

May 10, 2018
4:00 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 Steve Stanley. All members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Lewis DeWeese, Chair.

The Board participated in a Local Board Training session for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Brian Buffington, a consultant with Pioneer RESA, facilitated the training. The topic reviewed was “Communicating the School System Message.”

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the consent agenda.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from April 12, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.; May 8, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

Approve a request from the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) to use three school buses for their “Summer Day Camp.” The FCRD/Fannin County Board of Commissioners will provide insurance for the buses, drivers, and children during days they are used. The FCRD/Fannin County Board of Commissioners will provide fuel for the buses while being used by FCRD. (see attached)

Approve Revised Board Policy – Homeless Students JBC(1). (see attached)

Approve board of education checking account bid from United Community Bank for the General Fund, ESPLOST, School Nutrition, and Construction accounts for four years for the terms specified in their proposal and to allow each school to select the banking institution of their choice (see attached).

Approve 2003 Freightliner school bus Serial Number 4UZAAXBV33CD40578 as salvage property from the Transportation Department. This item will be sold for scrap at a recycling center.

Approve Salto Lock System for Fannin County Middle School. The quote from Howard Technology Solutions for \$33,864.00 is considered turn-key for all equipment, including installation, and related services. This is to be paid for with SPLOST funds.

Approve Fannin County Middle School wireless network for Fannin County Middle School. The wireless network will be purchased and installed (turn-key) from MCA Technology Solutions for \$39,595.25. This purchase will be made with SPLOST funds.

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

Sarah Rigdon, Director of Achievement, recognized Blue Ridge Elementary School as a “Title I High-Progress Reward School” based on the 2017 Milestones testing results.

Public Comment:

The following persons each spoke about the currently tabled weapons policy: Brent Warberg, Jack Taylor, Dan Spies, Kevin Panter, Kyle Raque, Jim McFarland, Sheila Gooch, Mike Sullivan, Lori Sims, and Michelle Bradley.

After public comment Benny Long, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update to the Board on School Safety.

Dr. Michael Gwatney shared information on safety. Betsy Hyde, Associate Superintendent, read proposed Board Policy GAMB – Possession of Weapons by Employees (second reading).

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Board Policy GAMB – Possession of Weapons by Employees (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district financial report for March 31, 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in April for March was \$441,978.32.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the quarterly financial reports from schools. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Susan Holloway, Director of Finance, gave a budget update. No approval was needed by the Board for this item.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the surplus property sale of the following: one each of plate loaded cable crossover machine and attachments, plate loaded leg extension/leg curl machine, pin select preacher curl machine, pin select leg curl machine, and plate loaded calf raise machine to Brandon Flowers for \$50.00. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve an increase of \$0.10 for student lunch prices for School Year 2018-19 for students enrolled in Fannin County School System. Elementary student lunch prices will be \$2.15; middle and high school student lunch prices will be \$2.40. The price for a reduced lunch will remain at \$0.40. A free breakfast will continue to be offered by the Board to all students enrolled in the Fannin County School System. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Robert Ensley, Curriculum Director, informed Board members that they had completed training requirements for this year and the final submission for Exemplary Board status with Georgia School Boards Association would be submitted.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Trevor Hart and Nick Mrvos as teachers effective school year 2018 – 2019, depending on completion of paperwork. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Ashley Barton as a paraprofessional effective school year 2018 – 2019, depending on completion of paperwork. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following as administrators effective school year 2018-2019:

Virginia “Gini” Bell	Heather Finley	Sarah Rigdon
Erik Cioffi	April Hodges	Lucas Roof
Andrea Crump	Connie Huff	Candice Sisson
Alison Danner	Benny Long	Anthony Tichler
Darren Danner	Shannon Miller	
Theresa Dillard	Clark Keith Nuckolls	
Patricia DuBois	Mathew Price	<i>David Henson approved</i>
Robert Ensley	Scott Ramsey	<i>March 2018</i>

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the following as certified personnel effective school year 2018-2019:

