

December 8, 2016
6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Bearden, Chair.

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

Approve the meeting minutes from December 6, 2016, 8:00 a.m.; and November 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

None.

After public comment, motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the financial report for the month of October 31, 2016.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in November for the month of October was \$460,556.44.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Budget Amendments for FY 2017 (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the Schedule 4 SPLOST Expenditures. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Assistant Superintendent, School Improvement and Curriculum, announced Chad Galloway, Board member-elect, did his new Board member orientation today with Justin Old from Pioneer RESA.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to appoint Lynn Doss as School Board Attorney. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, 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 Steve Stanley, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Bobby Bearden, Chair, announced no action was taken during executive session.

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

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the executive session minutes for June 9, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Grady Rogers effective December 21, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Courtney Simonds effective December 21, 2016. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Marcie McDonald as a teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Tiffany Hurd as assistant payroll & finance bookkeeper. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve John Travis Sinard as a custodian. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Terri Paulson as a substitute bus driver. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Grady Rogers as a substitute bus driver. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mark Henson, Superintendent, asked Robert Ensley, Director of Instructional Services (8-12) & Assessment, to share the CCRPI scores on Simbli with the Board (see attached).

Mr. Henson announced the Board got the exemplary School Board status on December 7, 2016. Mr. Henson reviewed the letter from GSBA regarding the Fannin County School District's 2016 Exemplary School Board Status. He thanked the Board for always working together, having the best interest of the students, and always working very hard. He said his good evaluation comes from the support of a good Board. Mr. Henson said he appreciates everything they have done for the school system this year. He respects them, and states they lead by example, and that's a good thing.

Mr. Henson spoke about Sandra Mercier's accomplishment during her 47 years of service to the Fannin County School System. He expressed how special she is to him and his family. She will be missed!

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated Mr. Henson will be a hard one to replace. He appreciates the friendship they have since they have worked together on the Board. Working together they have accomplished a lot of good things for the system. Mr. Bearden stated Mrs. Mercier will always be "Margaret" to him. He compared her to fine jewels and scriptures of a good lady being far above rubies. She will be missed by all.

Lewis DeWeese seconded what has been said about Sandra. He wanted to address Mr. Henson's retirement since he was absent at the last regular Board meeting. Mr. DeWeese stated Mr. Henson was a kind person and has won his respect, which he doesn't give very lightly. He truly feels he is a friend. Mr. DeWeese said he would love to know how many lives have been changed and how many kids have gone to college because of Mrs. Mercier's leadership and influence with the kids. He suspects it would be a great number. Mr. DeWeese said "God Bless you, and thank you for spending your life to help kids and to change their lives."

Terry Bramlett congratulated the principals at the schools for their outstanding scores and thanked them from the bottom of his heart for their excellent leadership. He told Mr. Henson his work is exemplary, and it's remarkable to ponder about how many lives he has changed and the excellence he has brought to the system. Mr. Bramlett stated he had the good fortune of working with Mrs. Mercier when she was Superintendent and now serving on the Board, and it has been a joy. Mr. Bramlett shared the story of his grandfather – his "hero" – moving by foot, ox, and wagon to move close enough to The University of Georgia to be able to attend college and later become a principal, teacher, and superintendent. Mr. Bramlett grew up in a family that valued education, and his dad was his hero along with Mrs. Mercier, who he considers one as well. Mrs. Mercier has brought sophistication and expertise to the Board that has been invaluable. Mrs. Mercier will certainly be missed.

Sandra Mercier stated it had been her privilege and humbling to be a part of Fannin County Board of Education and to be teacher in the school system. She said one of Mr. Henson's greatest assets was his ability to communicate his vision to the Board, the staff, and to the teachers, and in her opinion, that's what it's all about. "Developing young futures...learning for tomorrow, today."

Steve Stanley stated he had been on the Board for six years in January, and Mrs. Mercier has been with him since he first started. He said he wasn't sure what it was going to be like without her, but he was looking forward to working with Chad Galloway, Board member-elect; he feels he will do a wonderful job. He stated Mrs. Mercier has been a role model and carried herself with grace, dignity, and respect. The school system is so much better off with her being a part of it, and he loves her and thanks her for her service.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Sandra Mercier, 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.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

Mark Henson, Superintendent

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