The Fannin County Board of Education met in a special meeting with the following members present: Sandra Mercier, Chair; Steve Stanley, Vice Chair; Bobby Bearden; and Lewis DeWeese. Terry Bramlett was absent. All other members present. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated Mr. Bramlett was unable to attend due to a business meeting he was unable to rearrange.

Upon the recommendation of Mark Henson, Superintendent, a motion was made by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to set the final millage rate for 2013 at 13.90 mills. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Bobby Bearden stated he was pleased the Board was able to keep the millage the same for the past five years. Mr. Bearden stated it was society's responsibility to give a child an education.

Lewis DeWeese stated the Board needed to put their money where their hearts were, and that was with the children.

Steve Stanley stated education is not cheap, and Fannin's students deserve the very best.

Sandra Mercier stated the Board was trying to hold on to the integrity of the school system. Mrs. Mercier stated education was the cornerstone of all we are. She said Fannin County did have a high number of certified employees who were highly qualified, and it cost money to have highly qualified teachers; however, that was nothing for which to apologize. Mrs. Mercier stated she also wanted the very best for Fannin students.

Mr. Henson thanked the Board for their unanimous support in approving both the FY14 tentative budget and the 2013 tentative millage. He said the Board's action would have a direct influence on approximately 3,000 children in Fannin County.

Mr. Henson stated raising the millage was his decision, and he would take the responsibility for it.

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

slj