy bone initiative. Mrs. Mercier stated as a former teacher, the GHSWT writing test results made her very happy, and this was a cumulative effort from kindergarten to high school. Mrs. Mercier also thanked county office employees for a job well done.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, 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

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