Adams, Amy	Chambers, Adrian	Franklin, Katherine
Adams, Emily	Chapman, Buffy	George, Karen
Adams, Sarah	Christian, Maranda	Geren, Todd
Allen, Rebecca	Colbert, Erin	Gibbs, John
Anderson, Natasha	Collis, Alan	Gilliam, Cindy
Arp, Tori	Collis, Heather	Gilreath, Stacey
Ayers, Jon	Collis, Troyia	Gobble, Althea
Babcock, Laura	Corbin, Mary	Goode, Karen
Bailey, Diane	Culpepper, Kathy	Stout, Carrie
Ball, Melissa	Culpepper, Shannon	Gray, Donna
Barnes, Cindi	Cutrone, Michele	Grubb, Michele
Barnstead, Julia	Daves, Jeffrey	Hamby, Michelle
Barnstead, Scott	Daves, Penny	Harper, Dana
Baugh, Celeste	Davis, Hannah	Hemming, Anona
Baxter, Gary	Davis, Michelle	Henry, Vicki
Boyce, Pam	Davis, Sarah	Herndon, Stacy
Brannon, Kimberly	Dillard, Melinda	Hicks, Cynthia
Breeden, Joseph	Dixon, Amanda	Hinman, Christine
Brown, Kelly	Dockery, Valdora	Holtman, Christie
Brisbay, Ashley	Dotson, Shaunmarie	Hood, Christina
Bryant, Scott	Dover, Keshia Cox	Housley, Amanda
Burch, Lynn	Dyer, Brenda	Howard, Sabrina
Byers, Shea	Dyer, Jill	Hubbard, Charlene
Callihan, Cassie	Dyer, David	Huffman, Kimberly
Callihan, Samantha	Eggleston, Scott	Hughes, Danette
Callihan, Tonya	Eisenhart, Lora	Hughes, Ginger
Cantrell, Tara	Ellis, Scott	Hulsey, Kelly
Carder, Renee	Evans, Stephanie	Hutsell, Joe
Carnahan, Susan	Fleeman, Shannon	Hutsell, Niki
Castro, Kelly	Forney, David	Hyatt, Paula

Jantti, Joan	Owenby, Lauren Travis	Smith, Stacey Lee
Jessen, Nancy	Pace, Mary Jean	Soriero, Anne
Johnson, Michael Lee	Pack, Kimberley	Sowers, Hope
Jones, Angela	Padgett, David	Sparks, Ashley
Jourdan, Katrina	Padgett, Zachary	Stanley, Jason
Kaye, Julia	Parris, Angela	Stewart, Daniel
Keener, Elaine	Pass, Blake	Stiles, Alesha
Kendall, Jill	Pass, Suzanne	Stone, Mark
Key, Jill @ 49 percent	Passmore, Lena	Stone, Travis
King, Barbara	Patterson, Angela	Stover, Brandy Morgan
King, Jeremy	Patterson, Kim	Strobel, Erica A.
King, Melissa	Patterson, Pamela	Summers, Tami
Kuna, Jeff	Payne, Lauren	Tamberino, Ashley
Ladd, Donna	Pickelsimer, Courtney	Tate, Teresa
Lambert, Jill	Pressley, Phil	Taylor, Khalisa B.
Lansing, Jenny	Putnam, Annette	Taylor, Lisa
Larson, Jennifer	Queen, Dwight "David"	Tesoriero, Brian
Lord, Nicole	Queen, Megan	Thigpen, Christopher
Majors, Kayla	Queen, Nicole	Thomas, Amanda
Martin, Teresa	Ragsdale, Trista	Thomas, Dewayne
Mashburn, Chris	Ramirez, Jessica	Thomas, Tammy
Mathews, Rhonda	Ramirez, Paul	Turner, Adam
Mathis, Pamela	Reist, Lynn	Viccaro, Holly
McBride, Amanda	Reynolds, Wendy	Walden, Sandra
McDonald, Marcie	Rhodes, Cynthia	Walker, Jennifer
Merold, Tina	Rice, Milicent	Ware, Deanne Beth
Miller, Nicholas	Rice, Sarah Owenby	Watkins, Nancy
Mills, Robert	Rich, Selena	Watkins, Serena
Minear, Carrie	Richardson, Kara	Weaver, Jeffrey
Mitchell, Amber	Rittenberry, Jennifer	Weaver, Michael
Moates, Elden 49 percent	Roberson, Katy	Weaver, Vanessa
Morgan, Debra "Debbie"	Roberts, Tammy	Weeks, Ashley
Morgan, Jodi	Robinson, Lora	Weeks, Krystal
Nelson, Misty	Roof, Miranda	Welch, Sarah 50 percent
Neyenhouse, Taylor	Rose, Christie	White, Cherie
Newton, Brittany	Russell, Siegrid	Whitener, Alex
Newton, Sydney	Saxon, Jenna	Williams, Amy
Nix, Ashley McClure	Scarce, Yvette	Williams, Martha
Noe, Alexis	Schuknecht, Nicole	Workman, Jennifer
Odom, Diana Bice	Scott, Diane	Young, Angela
Olivarria, Lisset	Sexton, Ben	Young, Capprice
O'Neal, Joey	Shinpaugh, April	Young, Mark

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Heather Boyle as certified personnel effective school year 2018-2019. Lewis DeWeese abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Betty J. Garland as certified personnel effective school year 2018-2019. Steve Stanley abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Kathryn Harris Durham as WIA Grant Coordinator effective school year 2018-2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, recognized “Teacher Appreciation Week” and thanked teachers and all school personnel; he stated that he considers all school personnel as teachers. Dr. Gwatney recognized the Fannin “Bus Road-e-o” winners who were honored earlier in the week; he said bus drivers often see our students the greatest number of years – Potentially pre-kindergarten through high school. Dr. Gwatney thanked Brian Buffington as a fantastic teacher for the Local Board Training, and he thanked the Board of Education for attending the Board Retreat at the five Fannin County Schools held on April 23, 2018.

Blue Ridge Elementary School (BRES) was congratulated for earning the High Progress Award. This award means that all three elementary schools in Fannin County have received recognition from the state this school year. Fannin County Middle School hosted a wonderful event earlier in the week—Family Fun Night. Family Fun Night included STEM activities and an opportunity for upcoming sixth graders to see the middle school.

Dr. Gwatney expressed his pride in attending the Future Educators Signing Day for Fannin County High School (FCHS) seniors planning to pursue a career in the teaching profession. This event included teachers from the past, present, and future.

Dr. Gwatney congratulated FCHS for being #63 in Georgia and #2593 in the Nation in the recent *US News and World Report* rankings. FCHS ranks in the top 12 percent of high schools in the nation. This ranking speaks not only for FCHS but also for what is happening in our middle and elementary schools. We are proud to be investing in all kids in this community, and it will only help Fannin County; our schools and county all fit together.

The FCHS graduation ceremony is set for Friday, May 25, 2018, at 8:00 p.m. in the stadium. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the new gym.

Thanks were given to Fannin Regional Hospital for recently facilitating over 200 physicals for our student athletes and band.

Thanks were expressed to the state government for restoring austerity in school funding in the fiscal year 2019 budget. Dr. Gwatney was on hand with Governor Nathan Deal in Blue Ridge last week to sign the budget, and he said it was wonderful to see QBE fully funded. Thanks to the Board for supporting tonight’s announcement of using these restored funds to return the local supplement from five to six percent for certified staff and also pass along the one percent increase to our non-certified staff.

Dr. Gwatney thanked those who participated in public comment and to those who joined us in our overflow location and/or online. Thanks to Stephen Setser and the wonderful job he does along with all of the technology staff who work to make the online option happen.

Board Members' Comments:

Mr. Steve Stanley congratulated BRES for their achievement. He thanked Fannin County Sheriff Dane Kirby for his assistance and guidance with the policy, and he said that safety is our number one priority. Mr. Stanley congratulated the FCHS seniors on their graduation. He also asked all to keep the Henson family in their thoughts at this time, as former FCHS Principal Mr. Frank Henson is very ill.

Mr. Bobby Bearden thanked everyone for being at the meeting this evening. Regarding the new board policy, Mr. Bearden stated he wants to see that as much as possible is done to protect the children and staff in Fannin County. Mr. Bearden added that we are going to make this work; our children deserve it.

Mr. Terry Bramlett congratulated BRES and those who worked on the literacy grant. He thanked those in attendance and those who made comments during this public comment. The points were well taken, and he was pleased to say that he did not hear anything new. Very careful consideration has been given to all points and the many aspects of the new policy. Mr. Bramlett concluded that there are no absolutes, but our number one priority is the safety of our students.

Mr. Chad Galloway expressed thanks to those who spoke and attended the meeting. He congratulated those involved with BRES and the honor that they received. He expressed that the retreat brought the whole picture of the school system together for him, and he was very impressed to see the relationships between staff and students. He saw that the students were loved and treated with kindness, and he thanked all of the teachers for caring so much for our children. He thanked the administrators for the jobs that they do, and he appreciated the support given to the Board members.

Lewis DeWeese stated that even though it had been hard, it was a good meeting tonight. There is something special about the people of Fannin County. They are passionate and stand up to do the best for our children. The Board wants to do the same with their help. Thanks were expressed to all of those who attended the meeting and especially to those who spoke during Public Comment.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, 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