

April 12, 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 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. Matt Cardoza, Assistant Director of Policy for Georgia Department of Education and Justin Old, Director for Pioneer RESA, facilitated the training. The topic reviewed was legal issues and ethics for Boards of Educations.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the consent agenda.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from March 8, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.; March 22, 2018, at 3:30 p.m.; and April 10, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

Approve a resolution – Amend School Calendar 2017 – 2018 (see attached).

Approve FY18 budget amendment #6 (see attached).

Approve request to secure Board of Education checking account bids.

Approve request to surplus the following weight training equipment at the high school: 1 Plate loaded cable crossover machine and attachments, 1 Plate loaded leg extension/leg curl machine, 1 Pin select preacher curl machine, 1 Pin select leg curl machine, and 1 Plate loaded calf raise machine

Approve request to salvage the TVA Dodge Caravan, VIN#2B4GH2592PRS99436.

Approve request to salvage a 1999 Chevrolet Express Van, VIN# 1GCGG25R6X10824145.

Approve request to salvage the following technology hardware items as salvage:

- East Fannin Elementary School: 40 desktop computers, 1 printer, 1 projector, 1 netbook, 1 scanner, and 1 monitor.
- West Fannin Elementary School: 1 printer, 1 scanner, 5 desktop, and 3 laptops.
- Fannin County Middle School: 41 televisions, 38 television mounts, 21 desktops, 12 interactive boards, 1 projector, 1 scanner, 1 printer, and 3 laptops.
- Fannin County High School: 6 interactive boards, 1 copier, 6 projector screens, 7 LCD projectors, 2 TVs, 3 projector mounts, 2 laptops, 2 VCRs, 2 monitors, 85 desktop computers, and 1 printer.
- District wide: 1 laptop computer and 5 desktop computers.

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

Scott Barnstead, Band Director of Fannin County High School, gave an update to the Board on band extracurricular activities. A performance was given by the woodwind duet – Lora Gwatney oboe; and Natalie Sanders, flute. Also, a performance was given by the brass quintet – Dawson Workman, trumpet; Seth Foster, trumpet; Emma Barnstead, French horn; Zach Nelson, trombone; and Timothy Bradley, tuba.

Sarah Rigdon, Director of Achievement, reviewed the school system's strategic plan and system goals with Board members and those in attendance, seeking input on our district's parent involvement plan and the district improvement plan for SY 18-19.

Public Comment:

Cliff Shirah read an email he sent to Dr. Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, on February 8, 2018, regarding to his comments at the Board meeting earlier that same evening.

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

Dr. Michael Gwatney, read the attached statement on safety (see attached).

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to table Board Policy GAMB – Possession of Weapons by Employees for public comment and to be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried. Fannin County Sheriff Dane Kirby stated he supported this policy 100 percent. Sheriff Kirby stated drastic acts require drastic responses. Sheriff Kirby also stated he was very thankful that the Board and the Superintendent were willing to step out into these waters. He stated he thought the new policy was done right.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to table revisions to Board policy JBC(1) – Homeless Students for public comment and to be voted on at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting (see attached). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the district financial report for February 28, 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in March for February was \$351,122.37.

Susan Holloway, Finance Director, reviewed the results of the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, including the independent auditor's reports. Mrs. Holloway explained there were no findings and/or questioned costs. The auditor's opinion was that the system's audit was "unmodified," which is issued when the independent auditors believe an entity's financial statements are free from material misstatements

