

January 12, 2023
5:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Terry Bramlett, Chair.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to relinquish the Chair to Superintendent Michael Gwatney for reorganization of the Board. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney, as acting Chair, called for nominations for Board Chair for the 2023 calendar year. Bobby Bearden nominated Terry Bramlett. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to elect Terry Bramlett as Chair of the Board of Education for the 2023 calendar year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney transferred the meeting to Terry Bramlett, the newly elected 2023 Chair of the Board of Education.

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

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to elect Mike Cole as Vice-Chair for the 2023 calendar year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to set the regular monthly Board of Education meetings for the 2023 calendar year on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are to be held at the office of the Fannin County Board of Education Staff Development Center, which is located at 6145 Old Hwy 76, Blue Ridge, Georgia. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from December 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney made the following special recognitions before the Board:

Pioneer RESA “Pioneers in Education” Award for Fannin County: Elden Moates, 2022 recipient.

National Law Enforcement Recognition Day: Certificates of appreciation were given to Fannin School Resource Officers (SROs) Darwin Couch, Anthony Walden, James Burrell, Thomas Kay, and Tracy Summers.

Exemplary Board of Education Award: Fannin County Board of Education, 2022 recipient from the Georgia School Boards Association.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed summaries of recent activities at all five Fannin SGTs.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Connie Huff provided a central office update regarding instructional services and curriculum. She also highlighted recent professional learning activities.

Fannin County High School Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey presented school happenings.

There was no public comment.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve Bowen & Watson as Construction Manager (CM) at Risk for: drainage issue at FCSS Stadium; Baseball, Softball Complex; and Health, Wellness & CTAE Facility. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole to approve district financial reports for the period ending November 30, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for November 2022 was \$903,080.86.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared the results of the latest SPLOST audit conducted by Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC from June 30, 2022. The Fannin County School district's SPLOST program was found to be operating in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, the referendum approved by the County's citizens, and industry best practices.

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof shared information with the Board in regard to upcoming Board training that will meet the requirements of the GSBA Exemplary Board qualifications.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Tera Wilson effective December 16, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Shirley Payne and Guy Woody as Custodians effective January 13, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Alicia Loughner as Professional Staff pending receipt of a release from a contract with Henry County by February 6, 2023, and

pending completion of paperwork background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Scott Mathis for the Technology Department effective January 2, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Timothy Messer as substitute teacher effective January 13, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Rebecca Cox as substitute teacher and substitute nutrition effective January 13, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Karlee Campbell as clerical – student worker effective second semester SY 22-23, pending completion of paperwork and all school program requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent’s Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Scott Mathis for being promoted to “Cyber Security and Network Coordinator” reporting to the Chief Operations Officer. With this change, Director of Technology & Information Services Heather Finley will shift her more to instructional technology and will report to Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof.

Dr. Gwatney thanked the leadership of the schools and district, Fannin County Local Government and the Road Department, local utilities, including Tri-State EMC and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, and especially the FCSS Road Crew for working to ensure student safety during times of unpredictable weather. Decisions are always made in the interest of safety.

In conclusion, Dr. Gwatney congratulated the newly appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, and congratulated the entire Board once again for earning the GSBA Exemplary Award.

Board Members’ Comments:

Chad Galloway thanked all in attendance and stated his appreciation for those that presented. He congratulated Mr. Mathis for his promotion and recognized the Chair and Vice Chair for their excellence in their role. He also recognized Ms. Miller and thanked her for her vision.

Lewis DeWeese thanked everyone for making the night’s meeting outstanding and encouraging, “Kids First!”

Bobby Bearden thanked the SROs, Mr. Moates, the presenters, and his fellow Board members for their contribution to the night’s meeting. He stated that he was thankful to be a part of the Board.

Mike Cole stated that it was an honor to see Mr. Moates awarded and to also see the continued passion of the educators that presented at the meeting. He recognized the impact that SPLOST has had on the operations of the district and its ability to create new opportunities.

Mr. Cole congratulated Mr. Mathis on his promotion and reflected on the joy that he has for working with all of the leaders and educators in our district as well as his fellow Board members.

Terry Bramlett thanked the Board for their confidence in naming him Chair; Mr. Bramlett has served on the Board for 18 years. He reflected on the vision and successes that are shared at meetings and thanked all for their contribution. Mr. Bramlett also discussed the importance of parental involvement and that our schools are thrilled to have parents volunteering.

Mr. Bramlett congratulated Mr. Mathis and thanked him and Ms. Finley for keeping Fannin schools ahead of the technology curve.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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