

January 9, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

Sandra Mercier, Chair, relinquished the Chair to Mark Henson, Superintendent, for reorganization of the Board.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, called for nominations for Chair for the 2014 calendar year.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to nominate Steve Stanley as Chair for the 2014 calendar year. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, and Sandra Mercier voted in favor of Steve Stanley as Chair. Steve Stanley abstained. Motion carried.

Mark Henson, Superintendent, turned the meeting over to the newly elected 2014 Chair, Steve Stanley.

Steve Stanley, Chair, called for nominations for Vice-Chair for the 2014 calendar year.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to nominate Sandra Mercier as Vice-Chair for the 2014 calendar year. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, and Steve Stanley voted in favor of Sandra Mercier as Vice-Chair. Sandra Mercier abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Stanley announced that Sandra Mercier would be the Vice-Chair for the 2014 calendar year.

Upon the recommendation of Mark Henson, Superintendent, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to set the regular monthly Board of Education meetings for the 2014 calendar year on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., and the Board's work sessions for 8:00 a.m. on the Tuesday preceding the regular monthly meeting. Both meetings are to be held at the Board of Education office. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, 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 Sandra Mercier, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to resume regular session. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the executive session minutes from December 12, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the resignation of Jennifer Kniess effective December 31, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve James Pavao as a teacher for the 2013 – 2014 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Christine Carper Hinman as a school psychologist for the 2013 – 2014 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Sheena Rymer as an Assistant Payroll and Finance Bookkeeper. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Paula Hyatt as a paraprofessional. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Alyssa Parks as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2013, and December 12, 2013.

Approve the following facility use requests:

USA Wrestling – Use of Fannin County High School Old Gymnasium on Mondays – Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from February 3 – 27, 2014.

Approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Fourth Grade – Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA, on May 9, 2014.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Fannin County School System ALPHA Students – Raffle chance on a Valentine's basket – January 24 – February 14, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School FFA – Sale of strawberries – January 13 – February 13, 2014;

Fannin County Middle School Basketball – Basketball tournament – January 21 – 25, 2014;

Fannin County High School FFA – Sale of Meat Sticks – January 13 – February 28, 2014;

Fannin County High School Boys Soccer – Sponsors from individuals and businesses to kick 100 soccer balls in the goal – January 20 – February 21, 2014; and

Fannin County High School FBLA – Sale of stuffed animals – January 27 – February 14, 2014.

Public Comment:

None.

After public comment, motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in December for the month of October was \$323,653.27.

Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, gave Board members an update on construction projects. Mr. Hubbard stated half of the footers are complete, the electrical ground rough is complete, and half of the slab is to be poured on Monday on the new maintenance facility. Mr. Hubbard also stated the interior footer excavation is complete, as well as the rough-ins of the plumbing and electrical, and that gravel is to be poured on Monday or Tuesday at the new CTAE wing.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the upcoming Advance Ed SACS/CASI timeline with Board members.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, stated Board members needed two more 3-hour training sessions. Several options were discussed, and members were in agreement to do the next training session on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, after the work session at central office. The training will be conducted by a representative from Pioneer RESA.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson congratulated the Board for obtaining the 2013 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Quality Board Recognition. Mr. Henson stated the new GSBA Board Recognition Program began its implementation on July 1, 2012. Mr. Henson stated the GSBA Board recognition program is a three-year, three-tiered program beginning with the Quality Board status. Mr. Henson stated the Board has achieved the first level of recognition, the Quality Board status.

Mr. Henson shared with Board members his 2014 system goals:

- To narrow the achievement gap and improve the graduation rate by creating a high performance learning culture in all schools;
- To increase rigor and academic achievement in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies;
- To ensure quality personnel in all positions;
- To ensure fiscal responsibility in order to maintain safe and healthy learning environments which support academic programs, resources, and services; and
- To promote parental involvement.

Mr. Henson commended all school system employees for their part in ensuring inclement weather days are handled in the most efficient manner possible.

Mr. Henson stated the City of McCaysville was under a boil water advisory, and this could potentially determine if school would be held on Friday.

Mr. Henson thanked Sandra Mercier for being the Board Chair for the past two years. Mr. Henson stated Mrs. Mercier had been excellent to work with.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated it was great to be here. Mr. Bearden congratulated Steve Stanley for being nominated as Board Chair. Mr. Bearden thanked Sandra Mercier for her two years of service as Board Chair.

Terry Bramlett stated it was an honor to serve on the Board. Mr. Bramlett thanked Sandra Mercier for her two years of service and for her willingness to continue to serve as Vice – Chair. Mr. Bramlett stated Mrs. Mercier's knowledge would be a great asset for SACS.

Lewis DeWeese stated he was in agreement with his fellow Board member's comments. Mr. DeWeese stated he continues to be amazed by the many hats school system personnel wear.

Sandra Mercier congratulated Steve Stanley for his appointment as Board Chair. Mrs. Mercier stated she appreciated the opportunity to service as Board Chair for two years and the opportunity to continue to serve as Vice Board Chair the upcoming year. Mrs. Mercier stated she would continue to do all that she could to assist with the SACS process. Mrs. Mercier stated she felt with Karen Walton's direction the system would do well on their SACS accreditation.

Steve Stanley stated it was nice to see all staff members step up anytime the school system had an issue, such as inclement weather.

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

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