

November 11, 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. A quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Fannin County Board of Education.

The meeting was called to order by Chad Galloway, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Special recognition was given to the Fannin County High School Cross-Country team. Coach Suzianne Pass introduced and congratulated the student-athletes for their second consecutive region championship. Both teams finished in the top ten at state competition.

Special recognition was given by Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof to Charles Spencer with Tennessee Valley Robotics. Mr. Spencer is a great supporter of robotics in education. He presented a check of \$5,681.00 to purchase robotics for Fannin County Middle School and Fannin County High School.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed summaries of recent activities at all five Fannin County School Governance Teams.

East Fannin Elementary School Principal Matt Price presented school happenings.

Director of Transportation Denver Foster shared information about the new bus tracking system provided through Synovia Solutions and the app “Here Comes the Bus.” Parents will receive a letter from Mr. Foster with instructions to enroll in the application.

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof shared a district health update including current COVID data.

Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley presented a survey for stakeholder input for the future use of the recently purchased Neal property. The survey will be launched on the school system’s website and be available to all community members. The survey will remain open for approximately 2 months to gather ideas.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley presented an update regarding Coronavirus Emergency Relief Funds. Fannin schools is soliciting stakeholder input for Esser III-ARP Federal funds. The school system has \$2,380,869 available and is interested in stakeholder ideas for utilizing these funds. Fannin schools also received \$29,996 from the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY I). A large portion of these funds will sponsor afterschool activities and

support students that are identified as homeless. The L4GA Supplemental Funding was also received by Fannin Schools for \$342,954. These funds are allocated to each school and will sponsor school-specific literacy initiatives.

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update with photographs.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update with photographs.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve keyless entry hardware from Howard Technology Solutions for \$49,337.00 utilizing SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the West Fannin Elementary School window project by awarding Sapelo-National's bid for \$129,935.00. This project will utilize ESSER III ARP funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to purchase technology hardware from MDSI for the new staff development center and transportation facilities. The staff development center cost of \$35,726.56 and the transportation facility cost of \$25,838.88 will be paid through SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to salvage CTAE equipment (1984 Campbell Hausfeld horizontal air compressor and Lincoln Plasma Pro Cut 60 plasma cutter). All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve district financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for September 2021 was \$761,786.97.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve school quarterly financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, 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)) **and** to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable

information from a student's educational records; (20 USC § 1232g). 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 Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for October 14, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to table a revision to Policy JBCB (regarding Non-Resident Students). The proposed change clarifies the definition of "employee." It also states that resident students who become non-resident students may continue attending Fannin schools if: (1) The school and family must meet and determine that it is in the educational best interest for the child to remain a student of Fannin County Schools. The Superintendent, in consultation with the Board, shall have the final approval; (2) The student must maintain excellent attendance with few, if any, unexcused absences or tardies and no referrals to the Attendance Support Team (AST), if applicable; (3) The student must maintain passing grades in all classes each semester; and (4) The student must abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Referrals to a Disciplinary Tribunal will result in immediate revocation of the privilege to attend Fannin County Schools. In addition to meeting the guidelines above, the family of the non-resident student must agree to provide all transportation for the student. If the non-resident student does not meet and/or maintain the criteria above, his or her privilege of attending school in Fannin County may be revoked by the Superintendent or their designee. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Debra Thomas effective November 05, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Tami Summers effective January 01, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Alejandra Mills as teacher pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Christy Cook, Ellen Fay, and Tracy Ridings as paraprofessionals effective November 12, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Margarite Hall and Chrisalee Struthers as paraprofessionals effective November 15, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Tommy Gibbs as custodian effective November 15, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Kimberly Greenway for school nutrition food service assistant effective November 15, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Miranda Stewart as secretary/receptionist effective November 29, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Rita Chapman, Joshua Ross, and Allison Teems as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Vicki Garland, Lenette Hall and Allison Teems as nutrition substitutes, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Mark Morrison as substitute transportation, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Charles Yannis as substitute clerical, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to postpone the December 2021 Board of Education meeting by one week. The meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked the schools for honoring our community's veterans in their Veteran's day programs and recognized Board members that are veterans as well. Dr. Gwatney congratulated student-athletes that were recognized in tonight's meeting. He thanked all presenters, especially Matt Price for School Happenings and Mr. Spencer for his support of Fannin's robotics program.

Dr. Gwatney discussed events since the last Board meeting: Local Board Training and tours of the recent property purchase as well as the new transportation and staff development center, the REACH ceremony, and the homecoming parade. He thanked faculty and staff that helped make these events successful especially: Sarah Rigdon, Darren Danner, Mark Young, Lucas Roof, Vanessa Weaver, Denise Messer, Scott Ramsey, and all principals. Dr. Gwatney also

congratulated Sheriff Dane Kirby for his recognition as a Pioneer in Education – an award presented by Pioneer RESA.

In this time of Thanksgiving celebrations, Dr. Gwatney is thankful to have students in session. He thanked Martha Williams for securing food and supplies during this time of supply chain issues and looks forward to enjoying Thanksgiving meals with parents, community, and students. Dr. Gwatney is thankful for the Board, all members of our school system, and for our county.

**Board Members' Comments:**

**Bobby Bearden** thanked the principals for being present and Mr. Price for his presentation. He said he was excited about many opportunities in our schools: the cross-country team and their success, robotics opportunities at Fannin Middle, the homecoming parade, welding, and the new bus app.

**Mike Cole** agreed with Mr. Bearden. He stated that the school system has outstanding teachers and students - athletes, welders, and agriculture students. It is truly unbelievable the magnitude in which we are accelerating.

**Terry Bramlett** said that he marvels at the dedication of our team. He is thankful for all of our veterans and for the opportunity to view the high school's Veteran's Day program on Rebel TV. He was amazed by the band and Dr. Barnstead. The respect, patriotism, and sacrifice of our veterans allow all of our freedoms today. Mr. Bramlett said that it is an honor to serve on the Board- a Board that loves the kids in our county and does not have a political agenda. We are blessed.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all that attended tonight's meeting. A student wrote an email to him and he thanked the student for the email and Dr. Gwatney and Martha Williams for responding to the student. The student and the topics of his government class encouraged him. He appreciated the band concert and was amazed by their performance.

**Lewis DeWeese** agreed with the other Board member's comments. He said it was a privilege to come and leave feeling like he feels. Kids are first, people care!

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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