

February 14, 2019
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Lewis DeWeese, Chair; Chad Galloway, Vice-Chair; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Mike Cole. All members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Lewis DeWeese, Chair.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from January 10, 2019, and January 24, 2019.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley introduced Jane Kimzey and John Sugg from Feed Fannin. Ms. Kimzey and Mr. Sugg gave an update on Feed Fannin.

Assistant Superintendent Benny Long and School Resource Officer (SRO) Lt. Darvin Couch presented a certificate to the Board in recognition of efforts to promote safe schools and acknowledge that the School Safety Plan complies with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 20-2-1185.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde gave a review of recent activities of School Governance Teams. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the transportation requests from Fannin Mountain Education Charter (MEC) High School and the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD). The MEC will use a bus on May 25, 2019, to transport graduates and their guests to the graduation ceremony in Dahlonega, Georgia, and on February 28, 2019, to transport students to Jasper, Georgia. The FCRD will use a bus on February 18 and 19, 2019, while Fannin County School students are on holiday. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

West Fannin Elementary School principal Lucas Roof gave the School Happenings update.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Rhonda Mathews presented Board members with geraniums in recognition of Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett to approve the purchase of a Career, Technology, and Agriculture Education (CTAE) Department livestock trailer. The trailer will be purchased from Woody Folsom Automotive, Inc. for \$27,518.00 with Construction-Related Equipment Grant funds approved by the Georgia Department of Education. **(See attached.)**

Director of Facilities and Maintenance Danny Shinpaugh gave a construction update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the mobile unit at East Fannin Elementary School as salvage. This mobile unit is Item 38 on the Capital Asset Report and has serial numbers ADI96GA3863A and ADI96GA3863B. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve school quarterly financial reports for the period ending December 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the district financial report for December 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve FY19 Budget Amendment #5. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in January for December was \$515,074.42.

Director of Finance Susan Holloway presented the results of a performance audit on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for the year ending June 30, 2019. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the purchase of four 72-passenger school buses from Peach State Freightliner, Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia for the price of \$87,777.00 per bus for a total of \$351,108.00. This purchase will be paid from SPLOST funds. The buses will be delivered after July 1, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to rescind the past approval of the winning bid of \$25.00 made by Tim Messer for Lot 2 of Fannin County Middle School surplus property – (4) 4.4' high x 9.5' long double-sided shelving. Tim Messer was the sole bidder. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Lot 2 of Fannin County Middle School surplus property – (4) 4.4' high x 9.5' long double-sided shelving as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve relinquishing any remaining interest in property at Mount Hermon Baptist Church in the 8th District and 1st Section and part of land lot No. 44 of Fannin County. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon shared an update on the upcoming accreditation visit.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on local board training dates.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, 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 Bobby Bearden, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Lewis DeWeese, Chair, announced no action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on January 8, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to accept the resignation of Pamela Lapham effective June 28, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignations of Jessica Ramirez and Sarah Rice effective May 31, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Deborah Decubellis as a paraprofessional pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve William “Billy” Standridge for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the transfer of Sarah Ballew Welch to an administrator effective June 1, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Dana Imler as a substitute teacher pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Sharyl Biscotti as a substitute for the Nutrition Department pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent’s Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney recognized Leadership Fannin class members and the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce Chair Frankie Rigdon. He thanked the Board, directors, principals, and Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley for participation in the Board Retreat held on January 24, 2019. The Superintendent offered congratulations to all the participants in the District Spelling Bee. He thanked all participants in the “ELEOT Sweep” conducted on February 6, 2019, and he commended Sarah Rigdon for organizing it.

Superintendent Gwatney acknowledged the volunteers from Feed Fannin for their efforts to improve the community. He congratulated Benny Long and Darvin Couch for their work on school safety and appreciated Lucas Roof, Danny Shinpaugh, and Susan Holloway for great presentations. The Finance Department and others who work with SPLOST funds were commended for a great SPLOST audit.

Dr. Gwatney reminded all that the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly “Business After Hours” event at the Fannin County Agriculture and Environmental Science Facility on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Gwatney congratulated Sarah Welch on her upcoming promotion, and he thanked all of those who spent Valentine’s Day at the Board meeting; he and his wife, Manda, gave everyone present a chocolate bar.

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett thanked Sarah Rigdon for work to facilitate the upcoming accreditation visit. He stated that she is doing a remarkable job, and it is a great comfort to have her overseeing the program. Mr. Bramlett commended Erik Cioffi, Benny Long, and Darvin Couch for their work on school safety over the past week. He stated that their actions have been efficient, effective, and timely.

Chad Galloway thanked those present and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Bobby Bearden appreciated Feed Fannin and stated that their organization is one of the nicest things the county has. He stated that it is a pleasure to be on the Board and support Feed Fannin. Mr. Bearden commended those who have worked on school safety and Lucas Roof for his presentation. Mr. Bearden encouraged voters to vote for SPLOST and thanked Dr. Michael Gwatney for his video presentation prior to the meeting to help Board members prepare. He said ditto to Dr. Gwatney's prior comments, appreciated those that came to the meeting, and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Mike Cole thanked Feed Fannin and the FFA for educating students. He brought attention to the "calling" to be a SRO and stated that it is not just a job for these individuals. They love and care for students. Mr. Cole stated that he has received several calls from constituents and one was to brag on Officer Jim Burrell for the wonderful job he is doing. He thanked all those for coming out to the meeting and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Lewis DeWeese stated that the Board Retreat impressed him. He noted that the children guiding Board members were a delight, and he was impressed by the courage of the children and loved their beautiful smiles. He believes their confidence is a sign that they know they are loved, and he thinks educators should be paid two to three times more. He was honored to have World War II Veteran Mr. Robert Brown lead the Pledge of Allegiance and was impressed by Susan Holloway and her Finance Team. He thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

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.

Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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