

November 13, 2008
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Bobby Bearden, Chairperson; Garnett Webb; Junior Farmer; Terry Bramlett, Vice Chairperson, and Emily Dunn. All members present.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes from September 11, 2008 and from October 9 to November 11, 2008.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending September 2008. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in October for the month of August was \$328,579.96.

Public Comment:

Aaron Lewis, father of a fourteen year old student who is on the football team at Fannin County High School, voiced his concerns with the hazing incident that occurred earlier in the season and how it was handled by administration.

Angela Berrong, Director of School Improvement and Instructional Services, gave the board a presentation on standards based education.

Benny Long, Director of Transportation and Safety, gave the board a report of actions he is taking to address the incidents of drug and alcohol violations that have recently occurred with bus drivers. Most significantly is a change in the process for drug testing. In the past drug testing has always occurred in the morning. Mr. Long stated drug testing will now be performed both in the mornings and afternoons. An additional change will include random phone calls to at least one driver per day to verbally check for any drug or alcohol use on that day. Mr. Long introduced Bruce Wood, our contact with Teamwork Systems who is our third party drug administrator, to the Board in case they had questions for him on these changes.

Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, gave the board an update on the stadium project. Mr. Hubbard stated the track would be closed beginning December 1. Mr. Hubbard also discussed possible dates with the board for a ground breaking ceremony for the stadium. It was agreed the ground breaking would be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at noon.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following fund raiser requests:

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Yearbook Ads, November 14, 2008 –
January 30, 2009

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Yearbooks, February 2, 2009 – March 31, 2009

West Fannin Elementary School – Sale of Spring Pictures from Lifetouch, February 18, 2009

Fannin County High School Chorus – Silent Auction of Donated Items, November 12 – December 9, 2008

Fannin County High School Skills USA – Sale of Home Interior Candles, November 14 – December 12, 2008

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following field trip requests:

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Southern Tree Plantation in Blairsville, GA on December 11, 2008 (this field trip will be paid for by profits from a fund raiser)

Fannin County High School Football Team – Atlanta Falcons Game in Atlanta, GA on November 23, 2008 (this field trip will be paid for by the Quarterback Club)

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. for the purpose of improving the availability and the quality of services for children, age three to age five, and their families; to support children's optimal development and readiness for school entry; to address the unique strengths and needs of the local population, such as disabled, homeless, migrant, or non-English speaking families and to enhance linkages and relationships to reduce duplication of services.

Moved, seconded, and carried to request a maximum class size waiver for the 2008-2009 school year for the fifth grade classes at West Fannin Elementary School.

Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the Superintendent to establish maximum class sizes at the maximum limits allowed by law for certain subjects for grades 9 through 12.

Moved, seconded, and carried 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; (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6)).

Moved, seconded, and carried to resume regular session.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson, announced no action was taken while in executive session.

Moved, seconded, and carried to terminate Robert Harper.

Moved, seconded, and carried to employ Joyce McAbee as a high school teacher for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Moved, seconded, and carried to employ Phillip Green, Grady Rogers, and Bart Taylor as bus drivers.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following substitute school nutrition workers:

Karen Cox
Suzanne Hamilton
Phyllis Koennecke
Julie Locke
Stephanie C. O’Neal
Karen T. Reece
Diane Wheeler

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following substitute teachers:

Janna Pelfrey
Linda Weaver

Superintendent’s Comments:

Mr. Henson shared with the board changes in fees that had been made to the Performing Arts Center Facility Use Policy. Mr. Henson stated this was due to the increase we have received for electricity costs. Mr. Henson also stated this would only affect agreements entered into from November 14, 2008 forward.

Mr. Henson shared with the Board pictures of awards given at the “Big Voice for Children Awards Banquet.” Mr. Henson stated students in Melissa Terry’s art classes were selected to create these awards. Ms. Terry and her students were invited to attend the banquet and sit at the Coca-Cola table with the CEOs of Coke.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone who helped with the Veteran’s Day programs. He also stated that he appreciated the respect and honor students gave the veterans who attended the programs.

Mr. Henson commended school nutrition for all of the hard work they put into the Thanksgiving dinners.

Mr. Henson shared with the board an e-mail he had received from T. Carlton Allen, who is the State of Georgia Transportation Director. In this e-mail Mr. Allen commended Benny Long for the fine job he does as Director of Transportation and Safety for Fannin County Schools. Mr. Henson wanted to remind everyone that Fannin's school busses run approximately 750,000 miles a year.

Board Member Comments:

Emily Dunn stated she appreciated the Veteran's Day programs presented at the schools. Ms. Dunn also thanked Benny Long, Denver Foster, Sheila Loudermilk, and the bus drivers who attended the board meeting for the good work they do.

Terry Bramlett stated he echoed Ms. Dunn's comments. Mr. Bramlett stated he knew the bus driver who drove the route in his area rarely took a sick day because he did not want a substitute to have difficulty with the winding road. Mr. Bramlett also stated he was excited with the information Mrs. Berrong presented on curriculum maps. Mr. Bramlett stated he thought it was important for teachers of the same grade throughout the system to have the same map and know what each other was doing.

Junior Farmer thanked everyone for doing a good job handling all of the things the school system has gone through this past week.

Garnett Webb stated he had a lot of respect for bus drivers. Mr. Webb stated he had attended two of the Veteran's Day programs, and he was very pleased. Mr. Webb shared that he ate a Thanksgiving meal at the high school and he enjoyed it. Mr. Webb also said that being a school board member for the past four years has been a highlight of his life.

Bobby Bearden stated he was in agreement with all of the comments previously made by the other board members. Mr. Bearden also stated as board chairperson he had worked closely with the administrators over the past two years, and he could vouch for the fact that Benny Long was very safety conscious.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned subject to being called into special session by the chairman when deemed necessary.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent