

March 11, 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 High School (FCHS) Performing Arts Center (PAC) to allow for adequate social distancing due to concerns with COVID-19.

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

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from February 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recognized Fannin County School Board members in conjunction with School Board Appreciation Week.

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School (BRES) Assistant Principal Gini Tipton presented school happenings.

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

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared a curriculum update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve to pay the \$1,000 *Retention Bonus for Georgia Teachers and School-Based Staff* upon approval from Governor Kemp and the Georgia Department of Education and to pay the \$1,000 Retention Bonus to all other benefits-eligible district employees who are current employees of the FCSS at the time checks are issued and who are not otherwise included among those employees funded by Governor Kemp. ESSER II-CRRSA ACT-LEA funds will be used to make the additional payments to augment and make whole what is provided by the State. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to use federal funds to cover the costs of \$2,000 bonuses for retaining educators and support personnel who are both: 1) currently employed (during the 2020-2021 school year), and 2) returning for the 2021-2022 school year. These bonuses will be paid between June 15, 2021, and June 30, 2021, from ESSER II-CRRSA ACT – LEA funds and will be for a gross amount of \$2,165.67 to cover the Social Security/Medicare portion of the retention bonus. *Vice-Chair Terry Bramlett called for the motion and vote.* Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, Bobby Bearden, and Mike Cole voted yes; Chad Galloway abstained; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

The Board heard public comment from two individuals.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, 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 for an overall total of \$48,650 for the seven-month contract. Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, Mike Cole, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Bobby Bearden voted no; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the district's financial report for January 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for January 2021 was \$612,090.00.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve as salvage a Servolift Eastern food warmer belonging to School Nutrition. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, 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.)**

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared a local board training update.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the postponement of the regular monthly April 2021 Fannin County Board of Education meeting, which was previously scheduled for the second Thursday (April 8, 2021), to the third Thursday (April 15, 2021). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Deborah Meissner effective February 22, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Jimmy Butler effective March 5, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Candy S. Burgess and Deborah Cantrell effective March 12, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Kimberly Patterson, Teresa Tate, Nancy Watkins, and Mike Weaver effective May 26, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Sarah Rigdon as an administrator. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Kristin Franklin, Erin Golden, and Connie Whitaker as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Keith Nuckolls. He recognized that one year ago marked regular school closings due to COVID-19, and virtual school began for the remainder of the school year. He commended all those involved in school operations for the remainder of SY 2020. Superintendent

Gwatney praised individuals involved in school reopening for in-person and online students. He is thankful for a healthy fund balance that allowed FCSS to maintain staff members without furloughs or reductions in pay. One year later, FCSS is offering employees the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. School year 2021 has been a successful year that included opportunities for extracurricular activities, many resulting in region and state championship opportunities. He is pleased that the Board is recognizing all FCSS employees with their words and actions by approving ESSER II-CRRSA ACT-LEA bonuses. He congratulated new Deputy Superintendent, Sarah Rigdon. Superintendent Gwatney shared a passage from a letter he wrote to the community on March 27, 2020.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden thanked those present and watching the meeting. He encouraged employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine. He praised all FCSS staff members and thanked those who presented at the meeting and those who provided Board member appreciation gifts. He congratulated FCSS athletes.

Mike Cole expressed his excitement for the FCSS and for FCSS athletes for doing so well in during the pandemic. He has friends who are teachers in other districts and knows how well FCSS takes care of teachers. He will miss Teresa Tate. He gave a shout-out to Rhonda Anderson for implementing the "Second Chance Breakfast" and to the FCHS students for creating the video promoting the new program. He congratulated Sarah Rigdon.

Lewis DeWeese said ditto to what Mr. Bearden and Mr. Cole said.

Terry Bramlett stated that it is an honor to be part of this team. He recognized that it has been a challenging and successful year. Fannin County is a great place to live, and he is pleased to offer financial help to all employees. He thanked all FCSS employees.

Chad Galloway thanked those present and watching the meeting. He is appreciative for the Board member appreciation gifts and for being on the Board. He loves FCSS teachers. He commended the Finance Department and school leaders for a strong budget. He congratulated Sarah Rigdon and thanked Keith Nuckolls. He commended FCSS students who are successfully competing.

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