

November 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 Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the consent agenda.

Approve agenda and Board meeting minutes from October 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., and November 4, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.

All members voted yes to approve the items on the consent agenda; motion carried.

Special Recognitions were given for the following:

1. Director of Transportation Denver Foster and his 2019 Fannin County School System (FCSS) Bus Road-e-o Winners.
2. Director of School Nutrition Candice Sisson and Fannin County School Nutrition Program for receiving the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Division Nexus Award.
3. West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) students for participation in Science Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects and presentations.

WFES Principal Lucas Roof presented on WFES School Happenings.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed School Governance Team meetings. (**See attached.**)

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon presented the 2019 CCRPI scores for the central office update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities update.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the district's financial report for September 30, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for September 2019 was \$513,062.15.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve School Quarterly Financial Reports. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Fannin County School Nutrition 12 crate, dual access milk cooler, from Fannin County Middle School (Inventory #0000724) as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Director of School Nutrition Candice Sisson reviewed the FCSS Farm to School program and introduced Feed Fannin Members Connie Galloway, Kathy Beck, and Pricilla Cashman. Connie Galloway reviewed Feed Fannin activities.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Feed Fannin lease agreement on the tract of land located at 762 Ada Street, Blue Ridge, GA. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the Fannin Mountain Education Charter High School bus request to visit Robinson's Stave Company in Morganton, GA on December 5, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley reviewed local Board training selections.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to accept the resignation of Crystal Clore effective November 18, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Sandra Sisson effective November 1, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Vickie Clemmons effective January 1, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Amber Jones and Brittany Nations as paraprofessionals effective November 15, 2019, pending completion of paperwork and background checks. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Maureen Sidlow as a paraprofessional effective December 1, 2019, pending completion of paperwork and background checks. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Jessica Long as a student information specialist (SIS) effective January 1, 2020, pending completion of paperwork and background checks. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney thanked all veterans for their service, especially tonight's guests Commander Stodgill and Lieutenant Colonel Pletcher. He also thanked all Fannin County schools for their programs last week to honor veterans. Superintendent Gwatney congratulated winners of the 2019 Bus Road-e-o, Candice Sisson for receiving the Nexus award, and the STEM student presenters from WFES.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Principal Lucas Roof for his report on school happenings and Sarah Rigdon for the central office update. He offered congratulations to our 2019 Pioneer RESA *Pioneers in Education* Award recipient Morgan Arp. He thanked ETC for their support through their community luncheon, annual ETC Spelling Bee, and their generous IGNITE grants

(that truly make a difference in our classrooms). Fannin has ten IGNITE grant finalists who were announced yesterday!

Superintendent Gwatney stated that the REACH Ceremony was this week, and it was wonderful to see the students at the signing. He appreciated everyone's efforts, especially Candice Sisson and Vanessa Weaver, to ensure that the program was successful. He congratulated Connie Galloway and the members of Feed Fannin for their continued support of the school system and its students.

Superintendent Gwatney reminded everyone that wintry weather has started early. He thanked the FCSS Road Warriors: Denver Foster, Darren Danner, Frankie and Sarah Rigdon, Darwin Couch, and Robert Ensley. The team was out on the roads early two mornings this week. Superintendent Gwatney also thanked the Fannin County Sheriff's Office, Fannin 911, Stan Helton, and the Fannin County Road Department for their work to monitor and respond to the conditions to support our buses.

Superintendent Gwatney recognized that this week is "Thanksgiving Week" at the schools and thanked the nutrition teams for their hard work to bring families together with their children. He stated that Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon things in life for which we are thankful. He took a moment to express his thanks for how blessed we are in Fannin County. We have a caring community, excellent schools, and wonderful students and staff members, and for all of this, he is thankful.

Board Members' Comments:

Chad Galloway stated that he is honored to be on the Board and thankful to see those who came to the meeting. He stated that the presentations from the students involved with STEM were exciting. He thanked Lucas Roof for his enthusiastic presentation and congratulated Candy Sisson and School Nutrition staff for their receipt of the Nexus award. He issued special thanks and recognition to Denver Foster for keeping our kids safe and going above and beyond in all areas.

Terry Bramlett stated that he is thankful for the opportunity to be part of the school system team. All administrators are magnificent, talented, and dedicate. From transporting our students to school and keeping them safe to the Nutrition program being number one in the state for a small district, it is remarkable. To our superintendent, directors, principals, and teachers – it is remarkable to be able to participate at this level and to celebrate your accomplishments. The ultimate beneficiaries are our students. Our students are competing successfully at local, state, and national levels. He stated that it is a remarkable system and an honor to be a part of it.

Bobby Bearden said "ditto" to all that had been said by other Board members and the superintendent. He appreciated those in attendance and stated that he enjoyed his Thanksgiving dinner with his great-granddaughter at West Fannin. He stated that he believes the Bus Road-e-o is wonderful and was glad that Union County had been invited to participate. He stated that he cannot say enough about the great program that Feed Fannin provides to the community, and if it were up to him, he would sign a 100-year lease for them. He appreciated everyone attending.

Mike Cole thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and encouraged others to attend. He stated that he likes Ms. Hyde's southern drawl. He stated that the students speaking about their STEM projects were eloquent and impressive, especially Logan. He loves the Farm to School

efforts and the fact that Feed Fannin takes pride in the appearance of their property, as it is visible from the Blue Ridge Railway. He also noted that the baseball team takes pride in seeding the field so it looks nice and green when visiting teams are here. He sees the characteristic of people taking pride and wanting things to look their best; it is evident throughout the schools. He stated that Fannin County is a great place that people want to live in, and he is happy to be part of this community and the school system.

Lewis DeWeese repeated “Kids First” many times and pointed to individuals in attendance to emphasize his point that all are putting kids first. He thanked everyone in attendance.

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.

Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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