

February 13, 2020
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 called to order by Chad Galloway, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney made special recognitions for the following:

1. West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) teacher Katy Roberson and WFES School Governance Team (SGT) member Jocelyn Miller for having research published
2. Fannin County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Robert Graham, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Child Advocate Rebecca Huffman, and Training Officer Ryan McDaris for providing “Stop the Bleed” kits and training to bus drivers, as well as other school employees.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) request to use three school buses for the 2020 Summer Camp June 1, 2020 through July 24, 2020 (excluding the week of July 4, 2020). Fannin County Board of Commissioners and FCRD will provide insurance for the bus drivers and children during this time frame, along with maintaining and providing fuel for the buses while being used by the FCRD. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed information from recent SGT meetings. **(See attached.)**

East Fannin Elementary School (EFES) Principal Matt Price presented on EFES happenings.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Fannin County High School 2019-2020 prom and graduation dates of April 4, 2020, and May 22, 2020, respectively. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the recommendation of calendar option 2 for school year 2020-2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the 2000 John Deere 2653A Reel mower (product ID # TC2653D081269) as surplus to be sold at auction. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve pursuing a Construction Manager at Risk for a Transportation Facility and a Staff Development/Instructional Support Facility. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley and Development Authority Executive Director Christie Gribble shared an update from the 2020 U. S. Census.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the purchase of seven View Sonic ViewBoard Interactive Flat Panels with onboard computers for Blue Ridge Elementary School. These will be purchased from CDW-G for \$39,555.00 with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the salvaging of technology hardware including: one fixed asset, a Model 1375 fold and seal machine originally purchased for \$7200 for the Fannin County Board of Education (Inventory # 0100383), as well as numerous non-fixed assets listed on the attached pages for each of the schools. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve quarterly financial reports from schools. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district's financial report for December 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for December 2019 was \$574,092.02.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the FY 2021 Budget Calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

POLICY REVISIONS

(Vote #1) Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve 28 of the existing Board policies with revision that were tabled at the January 7, 2020, meeting that remain in the same tabled form with no further changes: BCBF: Rules of Order; DG: Depository of Funds; DK: Student Activities Funds Management; EDDA: Special Use of School Buses; EEE: Wellness Program; GAAA: Equal Opportunity Employment; GAEB: Harassment; GANA: Infectious Diseases; GBRIG: Federal Family and Medical Leave Act; IDBA: Sex Education; IDDD: Gifted Student Programs; IDE(3): Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12; IDFA: Gender Equity in Sports; IDFC: Community Coaches; IFBC: Media Programs; IFBG: Internet Acceptable Use; IHF: Graduation Requirements; JAA: Equal Educational Opportunities; JBC: School Admissions; JBC(1): Homeless Students; JBC(4): Awarding Units and Transferring Credit; JBCA: Resident Students; JBCB: Nonresident Students; JCABB: Student Drug Testing; JCAC: Harassment; JCDA: Student Code of Conduct; JGCC: Infectious Diseases; and JGF: Student Safety. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #2) Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve four existing Board policies tabled on January 7, 2020, that have received additional revisions as a result of

