

January 14, 2021  
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.

Chad Galloway, Chair, relinquished the Chair to Superintendent Michael Gwatney for reorganization of the Board.

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, called for nominations for Chair for the 2021 calendar year. Terry Bramlett nominated Chad Galloway. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to elect Chad Galloway as Chair for the 2021 calendar year by a show of hands in favor. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, and Lewis DeWeese voted yes; Chad Galloway abstained; motion carried.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney transferred the meeting to the elected 2021 Chair Chad Galloway.

Chad Galloway opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Bobby Bearden nominated Terry Bramlett as Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to elect Terry Bramlett as Vice-Chair for the 2021 calendar year by a show of hands in favor. Bobby Bearden, Mike Cole, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Terry Bramlett abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to set the regular monthly Board of Education meetings for the 2021 calendar year on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are to be held at the office of the Fannin County Board of Education: 2290 East First Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from December 10, 2020.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney made special recognitions for the following:

1. Fannin County School Resource Officers (SROs) for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

2. West Fannin Elementary School STEM/STEAM Lab Teacher Kim Patterson for being awarded the Georgia Youth Science & Technology Center's (GYSTC) SY 2021 Georgia STEM Scholar Award.
3. Fannin County School System (FCSS) spelling bee contestants:
  - District winner and Fannin County Middle School (FCMS) winner: Annelise Hughes
  - District runner-up and East Fannin Elementary School (EFES) winner: Addelyn Barnes
  - West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) winner: Abby Pickard
  - Blue Ridge Elementary School (BRES) winner: Ethan Lindsey
4. Fannin County Board of Education members for being named as a Georgia School Board Association 2020 Exemplary Board.

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed information from recent School Governance Team meetings.

FCHS Assistant Principal Scott Ramsey presented school happenings.

Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared a central office update.

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared an update on online learning and immunization of FCSS personnel. Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared a district health update.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the district's financial report for December 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared information from the Georgia Department of Revenue regarding SPLOST and stated the SPLOST check received for November 2020 was \$678,120.44.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the application of Funding Request Form 471 with the Universal Services Administrative Company, Schools and Libraries Division E-Rate Program to receive subsidies on the purchase of eligible equipment and services from MDSI, Inc. The total district portion of these purchase will be \$29,372.63 to be paid with SPLOST funds during the 2020-2021 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve network infrastructure equipment and installation in the amount of \$72,291.09 to be installed by MDSI, Inc. at BRES, EFES, and FCHS. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett to approve the purchase of a Lu Interactive Playground for \$25,778 for WFES to be purchased using Title I funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve bids for Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) surplus property bids and award Lots 1, 2, and 3 to Ronald Cruse and Lot 4 to Jeffrey Dale. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the Board's Self-Assessment.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley reviewed local Board training selections and furnished a recap of the retreat held on December 15, 2020.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on December 10, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Donna Gray effective December 16, 2020, pending replacement with a certified teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Frances Lawrie effective January 15, 2021, pending replacement with a certified teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Wes Kimsey effective January 22, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Carmen Booth and Robert Taylor effective January 29, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Keith Nuckolls effective April 1, 2021, pending replacement with a certified administrator. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Candice Sisson effective May 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Taylor Ledford as a teacher effective January 15, 2021, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Gretchen Burrell Gordon as a teacher effective January 19, 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 Donna Yates as a paraprofessional effective January 19, 2021, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Lisa Jackson as the Central Registrar effective March 1, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Pepper McConnell for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Erin Golden as a substitute for School Nutrition pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Kaylin Contardi, Kelly Maniscalco, Debra Snow, and Robin Welker as substitute teachers pending completion of paperwork, background check, and certification. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked those watching/attending the meeting. He commended those who presented at the meeting. Superintendent Gwatney appreciated all members of the FCSS faculty and staff for being team players for our students. He stated that online learning is not the long-term intention for the FCSS, and he wants all students to be back in schools as soon as possible. Superintendent Gwatney expressed condolences to the family of former Board member Mike Queen. He thanked the members of the FCSS "Road Crew" and wished all newly elected and sworn in officials the best as they see to the needs of citizens. He wished Candy Sisson well in her retirement and Keith Nuckolls well in his new path.

Superintendent Gwatney provided Keith Nuckolls the opportunity to share comments on his time and experiences in the FCSS.

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

**Mike Cole** shared that he feels connected to FCSS administrators, as he does to family. He thanked the SROs and his fellow Board members. He expressed his enthusiasm for CTAE and the building of a new transportation facility. He asked for reflections on Psalms 91. Mr. Cole thanked everyone.

**Bobby Bearden** thanked SROs and law enforcement officials. He congratulated those who received awards and thanked those who gave presentations. He appreciates the CTAE program and expressed good wishes for Keith Nuckolls and Candy Sisson. Mr. Bearden stated he received the COVID vaccine two weeks ago, and he is doing fine.

**Lewis DeWeese** stated that this meeting has lifted his spirits, and this district is blessed. Mr. DeWeese wished Candy Sisson and Keith Nuckolls Godspeed.

**Terry Bramlett** thanked the Fannin County Farm Bureau for sponsoring the Elected Officials Breakfast and providing the Georgia Grown gift bags. He shared that he has always viewed the FCSS as a family, and he values every member of the FCSS team. He thanked Candy Sisson and Keith Nuckolls for their contributions to the FCSS.

**Chad Galloway** thanked those watching/attending. He considers the FCSS a family. He wished Candy Sisson and Keith Nuckolls the best and thanked those who gave presentations.

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.

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Chad Galloway, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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