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the bid from Roof Management, Inc. for a base bid of \$744,820.00 for the reroof project at West Fannin Elementary School to be paid out of SPLOST funds and a portion to be reimbursed from state capital outlay funds in the amount of \$277,396.00. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Robert Ensley, Curriculum Director, shared with Board members the results of the 2017 – 2018 Board Internal Review Committee that met on March 14, 2018, to review the results of the online Board Assessment for the annual Board Standards review. One of the requests from this meeting was for the Board to participate in a retreat. A retreat has been set up for April 23, 2018. Board members will visit all five schools that day. The media was invited to accompany the Board that day.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the request for Fannin County Board of Education to apply for Exemplary Board status with Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Jill Armstrong, Neil Armstrong, and Lauren A. Seber all effective June 1, 2018. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Heath Hinton as a teacher effective school year 2018 – 2019 depending on completion of paperwork. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, thanked Matt Cordoza and Justin Old for this afternoon's Board training. Dr. Gwatney stated Fannin County Band Director Scott Barnstead and the students who took part in this evening's performance were awesome. Dr. Gwatney thanked Sarah Rigdon for her presentation. He also thanked Cliff Shirah for his public comment. Dr. Gwatney thanked Benny Long and Sheriff Kirby for their assistance in preparing Board policy GAMB. Dr. Gwatney thanked Susan Holloway for her leadership and the financial team for the results of the audit. He congratulated West Fannin Elementary for their recent achievement with STEM Certification stating this process was started five years ago under (then WFES Principal) Robert Ensley's leadership, and it was good to see this goal accomplished. Dr. Gwatney thanked state government for ending the austerity cuts that have affected QBE funding for many years. Dr. Gwatney also congratulated Dr. April Hodges on the completion of her doctorate degree. Finally, Dr. Gwatney thanked the community for their support and attendance.

Board Members' Comments:

Mr. Steve Stanley said that he – like Director of Facilities Danny Shinpaugh – could also remember the days of feeding the coal furnace at Dial Elementary School. Mr. Stanley stated he has been a resident of Fannin County all of this life. He thanked the band for their performance and congratulated them on all of their many accomplishments.

Mr. Bobby Bearden stated he agreed with everything Dr. Gwatney said in his comments. Mr. Bearden thanked everyone for being at the meeting. Mr. Bearden stated that at a recent meeting with Congressman Doug Collins it was announced a student from Fannin County has been admitted to one of the United States military academies. Mr. Bearden stated the band did an excellent job with their performance earlier in the evening, and he thanked FCHS Principal Erik Cioffi for all that he does at the high school. Mr. Bearden also thanked Dr. Gwatney's staff for all that they do.

Mr. Terry Bramlett thanked Dr. Gwatney for the job he is doing. Mr. Bramlett stated Dr. Gwatney is running a tight ship. Mr. Bramlett stated Dr. Gwatney had made a good decision in recommending Sarah Finch for the position of Director of Achievement and that she was to be commended for her initiative with literacy. Mr. Bramlett thanked Susan Holloway and her staff for an excellent audit. Mr. Bramlett congratulated West Fannin Elementary School for becoming the 34th elementary school in the State of Georgia to become STEM certified. Mr. Bramlett congratulated Dr. April Hodges for her accomplishment of completing her doctorate. Mr. Bramlett thanked Keith Nuckolls for the fantastic presentation he gave at Tuesday's work session. Mr. Bramlett stated Mr. Nuckolls did a good job explaining the importance the extracurricular events play in enriching a child. He also thanked the teachers for facilitating the many programs within the Fannin County School System, including band, sports, and other activities. Mr. Bramlett also reminded everyone teachers were teachers first, and that doing all of these extracurricular activities was on top of their teaching duties.

Mr. Chad Galloway thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Mr. Galloway also thanked Sarah Rigdon and Susan Holloway for their presentations. Mr. Galloway thanked Benny Long, Danny Shinpaugh, and Darren Danner for the improvements made in our facilities to make our schools safer. Mr. Galloway thanked Sheriff Kirby for his support of Fannin County Schools. Mr. Galloway thanked the band for their presentation, technology for everything they do for the school system, and Dr. April Hodges on her accomplishment. Mr. Galloway also stated he enjoyed working with his fellow Board members.

Lewis DeWeese stated that it is a privilege to serve with his fellow Board members and Dr. Gwatney. Mr. DeWeese stated there was a new spirit in our school system, and a local writer summed it up well; he read sections of an article by Debi Holcomb, a reporter for the *Fannin Sentinel*, commending the Fannin County Board of Education on how well they ran their Board meetings. Mr. DeWeese also stated the Fannin County Board of Education is very special. Mr. DeWeese stated a teacher affects a room of children. District Administrators are the initiators that choose the employees in each department, and all employees then ensure quality education and safety of our children.

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

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