the tabling and feedback process: DFK: Gifts and Bequests; GARH: Employee Leaves and Absences; GBC: Professional Personnel Recruitment, and GBRC: Professional Personnel Work Loads. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #3) Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve four new policies for adoption that were tabled on January 9, 2020: BCB: Board Meeting Agendas; GAD: Professional Development; IBB: Charter Schools; and JBCCA(2): Unsafe School Choice Option. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #4) Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve rescinding the following nine policies that were tabled on January 9, 2020: BDG: Administration in Policy Absence; CMA: Administrative Rules; DCC: Budget Preparation Procedures; DIA: Accounting System; IHF(5): Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2002-03 through 2007-08; IHF(6): Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2008-09 and thereafter; JBCCD: Transfer and Withdrawals; JCDAC: Student Drug Use; and JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #5) Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve two existing Board policies to retain with revision that were originally presented at the January 9 2020, meeting to consider rescinding. However, following feedback and consultation with our GSBA representative, those two policies are now presented to retain with revisions: JKB: Solicitations by Students and LEBA: Parental Involvement in Education. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #6) Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve to table for review two existing Board policies: EDDB: Walkers and Riders and LDAJA: Interrogations and Investigations. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Instructional Services & Policy Sarah Welch also shared the 42 remaining previously adopted Board policies that required no change or action as a result of the comprehensive policy review process for informational purposes and to ensure communication with all stakeholders. The unchanged policies are as follows: AFC: Emergency Closings; BBA: Board Officers; BCAC: Special Board Meetings; BD: Policy Development; BH: Board Code of Ethics; BHA: Board Member Conflict of Interest; BHB: Nepotism; DCK: Level of Budgetary Control; DCL: Fund Balance; DFC: Federal Funds; DIB: Financial Reports; DIE: Fraud Prevention; DJCB: Salary Deductions; DJEAC: Purchasing or Credit Card Use; DJED: Bids and Quotations; EDC: Transportation Safety; GAE: Complaints and Grievances; GAK(1): Criminal Background Check; GAMA: Drug-Free Workplace; GAMB: Possession of Weapons by Employees; GAN: Employee Tobacco Use; GCRA(1): Drug Screening of Bus Drivers; IDDF: Special Education Programs; IFCB: Field Trips and Excursions; IFCD: School Volunteers; IHE: Promotion and Retention; IKD: School Ceremonies and Observances; JB: Student Attendance; JCDAE: Weapons; JCDAG: Bullying; JCEB: Student Hearing Procedure; JDA: Corporal Punishment; JGC: Student Health Services; JGCD: Medication; JGF(2): Seclusion or Restraint of Students; JGFGB: Concussion Management; JGI: Child Abuse or Neglect; JGJA: Suicide Prevention; JKA: Solicitations of Students; JR: Student Records; JRA: Student Data Privacy Complaints; and KG: Use of School Facilities. No action was taken.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the Board Code of Ethics.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the Board Self-Assessment.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve applying for Exemplary Board Status. All members voted yes; motion carried.

A video created by Pioneer Regional Service Agency (RESA) Director of Instructional Technology Brian Buffington was presented to the Board regarding the Board Retreat held on January 9, 2020.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, 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)) **and** to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property; authorize ordering an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)). 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.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on January 7, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Jeff Taylor effective February 21, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Pauline Stamey effective March 1, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignations of Jason Stanley and Lynn A. Burch effective May 29, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Theresa Dillard as End-of-Pathway Assessment Coordinator (up to 49%), pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Donald Mabry as a custodian pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve James Adams as a bus driver pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Brittany Lynne Johnson and Liza Summers as substitutes for the Nutrition Department pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Keisha Green, Morgan Helton, Katherine Knox-Graves, and Taylor Ledford as substitute teachers pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Vicki Clemmons as a clerical substitute (up to 49%) pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Rev. Chris Clark for delivering the invocation and Robert Graham for leading the Pledge. He appreciated all of Fannin County Emergency Services for their support of our schools. Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Jocelyn Miller and Katy Roberson, and he recognized Leadership Fannin participants at the meeting. He thanked the linemen, as well as Michael Pack and Stacy Chastain, for their help with power to the schools, and he thanked the Fannin County Road Department for their assistance in evaluating road conditions.

Superintendent Gwatney gave a special shout-out to our bus drivers for their hard work to safely transport our students, as well as to our principals, custodians, and support staff who report, even when there is a delay, to make sure the schools are safe. He stated that there is a lot to staying safe at school, and a great deal of that involves our network. Our FCSS Technology Department has done a massive overhaul of our network configurations to protect us digitally – Thank you.

Superintendent Gwatney appreciated Principal Matt Price for his presentation and commended Darren Danner and the calendar committee for their work on calendar options for the upcoming school year. He appreciated Heather Finley and Christie Gribble for providing information on the Census and Susan Wynn for her presentation and work to ensure our budget is done correctly. He stated that good news will be coming as a follow-up to our meeting last Monday with auditors.

Superintendent Gwatney invited Sarah Welch to share information on the upcoming Superhero Literacy Night scheduled for February 20, 2020.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Director of Instructional Services & Policy Sarah Welch, and this Board, as well as our constituents, for work with policy. He recognized Fannin County High School for being recognized as an AP Honor School and noted the Fannin County High School Wrestling Team is currently in state finals. He shared that the Fannin County Lady Rebels Basketball Team will play in the first round state tournament. He appreciated Robert Ensley for his work with the “Exemplary Board” process and this Board for being exemplary on behalf of our students. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone for the exceptional job they do and for allowing him to play a part in the lives of children of Fannin County.

Lewis DeWeese stated “so moved.”

Bobby Bearden stated “ditto.”

Mike Cole said that the Board members are all proud of all of you. He commended Matt Price for his presentation.

Chad Galloway thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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