

February 13, 2014
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 January 9, 2014.

Approve the following facility use requests:

Ridge Community Church – Use of Blue Ridge Elementary School PE Facility on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from February 19 – April 16, 2014.

Approve the following field trip requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School Second Grade – Ink Children’s Museum in Gainesville, GA, on March 13, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School Second Grade – Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA, on March 14, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN, on March 21, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Zoo Atlanta in Atlanta, GA, on April 21, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School Third Grade – Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA, on May 8, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School Kindergarten – Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN, on March 27, 2014;

Fannin County High School Chorus – Lee University in Cleveland, TN, on February 7 – 9, 2014; and

Fannin County High School Students – University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, GA, on February 21 and 28, 2014.

Approve the following fundraiser requests:

Blue Ridge Elementary School – Time for Reading fundraiser – February 24 – March 11, 2014;

East Fannin Elementary School Fifth Grade – Sale of Waffle House coupon books – March 1 – May 23, 2014;

West Fannin Elementary School Media Center – Scholastic Book Fair – March 3 – 7, 2014;

Fannin County High School Baseball – Sale of spirit wear – February 14 – 21, 2014;

Fannin County High School Future Educators Association (FEA) – Sale of Krispy Kreme doughnuts – February 14 – 25, 2014; and

Fannin County High School Boys & Girls Soccer – 10% of sales at Zaxby's and Dairy Queen one night each – March 1 – 31, 2014.

Public Comment:

None.

After public comment, motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2013. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Henson stated the SPLOST check received in January for the month of November was \$345,598.66.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the FY15 budget calendar (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Art Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent, gave Board members an update on construction projects. Mr. Hubbard stated the weather in January impeded work significantly. Mr. Hubbard stated the last half of the maintenance facility slab was to be poured next week, and all of the structural steel for the maintenance facility, as well as the new CTAE wing, was on site. Mr. Hubbard stated the structural steel would soon be installed at both sites, and the anticipated completion is approximately three weeks.

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

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current Board Code of Ethics Policy BH and the Board Member Conflict of Interest Policy BHA with the Board.

Mrs. Walton stated the purpose of this review was to ensure the Board is in compliance with the mandate issued by the Georgia Department of Education regarding local board training.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve the purchase of two 48-passenger school buses from Peach State Freightliner Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia for a purchase price of \$205,434.00 (\$102,717.00 per bus) to be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the purchase of two iMac computers and 63 iPad 2s from Apple, Inc. to be paid out of Title IV-B RLLIS for Fannin County High School in the amount of \$31,410.00. All members voted yes, motion carried. Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, explained that this requisition was mistakenly ordered prior to acquiring board approval per the Fannin County School System board policy DJED, Bids and Quotations, on spending approval guidelines. Because the requisition was for more than \$25,000.00 it should have been approved by the Board before the order was placed. Payment has been withheld until Board approval was acquired in an effort to correct this error. In addition, a new system of checks and balances has been put in place during the requisition/purchase order process to prevent this type of mistake in the future.

Cynthia Panter, Associate Superintendent, discussed the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) Distinguished Board requirements. Ms. Panter explained that Board members would need three additional hours of board training and may need to have a committee perform a Board self assessment. After discussion it was decided arrangements would be made for the Board to attend a charter school system workshop, and Ms. Panter would work on pulling together a committee to perform the Board self assessment.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Gwen Scarth effective May 30, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Debra L. Greene effective January 23, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Martha Bryson effective May 30, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Martha Newman effective at the end of school year 2013 – 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Walter R. Mauney effective May 29, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Sandra Mercier, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to accept the resignation of Jennifer King effective June 1, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Jill E. Key effective May 29, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to accept the resignation of Tommy Bailey from full-time employment effective January 31, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Tommy Bailey from part-time employment effective February 4, 2014. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Sandra Mercier, to approve Joshua Storey as a teacher for the 2013 – 2014 school year pending verification of a criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Henson stated he hates winter. Mr. Henson stated 10 days have already been lost in school year 2013 – 2014 due to water issues and inclement weather. He said the testing window is set by the state and school systems are unable to waive makeup days. He also stated days are built in the calendar each year to pull back in as makeup days. Mr. Henson said Saturday school had been tried in previous years, and attendance was horrible. He stated adding one hour to the end of each day had been tried, and it was not effective. Mr. Henson stated the goal was to have quality instruction, and the most effective way to do this is to pull back make up days from the school calendar, which had already been identified as makeup days, if needed.

On a positive note, Mr. Henson stated he liked listening to Benny Long on the radio in the morning on snow days.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden thanked Mark Henson and those who have to get up so early to check roads. Mr. Bearden stated the first goal was to keep the children safe.

Terry Bramlett thanked Mark Henson and Benny Long for the job they do. Mr. Bramlett recognized it was difficult pulling days back in, but he was also in agreement it was the best approach in making up time missed.

Lewis DeWeese stated he continued to be impressed with Mr. Henson's leadership and decision making in deciding whether to have school or not.

Sandra Mercier stated she appreciated everyone's diligence and perseverance. Mrs. Mercier stated she trusted Mark Henson and his team as they made decisions pertaining to inclement weather.

Steve Stanley stated you can't go wrong if you put children first.

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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