

June 10, 2021
6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chad Galloway, Chair.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from May 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., May 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.; May 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., and May 25, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recognized the following:

1. The Fannin County School System as the recipient of an award from the Georgia Education Workers' Compensation Trust; and
2. The Fannin County School System as a recipient of the Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting award from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed information from recent School Governance Team (SGT) meetings.

Fannin County High School (FCHS) Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey presented school happenings. Introduced were student scholars with outstanding extracurricular accomplishments: James Mercer, Thomas Mercer, Micah O'Neal, Lainey Panter, and Evie Webb.

Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared a district health update.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the district financial report for April 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for April 2021 was \$736,753.94.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve a Spending Resolution for July 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve new Board Policy GBIA – Teacher Evaluation Appeals Status. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve to table new Board Policy GARHB – Paid Parental Leave. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve to table amendment to Board Policy IDE(3)-Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve as salvage a Salvajor disposal belonging to School Nutrition. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve salvaging technology equipment. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to declare technology equipment as surplus. Items listed will be offered via online auction at GovDeals.com. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to go into 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 Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for May 13, 2021 and May 21, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve an additional year for a 3-year contract for Superintendent Michael Gwatney that will begin July 1, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of David Davenport effective June 1, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of David Padgett and April Shinpaugh effective June 8, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Dillon Doster effective June 18, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the following as summer custodial workers (5-28-2021 through 7-23-2021). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Dawson Acuff
Gabe Buchanan

Dakota Harris
Hayden Danner

Hayden Rose
Andrew Waldrep

Cole Pittman

Austin Smith

Renee LaHue

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Elijah Gibbs as summer custodial worker (5-28-2021 through 7-23-2021). Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Bobby Bearden abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Sheila Louise Fowler, Alexa Kieffer, and Sarah Major as teachers effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Nancy Custer, Stephanie Fink, Lisa Jarrett, Michele Jones, and Kelsey Patterson as paraprofessionals effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Robin Stephens as parent liaison effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Angela Dickey as bookkeeper effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Melinda Cox as secretary effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Christina Zell as a counselor effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Susan Wynn and the finance department for receiving the Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting award for two years in a row. He thanked Darren Danner, Robert Ensley, and Susan Wynn for their work to improving worker safety. Dr. Gwatney thanked Dr. Ramsey for presenting and stated that it is a blessing to see a future so bright for our schools. He thanked the Boys' & Girls' Club for speaking during public comment. Dr. Gwatney stated that we have the finest students, faculty, staff, and community that makes one want to grow including himself. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent and the additional year on his contract. He thanked everyone who had a part in making this very unusual school year great for our students. He stated that we are thankful for improved COVID data and are optimistic to provide as normal of a school year as possible next year – more information to come. He congratulated the Class of 2021 and thanked all involved – parents, faculty, staff, and kids.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated that he is glad to be back at the BOE for the meeting. Lainey Painter – although she is small in size, she is large in accomplishment as the state golf champion. He stated that he was proud of all five students that were present tonight and all of our students and their accomplishments. Mr. Bearden thanked all presenters. He stated that we have the best school in Georgia. He thanked Ms. Rigdon for a great job on the video, and he thanked all for being present.

Lewis DeWeese stated that “Kids First” radiated through the meeting tonight. It is awesome to come to a Board meeting and there is no strife; it is people loving and caring about kids. He stated that we have a superb and wonderful school system and he is proud to be a part of it.

Mike Cole expressed his excitement for Dr. Ramsey and Mr. Young as they begin as principals. He discussed family, student achievement, and the care that our students, faculty and staff share with one another. He relayed a story about the cheerleaders taking excellent care of his daughter during camp. He stated that he loves this place. He is excited about the new property and the opportunity to expand and be even better. He believes that great things are coming.

Terry Bramlett stated that we will tolerate excellence, but we seek perfection. The high school gradation data is impressive and he is so very proud of each person that has been a part of that. He thanked Mr. Roof for keeping us informed and healthy so that our students were allowed to attend school this past year. He stated that tonight’s successes are due to our schools being open this past year and he thanked all for stepping up to the plate to make this possible for our students.

Chad Galloway thanked all for coming and watching the Board meeting. He stated that these are the people with our students every day and that they are appreciated. He thanked tonight’s presenters and welcomed back Betsy Hyde. He thanked Mr. Roof for his respect and professionalism during the pandemic. He thanked Dr. Gwatney for another year and stated that it was an honor to give him an additional year on his contract.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Chad Galloway, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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