

August 8, 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 Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the consent agenda.

Approve agenda and Board meeting minutes from July 11, 2019 – 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.; July 17, 2019 – 12:15 p.m.; and August 1, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

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

Special recognitions were made for the following awards:

1. Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner presented the Board with the Award of Excellence from the Georgia Education Workers' Compensation Trust.
2. Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon presented principals and the district with AdvancED certificates of achievement.
3. Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon presented Blue Ridge Elementary School Principal Dr. April Hodges with the Title I Achievement Award for 2019.

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley and United States Secret Service Special Agent Marc Debrody presented on Cyber Safety and Ransomware.

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

Fannin County Middle School (FCMS) Principal Keith Nuckolls presented on FCMS School Happenings.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of 38.5 acres of property formerly known as the US Forest Service – Toccoa Work Center, located on Old Highway 76, in Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia, Parcel No. 0090 376G, Land Lots 267 & 274 of the 8th Land District, 2nd Section of Fannin County for the price of \$625,000 to be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to table for one month the proposed revision to Board Policy DCK – Level of Budgetary Control. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

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

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for June 2019 was \$514,255.35.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve a spending resolution for September 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the revised FY 2020 Budget Timeline. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the advertisement of the FY 2020 budget. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the 2019 Millage Timeline, LGS computation of Millage Rate Rollback 2019, LGS FLPA Revenue Reduction Worksheet, LGS Tax Digest and Five-Year History of Levy 2019, and 2019 LGS Compliance Guide for Advertising Digest History and Public Hearings of Increases in Taxes. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Student Achievement Sarah Rigdon reviewed 2018-2019 stakeholder feedback and the Strategic Plan.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley discussed the 2019-2020 Annual Board Planning Calendar.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley reviewed local Board training selections.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the addendum to the AmeriCorps Service Site Agreement to include the 4-H AmeriCorps position for a total cost of \$2,400. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Lisa Joan Barkas, Kendra Cash, Leslie Marie Dean, Jodi Lois Graves, and Ashley M. Green as Nutrition Department substitutes, pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney thanked this evening's presenters: Susan Wynn, the Fannin County Middle School TSA students, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Marc Debrody, Director Heather Finley, Principal Keith Nuckolls, Director Sarah Rigdon, and Fannin County Chamber of Commerce Chair Frankie Rigdon. Dr. Gwatney also thanked Fannin County Commission Chairman Stan Helton for his help in acquiring property for the school system.

Superintendent Gwatney stated that the school year had a wonderful start-of-the-year meeting with guest speaker Tony Ingle; the band members, student athletes, and cheerleaders did a great job welcoming the faculty and staff. He expressed that the schools' Open Houses were impressive and that all schools looked great! He shared that the district leadership team visited all schools, and it was apparent that a lot of preparation and hard work had been done to prepare for the start of the year. He commended the leadership of principals.

Superintendent Gwatney recognized Denver Foster and his department's work to implement extended stop arms on select buses to test effectiveness, and he commended law enforcement in multiple jurisdictions for their support. He thanked our three local news media outlets for coverage with bus safety.

Superintendent Gwatney stated that on the first day of school, he and members of the district leadership team made it to all five schools again. He stated the 2019-2020 school year has had a

terrific start; it was awesome to see all of the departments and personnel come together like a beautiful symphony for the benefit of our students. We are blessed in Fannin County.

Board Members' Comments:

Mr. Mike Cole said he is proud of the TSA students for how they present and carry themselves. He is glad they were able to make the journey to Washington D. C. He is also proud of their teacher, Mr. Phil Pressley. He appreciated the presentation on cyber security and shared a personal experience related to a recent phone scam. He stated that the property purchased is the best fit for the school system. Mr. Cole expressed appreciation for transportation staff members taking time to meet parents of the students who ride their buses. He is proud that we have people who are so dedicated to our students.

Mr. Bobby Bearden said he is glad that everybody is here and that he is at a loss for words. He said ditto to previous comments and thanked Denver Foster for the stop arms on the buses.

Mr. Terry Bramlett stated that there are many things to celebrate and that he is honored to be a part of this team, and attending the Board meeting is a highlight for him as he gets to enjoy the successes of the school system. He has shared the social media post for the bus stop arm and received positive comments from across the nation. He thanked Fannin County Commission Chairman Mr. Stan Helton for the cooperative spirit in working to obtain the Forest Service Property. He thanked Keith Nuckolls for his innovative approach and looks forward to seeing the results. He said that the beginning of the year “Welcome Back” program for teachers was great and appreciated all of the marvelous teams who participated.

Chad Galloway stated that he appreciates being on the Board, and he appreciated everyone for being at the meeting and agrees with the things stated by the superintendent. He thanked Stan Helton and stated that he appreciates Mr. Helton for being a friend to the school system. He appreciated Keith Nuckolls for all he is doing at Fannin Middle and stated that he is now a stakeholder at Fannin Middle. He appreciated Matt Price for working with students to get the mascot changed back to the Wildcats. He appreciated Darren Danner for all of the hidden things that are done to make the school system operate smoothly – maintenance and custodial. He thanked Heather Finley and the Technology Department for all they do to keep the system secure.

Lewis DeWeese stated that he does not think he has seen the spirit of the system any higher. He shared “God bless you all” and encouraged everyone to continue to keep getting better.

Superintendent Gwatney invited Director of Instructional Services & Policy Sarah Welch to share news of an upcoming special event “Read with Malcolm,” which will be held on August 22, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. on the Fannin County High School campus.

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