

March 14, 2019
4:30 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.

Chad Galloway, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

The Board participated in local board training for the 2018-2019 school year. Pioneer Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) Executive Director Justin Old and Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley facilitated the training. The topic was “Board Roles and Responsibilities.”

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from February 14, 2019 and March 5, 2019.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the transportation requests from the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) to use a bus on March 15, 2019, while Fannin County School students are on holiday. The bus will take students to the Blairsville Cinema in Blairsville, GA. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde gave a review of recent activities of School Governance Teams. (**See attached.**)

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde gave an update on the Fannin County School System’s (FCSS) Charter renewal. (**See attached.**)

East Fannin Elementary School principal Mathew Price gave the “School Happenings” update.

Director of Student Services Shannon Miller shared an update on the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative in FCSS. Certificates of Recognition were presented to Fannin County School principals.

Public Comment: Lewis DeWeese welcomed the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class participants.

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

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in February for January was \$428,746.77.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the recommendation of Option 2 for the FCSS 2019-20 calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried (**See attached.**)

Director of Facilities and Maintenance Danny Shinpaugh gave a construction update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to award mowing bids to Pro Turf & Landscape Maintenance, LLC. The cost per location is Blue Ridge Elementary School for \$525, East Fannin Elementary School for \$1,650, West Fannin Elementary School for \$875, Fannin County Middle School for \$950, Fannin County High School for \$1,975, and the Agriculture Facility for \$675. This mowing bid will cover seven months beginning April 1, 2019, and ending October 27, 2019. Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Bobby Bearden voted no; motion carried (**See attached.**)

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Agriculture Facility driveway addition. The bid was awarded to Johnson Paving, LLC for \$224,838.83 to be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of 250 HP G6 Edition Chromebooks from Firefly Computers for \$52,225.00 using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the purchase of 12 View Sonic ViewBoard Interactive Flat Panels with onboard computers for Fannin County Middle School (FCMS). These will be purchased from CDW-G for \$39,555.00 using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the revised Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12. The revision is for a typographical error only and does not require the policy to be tabled. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve May 11, 2019, for the Fannin County High School (FCHS) Prom and May 24, 2019, for FCHS Graduation. All members voted yes; motion carried. (**See attached.**)

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon showed a promotional video created by FCHS technology students and reviewed the upcoming AdvancED accreditation visit.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the summary report of the 2018-2019 Board Internal Review. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the next local board training scheduled for May 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. The topic will be “Legal Issues and Ethics for Boards of Education.”

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Breanne Harper effective May 31, 2019. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Mike Cole abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Amanda Henderson effective March 13, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Tammy Roberts effective June 14, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Russell Galloway for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, and Lewis DeWeese voted yes; Chad Galloway abstained; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney thanked Justin Old for providing an excellent training. He noted this is Director of Finance Susan Holloway's last Board meeting and thanked her for her 15 years of service to the school system. He wished her the best and commended her for working with incoming Director of Finance Susan Wynn on a daily basis to make the transition run smoothly.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Benny Long and Denver Foster for facilitating a bus tour taken by FCMS and FCHS staff members on March 13, 2019. This tour of Fannin County allowed staff members to see where students live and the financial diversity throughout the county.

Superintendent Gwatney reminded all that early voting ends March 15, 2019, and Election Day is March 19, 2019. He stated that no matter how you vote, it is important to vote. Many have fought and died for this right.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce for collaborating with FCSS for the *Business After Hours* meeting on May 5, 2019, and appreciated the presentations by Shannon Miller, Danny Shinpaugh, Mathew Price, and Betsy Hyde. Dr. Gwatney thanked the Board Internal Review Team.

Superintendent Gwatney noted that he had a conversation with our district's lead AdvancED evaluator, Dr. Cheryl Allread, and she was very complimentary of Sarah Rigdon and the phenomenal job she is doing preparing for the upcoming accreditation visit.

Dr. Gwatney commended the elementary schools for sponsoring a dance to support the Children's Fund. He also expressed his appreciation for the work done by Snack in A Back Pack and the steps they take to feed the children in our community.

Superintendent Gwatney invited Sarah Welch to announce a special event, "A Return to Hogwarts," to be held on March 28, 2019, at FCHS beginning at 4:30 p.m. Prior to this event, at 4:00 p.m., there will be a dedication of two "Little Free Libraries" in loving memory of Mrs. Sandra Mercier.

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Week March 18-22, 2019, Dr. Gwatney recognized the five fine individuals who represent the children of Fannin County. He thanked the Board members on behalf of the Fannin County Board of Education.

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett thanked those present and commented that there are so many good things about FCSS that the media cannot print it all. He stated that it is an honor to work with the school

system and administrators. He appreciated Susan Holloway and Danny Shinpaugh for their long years of dedication and the legacy they will leave behind.

Bobby Bearden thanked those who attended the meeting and said ditto to Dr. Gwatney and Mr. Bramlett's comments. He also asked that citizens please go vote.

Mike Cole thanked those who came to the meeting. He stated that Mathew Price had a great presentation, and he likes the changes in security and STEM. He stated that he was not on board with the Highway 515 entrance to the Agricultural Facility prior to being on the Board, but now he is overwhelmed at the accomplishment of getting and using the property. He stated that the cost of the entrance is fantastic with all things considered.

Chad Galloway thanked those who showed up for the meeting and said it was an honor and pleasure to be on the Board. He appreciated Mathew Price, Sarah Rigdon, Danny Shinpaugh, and Darren Danner for their work and presentations.

Lewis DeWeese said ditto to all previous comments. He stated that he felt that if he could be involved in saving one life, it would make his worthwhile. He imagines a teacher, the many lives s/he touches, and changes forever. Everything in the lives of these children is blessed by what they learn in school from teachers and staff. Mr. DeWeese has a love of reading, and reading has had a lifelong impact, making his life richer and fuller. There are many differences in today's students. They are confident because they are supported and loved. The attendance study at East Fannin shows that there are no limits to the roles that are played by school system staff members. Educators are marvelous for what they do, and they are privileged to help all kids. Educators are blessed for what they do.

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.

Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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