

November 9, 2017
4:30 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in a strategic planning session/local board training session and regular session with the following members present: Bobby Bearden, Chair; Lewis DeWeese, Vice-Chair; Terry Bramlett; Chad Galloway; and Steve Stanley. All members present.

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Bearden, Chair.

The Board participated in a Local Board Training session for the 2017-2018 school year. Justin Old, consultant for Pioneer RESA, facilitated the training. The topic reviewed was Revisions of System Goals and Priorities.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following items on the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2017, 8:00 a.m.; and October 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Approve Budget Amendment FY 18 #2 (see attached).

Approve Policy IHF- Graduation Requirements (see attached).

Approve Fannin County High School Surplus Property (see attached).

Candice Sisson, Nutrition Director, gave an update to the Board about the Farm-to-School Initiative for information purposes only (see attached).

Public Comment:

None.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the schools quarterly financial reports (see attached).

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the district financial report for the month of September 30, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried (see Attached).

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in October for September was \$472,608.26.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, 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)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to go back into regular session. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Bobby Bearden announced that no action was taken during executive session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the executive session minutes from June 6, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried

Motion by Chad Galloway, Seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Jeremy Jones as a paraprofessional. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Adam Wilcher as a paraprofessional. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Susan Michelle Lynn as a secretary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve David Pelfrey for the transportation department. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Telaka Holbrook for substitute clerical. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, stated this is a wonderful time of year, as our district's interaction with the community increases. The combined elementary fall festival this past Saturday was truly a wonderful event. Dr. Gwatney also commended the schools for the Veterans Day Programs and acknowledged those present at tonight's meeting who have served with the United States Armed Forces, including Board members Bobby Bearden, Lewis DeWeese, and Steve Stanley. Dr. Gwatney also commended the public safety of Fannin County – Sheriff, police, fire, and EMS – for keeping us safe, including their recent prompt action when Mayor Whitener called and needed Blue Ridge Elementary evacuated due to a gas leak near the school. He also acknowledged the transportation department for doing an outstanding job transporting the students to the high school and back to the school once the issue was resolved.

Dr. Gwatney shared a presentation with the Board on “What does senior tax exemption really mean” for Fannin County.

Board Members' Comments:

Steve Stanley referred back to Dr. Gwatney's presentation wanting to point out existing exemptions for Fannin County senior citizens. Dr. Gwatney confirmed he was correct and that certain exemptions are already in place.

Lewis DeWeese started by saying he would be a “No” to the senior tax exemption. Mr. DeWeese hopes Dr. Gwatney has the opportunity to present his presentation at the town hall meeting next Thursday night at the courthouse. He would like to see the kids of Fannin County get as good or a better education than he was offered.

Terry Bramlett stated his son and daughter both attended Fannin County schools, and he sees their friends returning to Fannin County as doctors, lawyers, professionals, and others who will build this community. He understands why people would want to be exempted from the school tax, but they would probably prefer seeing a physician who has been through medical school, or perhaps a lawyer that has attended law school, or a dentist that has been to dental school. Public education is an investment in the future.

Chad Galloway reiterated the comments of his fellow Board members.

Bobby Bearden “dittoed” Dr. Gwatney and his fellow Board members. He believes we have a good city council now. With that being said the city council pays for one of our school resource officers and we have three schools within the city limits. He is hopeful for the council to get along as well as the Board that we have. Mr. Bearden thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to attend the town hall meeting on November 16, 2017.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

psd