

December 12, 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.

The meeting was called to order by Sandra Mercier, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the minutes from October 10, 2013; November 12, 2013, and November 14, 2013.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Fannin County Recreation Department – Use of Blue Ridge Elementary School PE Facility on Mondays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from January 2 – March 31, 2014; and

Fannin County School System ALPHA students – Use of Blue Ridge Elementary School PE Facility on January 17 – 18, 2014.

Approve the following field trip request:

Fannin County School System ALPHA students – ALPHA gathering night at Blue Ridge Elementary School in Blue Ridge, GA, on January 17-18, 2014; and

Fannin County High School Band – Atlanta Symphony Concert, aquarium, and perform for adjudication in Atlanta, GA, on April 3 – 5, 2014.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Music Class – Sale of video of White Christmas program – December 13, 2013 – January 31, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School PBIS – Camouflage Day – January 24, 2014;

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

West Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Sale of Krispy Kreme Donuts – February 14 – March 7, 2014; and

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of beef sticks – January 7 –  
February 7, 2014.

Public comment:

None.

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

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in November 2013 for the month of September was \$352,509.21.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Schedule 4 “Schedule of Approved Local Option Sales Tax Projects” for year ending June 30, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Fannin County School System homeless procedures as presented by Tara Cantrell, Fannin County School System Social Worker. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the purchase of technology equipment and services from Mike Collins & Associates (MCA) for a SAN expansion for a total of \$28,180.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the media center re-roof project at East Fannin Elementary School to be completed by Cox & Son Roofing, Inc. for a total of \$49,833.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the upcoming Advance Ed SACS/CASI external review team schedule with Board members.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, stated Board members needed two more 3-hour training sessions. Several options were discussed, and members were in agreement to do the next training session on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, before the work session at central office. The training will be conducted by a representative from Pioneer RESA.

The Board discussed the summary of their annual Self-Assessment Results for December 1, 2012, through November 30, 2013. A review of the assessment results indicated an overall satisfactory rating on all eight standards. Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, provided the Board with a compilation of the results.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to go in to executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to

interview applicants for the position of superintendent; (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(2)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to resume regular session. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Sandra Mercier, Chair, announced no action was taken while in executive session.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the executive session minutes from October 8, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Sandra Mercier, Chair, announced that while in executive session the Board completed the Superintendent's evaluation. Mrs. Mercier stated that Mr. Henson received the highest possible marks in all of the performance standards categories and exceeded expectations on all standards.

Bobby Bearden stated school boards would give their eye teeth to have a superintendent like ours. Mr. Bearden stated through Mr. Henson's leadership the Board did not have to bond any of the SPLOST III funds. Mr. Bearden stated Mr. Henson had done a splendid job as superintendent.

Terry Bramlett stated Mr. Henson's evaluation assessment results clearly showed he was doing a wonderful job. Mr. Bramlett stated Mr. Henson was very conscientious about the safety of students and continually made it a high priority. Mr. Bramlett stated Mr. Henson also did a great job keeping Board members informed of issues within the school system.

Lewis DeWeese stated Mr. Henson did a great job, and he appreciated his efforts of keeping kids first.

Steve Stanley stated Mr. Henson had a good line of communication with Board members, and he appreciated the superb job he does.

Sandra Mercier stated there were all kinds of leadership styles and stated Mr. Henson's choice of surrounding himself with the best people he can find shows self-confidence and courage.

Mark Henson stated he was humbled by the Board's comments, and he could not do his job as well without the central office staff. Mr. Henson stated Fannin was an old-fashioned school system where stakeholders still have input in the final decisions. Mr. Henson stated the Board was great to work for, and he enjoyed working for the children and citizens of Fannin County.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to appoint Lynn Doss as the local school board attorney for the 2014 calendar year. Sandra Mercier, Chair; Steve Stanley, Vice-Chair; Bobby Bearden, and Terry Bramlett voted yes. Lewis DeWeese voted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to accept the resignation of Angela Gail Helton effective October 31, 2013; Jan Lytle effective December 20, 2013; Joyce McAbee effective November 21, 2013; Jennifer Kniess effective May 29, 2014; Diane Lang effective December 20, 2013; and Jeannine Payne effective January 31, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden to transfer Leigh Wood from Assistant Finance and Payroll Bookkeeper to Payroll Bookkeeper effective February 1, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett; seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Stacy Russell, Alex Whitener, Ashley Herendon Smith, and Jill Dyer as teachers for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Stacy Russell and Ashley Herendon Smith are pending verification of a criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Darcie Pritchett as a school bookkeeper pending verification of a criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

#### Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson shared the upcoming elementary school White Christmas schedule with Board members, and he encouraged Board members to attend the programs.

Mr. Henson commended Betsy Hyde, Director of Student Services, for the results of the recent Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) of Fannin's review of the 2012 – 2013 school year. Mr. Henson stated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that states review data of each school system to evaluate the system's performance in meeting the requirements and purpose of the IDEA. Mr. Henson stated the state pulls data for nine indicators. The GaDOE has completed the review from the 2012 – 2013 school year and has made the determination of "Meets Requirements" for our district. Mr. Henson stated there are 20 possible points that the system can earn, and Fannin earned all 20 points with a 100% score. Mr. Henson stated this could not have been accomplished without the hard work of all Special Education staff and the district's administration.

Mr. Henson commended Jeannine Payne, Payroll Bookkeeper, for her years of service to Fannin County Schools. Mr. Henson stated Mrs. Payne would be retiring on January 31, 2014, and her presence at central office would be missed. Mr. Henson stated Mrs. Payne has a huge heart and always looked for ways to help employees with their payroll, insurance, and retirement needs.

Mr. Henson polled Board members for Teacher of the Year (TOTY) banquet dates. Board members were in agreement with the date of Thursday, January 23, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Henson thanked the Board for his evaluation. He stated it meant a lot to him to have the Board's support, and he looked forward to the upcoming year.

Mr. Henson reminded members about State Superintendent Barge's visit to Fannin County High School on Friday, December 13, 2013, and he encouraged Board members to be present.

#### Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated he appreciated everyone's prayers and support during his mother's passing. Mr. Bearden stated she was a fine lady who would be missed by many. Mr. Bearden thanked Tara Cantrell for her presentation on homeless students. Mr. Bearden thanked Mark Henson for being a tremendous Superintendent, and as well as his office staff for the wonderful job they also do.

Terry Bramlett commended Ms. Cantrell for the outstanding job she does for Fannin County's students. Mr. Bramlett also stated it amazed him that 414 of 2,968 students in Fannin County were considered homeless per the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition. Mr. Bramlett stated it was an honor to serve on the Board. Mr. Bramlett also stated he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Lewis DeWeese stated one of his favorite quotes was, "Wise men generally have wise counselors, and he must be a wise man himself who is capable of distinguishing one." Mr. DeWeese stated he commended Mr. Henson for the excellent job he did running the Fannin County School System. Mr. DeWeese also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Steve Stanley stated he had recently eaten in all five school cafeterias, and Candy Sisson and her staff were to be commended for a job well done. Mr. Stanley stated she does a fantastic job providing quality meals to Fannin County students.

Sandra Mercier stated she concurred with her fellow Board members. Mrs. Mercier stated this would be her last meeting as Chair, and she was humbled and honored to have been Chair for the past two years. Mrs. Mercier stated she commended Mark Henson and his staff for a job well done.

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

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Sandra Mercier, Chairperson

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Mark Henson, Superintendent