

November 8, 2018  
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 Steve Stanley. 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 the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from October 11, 2018, 6:00 p.m. and November 6, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Approve a field trip request from the Mountain Education Charter High School for students to take the “Accuplacer” at North Georgia Technical College (Blairsville, Georgia, campus) on November 28, 2018.

Approve the school bus request from Fannin County Recreation Department to use one school bus for their After School Program on November 19, 20, and 21, 2018. The Fannin County Board of Commissioners will pay for this use.

Approve FY19 budget amendment #2 (**see attached**)

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

Candice Sisson, Director of School Nutrition, presented the Board with the Platinum Level Golden Radish Award received on behalf of the district on October 22, 2018. The Golden Radish Award publically recognizes Georgia school districts for best practices in farm-to-school programs.

Charles Spencer with Tennessee Valley Robotics presented a donation of \$10,000 to support robotics in the Fannin County Schools.

Fannin County High School Health Science Teacher Jeremy King gave the extracurricular update for the month. Health Science Head Athletic Training Student Sydney Collins participated in the presentation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district financial report for September 30, 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**see attached**)

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in October for September was \$456,723.88.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve school quarterly financial reports. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**see attached**)

Mike Spurling, Lead Maintenance/Energy Manager, presented an energy management update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the purchase of a wireless network for Blue Ridge Elementary School. This will be a turnkey project completed by MCA Technology Solutions for \$34,299.75. This will be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of a wireless network for East Fannin Elementary School. This will be a turnkey project completed by MCA Technology Solutions for \$30,537.50. This will be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the paving at the Board of Education/Christian Learning Center parking. This will be completed by Johnson Paving, turnkey, for \$26,645.00. This will be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of a telephone and intercom system for Blue Ridge Elementary School. The system will be purchased turnkey from ETC Education Services for \$43,393.00. This will be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the purchase of a telephone and intercom system for East Fannin Elementary School. The system will be purchased turnkey from ETC Education Services for \$34,044.00. This will be paid for with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon gave an overview of the upcoming 2019 accreditation visit and the 2018 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley reminded Board members of the upcoming Local Board Training dates and topics.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Angie Whitener effective October 31, 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Emily Newman as paraprofessional pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Pamela Sweeny as School Information Specialists pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Nathaniel Daugherty for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Michael F. Murphy for substitute clerical pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Tina Dillingham and Jamie Kasson as substitute teachers pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Dr. Michael Gwatney** noted that November is a time to reflect and be thankful. The tradition of the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner continues in Fannin County Schools, and he enjoyed eating Thanksgiving dinner with his daughter, Lora, at Fannin County High School. He offered congratulations on the Platinum Golden Radish Award for farm-to-school initiatives. He commended those responsible for the wonderful Agricultural Science Facility Open House. Superintendent Gwatney stated that the REACH Signing Ceremony was beautiful and gives him hope for the future.

Dr. Gwatney thanked Tennessee Valley Robotics for their donation; Erik Cioffi for his presentation at the work session; and Jeremy King, along with training student Sydney Collins, for the extracurricular update presentation. He appreciated the support from ETC and Frankie Rigdon. He thanked Mike Spurling in the area of energy management and recognized how Mr. Spurling is behind the scenes saving the taxpayers' dollars and helping to keep the millage rate low and allowing those funds to be used for other things.

Dr. Gwatney thanked Sarah Rigdon for her presentation on accreditation and CCRPI, and he commended her along with the entire district for the 2018 CCRPI achievement. He described how the Pioneer RESA presented the "Pioneers in Education" award on Friday, October 26, 2018. The recipient for Fannin County was Mrs. Sandra Mercier. Mrs. Mercier has had an impact on many. She was a teacher, administrator, and superintendent while working for Fannin County School System; she later served as a member of the Fannin County Board of Education.

Veterans Day is Sunday, November 11, 2018. Each school will have a program to honor veterans, and Dr. Gwatney expressed his appreciation. He stated that we are a free nation because of our veterans, and he added that thanks to those serving in the military today, we will remain a free nation.

### **Board Members' Comments:**

**Mr. Bobby Bearden** thanked those in attendance and agreed with everything Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney stated. Mr. Bearden appreciated those present. Mr. Bearden complimented Jeremy King for the great job he does. He hopes the Mr. King gets more of the technology tools demonstrated during the meeting. He noted that you could not talk about something if you do not know your subject, and he believes that Mr. King and Mrs. Rigdon know their topics. Mr. Bearden stated that he is blessed and thankful that he will remain in office for four more years.

**Mr. Steve Stanley** stated that he was glad to see the Agriculture and Environmental Science Facility completed. In addition, he believes that the entire community will be proud of this

facility well into the future. He thanked everyone for the support during his recent time of need. He thanked the voters for their support of SPLOST, and he stated Go DAWGS!

**Mr. Chad Galloway** agreed with comments made by Dr. Gwatney and the other Board members. He stated he was very impressed by the presentations from Mr. King and Mrs. Rigdon. He appreciated all the principals attending the meeting. He congratulated Mr. Cole and thanked him for being at the meeting.

**Mr. Terry Bramlett** offered congratulations to Ms. Sisson on the Golden Radish Award. He is excited about the new Agriculture and Environmental Science Facility and believes it will provide many opportunities for our students. He considers this to be an incredible facility, and he is thankful it is ready for our students to use. He noted to Mr. King that it is remarkable what is being done and thanked him, as well as Mr. Cioffi, for the work being done.

He complimented Dr. Gwatney and his team and stated that the chain is only as strong as the weakest link. He believes there are no weak links and that all team members are overachievers and represent a true model of excellence. He thanked Mrs. Sarah Rigdon for being so efficient and for her dedication, as well as the Fannin County School System achieving number one on the Pioneer RESA CCRPI rankings.

**Mr. Lewis DeWeese** commended all those that work for the kids. He noted that their passion and caring make the finest team in Georgia. He thanked them all for making the Board members' lives easy.

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

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