

March 12, 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; and Mike Cole. Lewis DeWeese was absent. Four members formed a quorum.

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

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney made special recognitions for the following:

1. District Attorney B. Alison Sosebee for her support of the Fannin County School System (FCSS) with safety, policy, interagency support, and Mock Trial.
2. The members of the Fannin County Board of Education for their service to Fannin County as a part of *Board Appreciation Week*.

Blue Ridge Elementary School (BRES) Principal Dr. April Hodges presented on BRES happenings.

FCSS Director of Applied and Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof presented an update on FCSS STEM/STEAM & CTAE Updates.

In conjunction with Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde, Dillon Miller, MD, shared a health update with the Board. Dr. Miller serves as the medical director for both Fannin Regional Hospital and the Fannin County Emergency Medical Services, and he is a member of the Fannin County Board of Health. He met with school nurses and leaders recently to review protocols.

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

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley and Director of Instructional Services & Policy Sarah Welch shared an update on Curriculum Online Learning Days (COLD), including feedback from various stakeholders.

In conjunction with Superintendent Michael Gwatney Dr. Dillon Miller spoke briefly on COVID-19 and “Flattening the Curve.” Dr. Gwatney stated that on Friday March 13, 2020, the school system would continue as planned with the early release schedule. COLD would be retooled and used to take advantage of the opportunity Georgia’s Governor Brian Kemp has provided to allow all schools to close. Superintendent Gwatney announced that Fannin County Schools would be closed March 16-20, 2020. Officials plan to make a determination by March 19 as to what actions will happen the following week.

The Board took a brief recess from 7:40 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Public Comment: Dale Blair spoke on the 2020 Census.

## **POLICY REVISIONS**

(Vote #1) Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve two policies tabled on February 13, 2020: *EDDB - Walkers and Riders* and *LDAJA – Interrogations and Investigations*. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

(Vote #2) Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve to table *Policy DJED – Bids and Quotations*. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Darren Danner discussed information about crisis alert systems and future plans to implement something like this in the FCSS beginning with Fannin County High School (FCHS) and Fannin County Middle School (FCMS). No action was taken.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the request for permission to begin the process of: architectural design, submittal to and approval from Georgia Department of Education, advertisement, and proper procurement for the FCHS Old Gym project to add four 7.5-ton RTU gas AC/heat units (at the corners of the gymnasium) to be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the recommendation of Pro Turf & Landscape Maintenance, LLC, for the service of mowing. The total cost for all schools is \$6,950.00 per month with an overall total of \$48,650 for the seven-month contract. Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Bobby Bearden voted no; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the bus request from Jill Abercrombie on behalf of North Star to visit Papa's Pizza and Fannin Lanes Bowling Alley on Monday March 16, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

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

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for January 2020 was \$462,104.34.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Fannin County regarding transportation and meals served through the Fannin County Recreation Department. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the Summer Meals Contract between the Fannin County School Nutrition Program and the Fannin County Recreation Department. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Board Internal Review. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided an update on local board training selections.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Marcie Harper effective May 28, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Mark Stone effective May 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignations of Diane Bailey, Gary Baxter, Michele Cutrone, Althea Davenport, Penny B. Daves, Anona Hemming, Katrina Jourdan, Julia Kaye, Pamela K. Mathis, David Queen, and Debbie L. Thomas effective June 1, 2020. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Mike Cole abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve to rescind the recommendation previously approved on February 13, 2020, of Theresa Dillard as an End-of-Pathway Assessment (EOPA) Coordinator (up to 49%). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Jace T. Gibbs as a custodian and Jerry Mitchell for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and background check. Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Bobby Bearden abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Tessa Fernandez as a substitute teacher pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

### **Superintendent's Comments:**

**Superintendent Gwatney** gave a shout out to West Fannin Elementary School for their performance of *The Lion King*. He thanked Alison Sosebee, Scott Mathis, Lucas Roof, April Hodges, Betsy Hyde, and Dr. Dillon Miller for their presentations at the meeting.

Dr. Gwatney thanked Dale Blair for his comments during public comment regarding the 2020 Census and appreciated the research and efforts taken by Heather Finley and Sarah Welch for the Curriculum Online Learning Day program. He thanked Robert Ensley for leading the Georgia School Boards Association's process. Lynn Doss shared a letter for the Board from Georgia Speaker of the House of Representatives David Ralston thanking them for their service to Fannin County, as well as a photo of the Board taken at the Capitol on March 3, 2020.

Dr. Gwatney recognized Ellijay Telephone Company (ETC) for their support with Ignite Grants.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the Board and shared a letter of appreciation in acknowledgement of *School Board Recognition Week*, March 16-20, 2020.

### **Board Members' Comments:**

**Mike Cole** thanked Dr. Hodges for her great school. He stated that he went to East, his daughter is at West, and he is affiliated with Blue Ridge. He thanked Mr. Roof for his CTAE presentation and stated that CTAE is his heart. It is great that we have college people, but he loves tech.

What Mr. Roof is bringing to the table with Pharmacy Tech and Cyber Security is being rolled out. He recognized Suzanne Davenport with Southern Drug Company for being at the meeting and said it is exciting to see our former students returning to work in the community and providing jobs. He thanked Mr. Blair for his words on the 2020 Census.

**Bobby Bearden** said ditto and added his appreciation for Bryan Higgins for his role in the Soap Box Derby. He stated the Mr. Higgins helps build them and he is excited that students are engaged in this activity. Mr. Bearden appreciated everyone being at the meeting, especially principals, assistant principals, the District Attorney, and members of Leadership Fannin.

Mr. Bearden said that he knows he will have a wreck one day, but he does not know when or where. He says he may catch the virus, but he does not know when. He said that we need prayer. Prayer works. We need to pray this virus goes away.

**Terry Bramlett** thanked everyone for staying with us at the meeting. He recognized that East Fannin Elementary students visited the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids (INK) Museum. Kids love it; it is a wonderful experience. He thanked those who developed COLD for our system. He also said that while most systems are catching up with technology, our system is leading the way in technology. We are in this position thanks to our Technology Department.

He stated the trip to the Capitol was enjoyable and that they were welcomed by Speaker Ralston and Senator David Gooch. Speaker Ralston recognized FCSS as one of the finest school systems in Georgia, and the support is obvious. What a team to have in place in an event that requires extraordinary action! Academics to nutrition, there is love and dedication for students. He noted that Suzanne Davenport (present) is an example of education in Fannin County.

**Chad Galloway** thanked those who came out to the meeting. He said ditto to what the others had said. He appreciated Lucas Roof for his presentation and recognized Erik Cioffi for building the foundation for Mr. Roof to build on. He bragged on COLD and said, "Well done!" He appreciated the administration for planning ahead. When things come at the administrative team, they take it no matter what and do not seem to be phased by it. He is thankful for the administrators in the system.

He thanked Dr. Dillon Miller, congratulated East Fannin and West Fannin on their Ignite Grants, and said God Bless.

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.

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Chad Galloway, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent