

December 12, 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 November 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., and December 5, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Superintendent Michael Gwatney made special recognitions for the following:

1. Members of the Fannin County Band who performed prior to the beginning of the meeting. The musicians were also recognized for being selected as one of six groups to perform at the Georgia Music Educators' Association conference in January 2020.
2. Lucas Roof, the upcoming Director of Career, Technology, and Agriculture Education (CTAE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), as well as outgoing Director of CTAE Patricia DuBois. Ms. DuBois was commended for her nine years of successful CTAE leadership.
3. Director of Student Services Shannon Miller presented Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) certificates from the Georgia Department of Education to: BRES Principal April Hodges, EFES Principal Matt Price, WFES Principal Lucas Roof, and FCMS Principal Keith Nuckolls.

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

FCHS Principal Erik Cioffi presented on Fannin County High School happenings.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the transportation requests from the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) to use a bus on January 7, 2020, while Fannin County School students are on holiday. The bus will take students on a trip to Chuck E. Cheese in Kennesaw, GA. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Transportation Denver Foster provided an update on the Transportation Department. Retiring bus driver Dan Long reflected on his 40 years as a bus driver and his educational experiences in Fannin County.

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley updated the Board on how school closings and delays are communicated.

Director of Instructional Services and Policy Sarah Welch informed the Board about Curriculum Online Learning Days (COLD).

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 Fannin County School Nutrition equipment as salvage. This includes items from East Fannin Elementary School (EFES): a dishwasher – inventory #0000464, tilting skillet – inventory #0000234, and steamer – inventory #400336; one item was included from Fannin County High School, a steamer – inventory #400031. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district's financial report for October 31, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for October 2019 was \$559,423.15.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn reviewed the excellent results of the performance audit on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for the year ended June 30, 2019.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of 125 HP 11" G7 EE Chromebooks from Firefly Computers for \$27,500 for Blue Ridge Elementary School. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Lynn Doss as the attorney for Fannin County Board of Education from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley reviewed local Board training selections.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, 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 Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on December 5, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Terry Bramlett stated that while in Executive Session the Board reviewed Superintendent Michael Gwatney's annual evaluation. Dr. Gwatney has received the highest possible marks in all of the performance standard categories, and he has exceeded expectations on all standards.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Becky Ferrell effective December 19, 2019. Four members voted yes; Bobby Bearden abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Lansing effective December 31, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Susan Williams as secretary effective January 6, 2020, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Mary Lou Kitchens, Catrina McQuinn, and Rachel Penland as a substitute teachers pending completion of paperwork and background checks. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Liza Summers as a bus driver pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett to approve Charlotte Graham as a substitute custodian pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney** thanked the Fannin County Band students for their performance prior to the start of tonight's meeting. He was honored to have former FCHS Principal Douglas Davenport lead the invocation and former FCSS Superintendent Morgan B. Arp lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He congratulated Lucas Roof on being selected as the district's new CTAE/STEM Director, and he thanked Patricia DuBois for her years in leadership.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Shannon Miller for her leadership of PBIS, and he congratulated those schools that earned certificates. He recognized FCHS Principal Erik Cioffi for his school happenings update. He thanked Director of Transportation Denver Foster for his presentation, as well as Dan Long for his service. Dr. Gwatney commended the FCSS Transportation Department for the recent successful bus inspections and the incredible parade float they prepared. Dr. Gwatney also thanked Darren Danner, Heather Finley, and Sarah Welch for the updates they provided. He stated that he is excited about the new COLD initiative.

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Susan Wynn on the excellent SPLOST audit, and he commended her for doing a great job. He appreciated the FCSS School Nutrition Department for serving delicious Thanksgiving meals and commented that he was able to enjoy this meal as a parent with his daughter, Lora, at FCHS.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Sheriff Dane Kirby for a recent letter he wrote to the Editor of The News Observer reminding citizens to avoid cell phone use when driving, especially in school zones and during parent drop-off and pick-up. He appreciates Sheriff Kirby's support with safety endeavors. Superintendent Gwatney also thanked Commissioner Stand Helton and the Fannin County Road Department for helping clear areas of concern on roadways, thereby allowing students, staff, and buses to arrive safely at the schools during recent winter mornings.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the Board for his evaluation and the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent. He stated that his results are a direct reflection of the capable and effective leaders who stand with him, as well as those leaders who came before him. Dr. Gwatney stated that it is an honor to serve the FCSS, and it has been a double blessing for him to be the superintendent of the best district and the one that is also his home.

Superintendent Gwatney reminded everyone of the upcoming White Christmas programs, and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a joyous holiday, and a Happy New Year 2020!

**Board Members' Comments:**

**Mike Cole** stated that there were a couple of things that stood out in tonight's meeting for him. The first is Ms. DuBois and her love for the kids. He recounted a personal experience when his daughter struggled with testing while in college. She contacted Ms. DuBois, who suggested test-taking techniques. She tried these and passed the test. The instructor asked her how she had made the change. The assistance Ms. DuBois offered showed the heart of the teacher and is evident in her desire to return to the classroom to work more closely with students. He stated that he is glad and happy for Ms. DuBois in her next season. The second was to congratulate Mr. Lucas Roof. Mr. Cole is excited for him to take us to the next level with CTAE and STEM.

**Bobby Bearden** stated that he could not add anything other than what Dr. Gwatney said and that tonight's meeting was incredible. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Terry Bramlett** stated that if he graded everyone in the room, they would receive the highest possible marks in all performance standard categories and certainly exceed his expectations. He told Dr. Gwatney that he sets the tone and the course for others to achieve this level of excellence and thanked him. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all those at the meeting and said he agreed with all that had been said. He said that Mr. Long's wife was his bus driver and that they are good people. He said it was special to see Mr. Long at the meeting. Mr. Galloway congratulated Lucas Roof and appreciated everyone. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Lewis DeWeese** said God bless, Merry Christmas, and stated you all are the most important people in the world.

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.

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Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent