

September 10, 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 present.

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

By motion from 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 September 8, 2015, 8:00 a.m.; August 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.; August 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m.; August 26, 2015, 5:30 p.m.; and August 26, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Approved members of the Gideons International request.

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fannin County Department of Public Health to provide a facility, if needed, should a possible health emergency occur. This MOU is effective from October 1, 2015, through October 1, 2016, and may be renewed on an annual basis if mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fannin County Department of Public Health to provide scoliosis screenings of public school children in the at-risk population, ages 10 – 15 years. The terms of this agreement shall be for the period of one year commencing on 10-1-15.

Approve the Fannin County School System homeless procedures as presented by Tara Cantrell, Fannin County School System Social Worker (see attached).

Public Comment:

None.

After public comment, motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the financial report for the month ending July 31, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in August for the month of July was \$448,758.96.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the GSBA Distinguished Board Application. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the purchase of one 72-passenger school bus from Peach State Freightliner, Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia. The

purchase price is \$87,777.00: \$77,220.00 to be paid by “Bonds for Buses” and \$10,557.00 to be paid for by SPLOST funds. The state department of education is allocating \$77,220.00 per bus. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion made by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to lay Board Policy DJED Bids and Quotations on the table until the next regularly scheduled board meeting pending approval. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Karen Walton, Director of School Improvement and Instructional Services, gave an overview of Local Board Training options for the upcoming year. The window for SY 2015-2016 school board member training opened on July 1, 2015. The Fannin County Board of Education selected four courses to be provided by Pioneer RESA. The courses are as follows: 1) Curriculum and Instructional Leadership for Boards of Education, 2) Board Roles and Responsibilities, 3) Planning for Boards of Education, and 4) Legal Issues & Ethics for BOE members. The trainings will be completed prior to the deadline of June 30, 2016.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of William (Tripp) Ritchie effective August 26, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Timothy Davenport effective July 1, 2015. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Cassie Callihan as a teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Paula Hyatt as a teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Kate George from 60% vision impaired teacher to 75% vision impaired teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Deborah Bennett as a Paraprofessional. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Jerry Mitchell for the transportation department. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Cindy Crowder for the nutrition department. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Erin “McKenzie” Owenby as County extension and AmeriCorps community Service Specialist pending criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve April Jones as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Shirley Sisson as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Rebekah Walden as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Shirley Williams as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, gave an update on school governance teams for 2015-2016 for information only (see attached).

Superintendent's Comments:

Mark Henson, Superintendent, spoke about the Teacher of the Year Banquet. This year the winner will be announced during the banquet and will not know in advance. This year it will be a true surprise to the winner. The date for the banquet has been set for September 22, 2015. Mr. Henson announced the nominees for the 2015-2016 teacher of the year: Scott Barnstead, Jill Lambert, Joan Jantti, Ashley Herndon, and Barbara King.

Mr. Henson asked Karen Walton, Director of School improvement & Instructional Services, to explain the REACH scholarship program. The program is for students that need financial support for college. September 30, 2015, is the state signing day. The five students will be identified that have received the scholarship, and their families will be there for the event. Each spring five more students going into the eighth grade will receive the REACH Scholarship as well. Mr. Henson stated this will give five kids the chance to go to college that would not have been financially able to go without the REACH scholarship. Mr. Henson is very excited about the program and said it was a wonderful thing for the students. He commended Ms. Walton for her hard work she has dedicated to the REACH scholarship program.

Mr. Mark Henson read a letter that was sent to Candice Sisson, Nutrition Director, from Ellen Steinberg, Food Safety Specialist with the Georgia Department of Education. As she was entering inspection scores for 2015, she noticed that all of the Fannin Schools have an impressive history of receiving perfect scores. It was apparent that Candice and her staff take food safety very seriously, and she wanted to thank her for their efforts. Ms. Steinberg extended her gratitude to the employees for doing such an outstanding job.

Board Members' Comments:

Steve Stanley stated as a Board member he liked to see things come together such as the CNC machine and the high school rebel radio station. Mr. Stanley shared a conversation he had earlier. Mr. Stanley was asked how far in debt the school system was and he was very pleased to answer the school system is debt free.

Sandra Mercier stated she was very pleased the Fannin County has become a place of opportunity for Education. Now having North Georgia University College and the REACH program is refreshing, but she is sad for the ones in the past that didn't have that opportunity.

Lewis DeWeese said it was a good choice for the Charter School System. He said it gives leeway for helping the students, and it was a very good choice.

Terry Bramlett thanked Benny Long, Director of Transportation, for his dedication, and he thanked Karen Walton, Director of School Improvement and Instructional Services, for pursuing the REACH program. Mr. Bramlett said as 9/11 approaches and school safety being a top concern, having resource officers at the schools helped him to sleep better. Mr. Bramlett thanked the resource offices and said he appreciated them.

Bobby Bearden stated he was glad everyone was there for the meeting.

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