

June 13, 2019
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Lewis DeWeese, Chair; Bobby Bearden; Terry Bramlett; and Mike Cole. Chad Galloway, Vice-Chair, was absent. A quorum was met.

Lewis DeWeese, Chair, called the meeting to order.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from May 9, 2019, and May 24, 2019.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney introduced and welcomed new district administrators effective June 1, 2019: Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations, Darren Danner; Director of Transportation Denver Foster; and Director of Instructional Services & Policy Sarah Welch.

Fannin County Development Authority Executive Director Christie Gribble shared information from the Fannin Youth Initiative.

Fannin County School System Athletic Director David Henson gave an update on sports programs throughout the district.

Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations, Darren Danner gave a construction update.

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the East Fannin Elementary School parent pickup line driveway project. This project will be completed by Johnson Paving LLC for \$25,500. This is a “turn-key” price for widening approximately 575 feet of road to 18 feet wide, and it includes edge repairs. The project will be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve West Fannin Elementary School security/surveillance cameras. The project will be completed by ETC Communications for \$27,985.74. This is a “turn-key” price for all equipment, installation, and related services. This will be paid from the GADOE School Safety Grant. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Fannin County High School Stadium Lighting project. The project was awarded to Over and Under General Contractor, Inc. for \$292,490.00 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the propane fuel bid from UPG/Fort Mountain Propane for \$0.894 cents per gallon. Bidder has agreed to all terms and

conditions set forth in the Invitation to Bid offered by the Fannin County Board of Education on May 23, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the request to proceed in seeking bid proposals for repairing, resurfacing, and restriping West Fannin Elementary School's bus pad, parent drop-off, and staff parking. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the district financial report for April 30, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in May for April was \$505,174.46.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Timeline. This will include the first meeting to be held on July 11, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve a spending resolution for July 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the Sales Ratio Study to the Board for information only. This presentation included data from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, Sales Ratio Division. No action was taken by the Board.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve FY19 Budget Amendment #6. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Fannin County Middle School Surplus Property winning bid: Lot 1: Laminator, Carlie Hammond for \$50.00. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the transportation request from Fannin County 4-H to use a bus on July 1-5, 2019. The bus will take 4-H members to Camp Fortson, Cloverleaf Camp, for grades 4-6 in Hampton, GA. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve an addendum to the AmeriCorps Service Site Agreement. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley presented the Exemplary Board Award from the Georgia School Boards Association and shared training course offerings for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to go into Executive Session for the following purposes: 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)) **and** to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property; authorize ordering an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public

vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on May 24, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the contract for Superintendent Michael Gwatney. The contract is for 36 months and will take effect July 1, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to accept the resignation of Kimberly Pack effective May 30, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation Rebecca “Becky” Pack effective July 31, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Linda Cass, Emily Dean, Dana Garrett, Ashley Jacobson, Natalie Martin, Noah O’Neal, and Tessa Rogers as teachers effective School Year 2019-2020, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Lauren Payne as an Academic Coach effective School Year 2019-2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Tiffany Ingle and Hannah Nicholson as paraprofessionals effective School Year 2019-2020, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Brianna Rosas and Sarah Dills Tipton as secretaries for School Year 2019-2020, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Theresa Brown at 80% effective in the 2019-2020 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the withdrawal of a previous recommendation made on May 8, 2019, for Vickie Whittenbarger. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Mandy Henderson as a substitute teacher pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney stated that he is privileged to have had the opportunity to be a part of and to serve the Fannin County School System community in a variety of ways for so many years. He stated that his time here has been an enjoyable experience, and, like everything that is truly important in life, it is the people who have made it that way for him.

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated the following groups and individuals:

- Denver Foster, Sarah Welch, and Darren Danner on beginning their new leadership roles with Fannin County School System.
- The Transportation Department Road-e-o winners. He feels that these accomplishments speak highly of our district's driver training program.
- Christie Gribble for her work with the Fannin Youth Initiative (FYI) program, as well as those students who completed the program during the 2018-2019 school year.
- The Board of Education for achieving the Georgia School Boards Association's highest status of Exemplary Board. Board members go the extra mile, and it makes a difference.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Athletic Director David Henson for the extracurricular update, shared photos from the recent FCHS Band trip to Hawaii, and shared photos from Fannin County High School's graduation ceremony. He stated that the Fannin County School System has the finest group of students, parents, faculty, and staff to be found anywhere. Together, we make our district an excellent place for everyone to learn and grow.

Superintendent Gwatney expressed his pleasure at seeing photos from the elementary school "Graduation Walks" at BRES, EFES, and WFES! He shared that he was able to participate by reading to the EFES seniors who were entering kindergarten his last year as principal at EFES. He expressed that the Graduation at FCHS was beautiful!

Board Members' Comments:

Mike Cole congratulated Darren Danner, Denver Foster, and Sarah Welch. He stated that he was honored to work with them and was glad to have Dr. Michael Gwatney as Superintendent for another three years.

Bobby Bearden said ditto to what Dr. Gwatney said. He congratulated Darren Danner, Denver Foster, and Sarah Welch. He stated that he appreciated everyone being at the meeting and that Fannin County School System is the best school system in Georgia and the South. He congratulated Dr. Gwatney for being a great leader.

Terry Bramlett congratulated new directors and stated he is honored to have them in their new positions. He stated that the administrative team is comprised of superstars, and it is an honor to get to work with them. The job of the Board is to monitor what is done, and the most important job they do is hiring the Superintendent. He stated that he is pleased with the leadership, character, and morale built within the system; he is pleased with the team and Dr. Gwatney's management of it. He pointed out that not many systems enjoy the benefits of being debt-free, and this is largely thanks to the SPLOST, which was passed by an 87% vote. He thanked stakeholders, taxpayers, and students, and he stated he was honored to be a part of the team.

Lewis DeWeese agreed with everything that had been said. He stated that a 355.97 out of 400 (SACS score) represents a system that is pretty much flawless and kid-oriented with one objective – to serve children. Everyone is on board with that objective. He blessed and thanked all who play a part in serving our children. He told about the first book he was given as a child – *I Love Bugs* – and thanked Sarah Welch for the good work she is doing with literacy. He stated that reading is awesome and thanked everyone in attendance.

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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