

December 10, 2020
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 Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the meeting minutes from November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

A special ceremony was held by Appalachian Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge John Worcester. He administered the Oath of Office to Fannin County Board of Education members Chad Galloway, Terry Bramlett, and Lewis DeWeese; all were recently re-elected to the Board.

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed summaries of recent activities by Fannin County School System School Governance Teams (SGTs).

West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) Principal Alison Danner presented school happenings.

Superintendent Gwatney recognized Fannin County High School (FCHS) Athletic Director David Henson for being named Region 7AA Athletic Director of the Year. Mr. Henson presented an extracurricular update.

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

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley provided a district communications update.

The Board heard public comment from two individuals.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided an update on facilities.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Local Facilities Plan for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided an update on construction.

Director of Transportation Denver Foster presented a Central Office Update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) request to use three school buses for the 2021 Summer Camp June 7, 2021 through July 23, 2021. The Fannin County Board of Commissioners and the FCRD will provide insurance for the bus drivers and children during this time frame, along with maintaining and providing fuel for the buses while being used by the FCRD. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department's request to surplus equipment. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the district's financial report for October 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn stated the SPLOST check received for October 2020 was \$715,042.07. Mrs. Wynn shared that SPLOST IV will end on March 31, 2021, and SPLOST V will begin on April 1, 2021.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the results of the SPLOST audit from Mauldin & Jenkins that "concluded the Fannin School district's SPLOST Program is operating in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the referendum approved by the citizens, and industry best practices."

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared the local board training plan for SY 2020-2021. Mr. Ensley also commended the Board for being recognized as an Exemplary Board once again.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on November 12, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Lynn Doss as the attorney for the Fannin County Board of Education from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Board Chair Chad Galloway stated that Superintendent Michael Gwatney received the highest marks on his evaluation and exceeded expectations.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Jeff Kaylor effective December 11, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Tonya Burchfield effective December 22, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Lynn A. Burch, Phil Pressley (pending replacement of a certified teacher), and Scott Wibel effective December 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to rescind the approval of Tammy M. Statham as a paraprofessional. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Julie Thompson as a teacher, effective January 4, 2021, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Leslie Dean, Ansley Osborne Ferguson, and Murphy McConnell as paraprofessionals, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Lisa Cheatham for the Transportation Department, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Stephanie B. Fink and Kathryn Weaver as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Jeff Kaylor, Terry Lewis, and Edward Roy Shade as Transportation Department substitutes, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Jazmin Gonzalez as a Nutrition Department substitute, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Jazmin Gonzalez as a custodial substitute, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Boy Scout Troup 32, Appalachian Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge John Worcester, and those who shared updates during the meeting. He congratulated Board members on their re-election as well as the FCHS football team and its coaches. He thanked the Board for their evaluation and the opportunity to serve. He stated that his success is a direct reflection of the capable and effective team of leaders working in the school district. He wished everyone a merry Christmas and a joyous new year 2021.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden thanked the Boy Scouts; all those present and viewing online; and those who presented during the meeting. He offered congratulations to the Board members who were recently re-elected and to Kim Patterson. He shared his excitement about the upcoming Board Retreat and the Rebel football team. He wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Mike Cole said he has been honored to serve and learn for the past two years. He is thankful for vocational education, Darren Danner, Denver Foster, and the system's leadership. He wished the FCHS football team good luck and everyone a merry Christmas.

Lewis DeWeese wished everyone a merry Christmas. He expressed appreciation to Boy Scout Troup 32 for their presentation of the flags and the honor they bring to the county.

Terry Bramlett shared that successes are a team effort and thanked Superintendent Gwatney for assembling his team of leaders. He thanked the voters for his reelection and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Chad Galloway thanked voters and those who attended the meeting. He appreciated Judge Worcester and those who spoke during public comment. He thanked the Boy Scout Troup and praised the students for their accomplishments. He wished the FCHS football team good luck.

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

Chad Galloway, Chair

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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