

April 9, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Steve Stanley, Chair.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to amend the agenda to add/modify the following agenda items: The “Future Accounting Pronouncements” was taken off the agenda. The agenda items: “Approve the CM at Risk Proposal for Blue Ridge Elementary School Computer Lab Building Project” and “Approve a resolution to Phase out Blue Ridge Elementary Old Cafeteria” were added. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.; April 7, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. Work Session; and the Strategic Planning Session/Local Board Training on April 7, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Milestones Learning Center – Use of Fannin County Middle School gym on Thursday, May 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Friday, May 15, from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and

Fannin County Recreation Baseball 10 and under team – Use of East Fannin Elementary School lower ball field on Monday through Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., April 10 – June 30, 2015.

Approve the following field trip requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Third Grade - Fernbank Science Center and Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, GA, on May 7, 2015;

West Fannin Elementary School First Grade – Mayfield’s Dairy Farms in Athens, TN, on May 11, 2015;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – State FFA Convention in Macon, GA, April 24, 2015; and

Fannin County High School ESE Class - Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cave Springs, GA, on April 21, 2015.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Cool Kids Grow Garden Club – Sale of painted garden rocks, clay insects, mushroom necklace charms, and magnets – May 8, 2015;

Fannin County Middle School Relay for Life Team – Sell luminary bags in honor of or in memory of cancer patients– April 10 – May 14, 2015;

Fannin County Middle School Cheerleaders – Sponsors from individuals and businesses – April 30 – May 15, 2015;

Fannin County Middle School Exploring Ag Class/Greenhouse – Sale of greenhouse plants – May 1 – 15, 2015;

Fannin County Middle School – Sale of Pizza, Soda, Candy, and Ice Cream "Family Fun Night" – May 7, 2015;

Fannin County High School FBLA – Sale of assorted candy – April 13 – 15, 2015;

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Request Donation from community for Competition at Nationals to be held in Washington, DC, April 15 – July 1, 2015; and

Fannin County High School FCCLA – Sale of bottle water – May 22, 2015.

Public comment:

None.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the financial report for February 28, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in March for the month of February was \$304,808.85.

Mr. Henson gave a copy of our Audit Report letter – Year Ending June 30, 2014 – to the Board. He explained that there were no findings and/or questioned costs.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to seek bids from area banks for the Fannin County Board of Education's checking accounts. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the request to secure bids for an adaptive outdoor classroom for Blue Ridge Elementary School. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the CM at Risk proposal for the Blue Ridge Elementary School Computer Lab Building Project by Buddy Benefield for a percentage fee of 7 1/2. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to revise the 2014-2015 school calendar in accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-168, which provides the option of students to attend 176 days for the 2014-2015 school year. Subsequently, the last school day for students in Fannin County schools will be May 22, 2015 (see attached resolution). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve a resolution supporting the Seamless Summer 2015 program (see attached resolution). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve a resolution to Phase out BRES Old Cafeteria. (see attached resolution). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to award a bid for lawn mowing to Gary Stanley for \$6,764.00 per month from April 15 – October 15, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to use the provided bid extension letter (attached) and approve the purchase of four (4) 72-passenger school buses from Peach State Freightliner Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia. The purchase price per bus is \$87,777.00 for a total price of \$351,108.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded Lewis DeWeese, to rescind the request approval for CTAE Equipment trade-in from the Board meeting on 3/12/2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to amend request approval for the CTAE Equipment trade-in. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve a low power FM radio station at Fannin County High School for the WXFC-LP FM from TPO Service LLC, Gainesville, FL for \$41,892.18 paid for by SPLOST. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of School Improvement & Instructional Services, discussed the fourth and final local board training sessions for May the 9th on “School System Goals and Responsibilities.”

Motion by Terry Bramlett, Seconded by Bobby Bearden , to go into 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 Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Steve Stanley, Chair, announced that no action was taken while in executive session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Mary Lou Prince effective May 29, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Rachel Renick effective at the end of school year 2014 – 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Aline Dockery effective May 29, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Rita Mathis effective May 29, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of John DeMar effective April 16, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Wes Jones effective at the end of school year 2014 – 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Josh Storey effective May 29, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Beulah Watkins effective May 29, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the transfer of Teresa Martin from Parent Liaison to Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the transfer of Shannon Cioffi from Paraprofessional to Parent Liaison effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the transfer of Amber Mitchell from Parent Liaison to Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the recommendation of Christi Taylor as a Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the recommendation of Christopher Thigpen as a Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the recommendation of Lindsey Waldroup as a Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the recommendation of Adam Turner as a Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the recommendation of Seajae Hartness as a School Psychologist effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the recommendation of Vicki A. Mills as a Fannin County 4-H Teacher effective 2015-2016 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the recommendation of James Hooper as Substitute Bus Drivers pending required training and CDL requirements. All members voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the recommendation of Beulah Watkins as substitute nutrition worker. All members voted yes, motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mark Henson stated this school year has been very successful in our SACS Accreditation and passage of a SPLOST resolution referendum to the tune of 81.26% support. This is the highest margin ever, and that says a lot about the public's trust in the Board and the faith they put forward to make sure the Board is a good steward of the taxpayer's money. Mr. Henson wanted to thank the citizens of Fannin County for realizing how important SPLOST is to the school system, and how it allows improvements and modifications that otherwise would not be possible. Mr. Henson stated the Chamber of Commerce believes that a minimum of 30% of SPLOST funds are paid by visitors to Fannin County. SPLOST collections allow us not only to keep property taxes low but allowed the Board to lower the millage rate this year. The 1-mil rollback saved county tax payers approximately 1.2 million dollars. Mr. Henson stated Ms. Cynthia Panter, Dr. Michael Gwatney, and Ms. Karen Walton, along with many stakeholders and employees in the school system, have put a great deal of hard work into the last eighteen months on the Charter System application, figuring out what was best for the schools. At the presentation last Wednesday during the state board meeting in Atlanta, we were told we were a quality school system. State Board member Mr. Kevin Boyd bragged on us and moved us to the consent agenda, and last Thursday we were approved to become a charter system effective July 1, 2015. Mr. Henson thanked the Board for all their time and support during the Charter System process and during SPLOST.

Board Members' Comments:

Steve Stanley expressed his support for the passage of House Bill 91.

Sandra Mercier stated it has been a really good year from the good audit, the adaptive playground equipment at Blue Ridge Elementary, and House Bill 91. Mrs. Mercier stated she is so pleased to learn more about House Bill 91. Mrs. Mercier worked along with Ms. Betsy Hyde as a teacher at Fannin County High School, and they had students denied their diploma because of one test score. For those students now to be able to go back for the last thirty years and offer them their diploma is truly amazing. Mrs. Mercier stated she is glad to be a part of this school system.

Lewis DeWeese welcomed everyone from the leadership committee to the meeting and invited them back. Mr. DeWeese shared a conversation with a lady he had spoken with about House Bill 91 and how excited she was about the chance she could get her diploma after all these years. Mr. DeWeese stated it was a blessing to work with people who care about the students and put the students first.

Terry Bramlett stated there are so many good things going on in Fannin County School System, and it is an honor to be a part of the team. He said the staff in the office does an extraordinary job. Mr. Bramlett stated he has been involved in education for many years and one of the most gratifying is the privilege and opportunity of working with disabled children and hats off to Ms. Hyde and Mrs. Miller for pursuing the adaptive classroom equipment for Blue Ridge Elementary School.

Bobby Bearden stated he agreed with the comments of Mr. Bramlett and Mrs. Mercier was pleased to see so many visitors in the audience and thanked everyone for attending.

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.

Steve Stanley, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent