

August 11, 2022  
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, Chairman.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from July 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.; and July 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney recognized the custodial staff from each school and thanked them for preparing the schools for students to arrive on August 1. Their efforts were appreciated and their hard work made our campuses shine for open house.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared an update regarding recent activities of each School Governance Team (SGT).

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney introduced the following: 1. Director of Instructional Services & Curriculum Dr. Connie Huff and the FCSS Parent Liaisons. This group shared a presentation highlighting each school's open house and first days for the 2022-2023 school year; 2. Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof shared an update on the Fannin County Teacher of the Year process. Interviews with the 5 TOTY candidates, Alex Whitener, Tiffany Brown, Stacy Herndon, Amanda Thomas, and Mandy Housley will be held August 12; 3. Director of Technology & Information Services Heather Finley shared about district communications and a new link on the district website with helpful information for stakeholders; 4. Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared an update on the 2021 Sales Ratio Study. The current ratio of 30.35 is not in compliance with the Georgia Department of Revenue's required ratio of 36-40. It will be recommended that the FCSS go with a roll-back rate that is projected to be around 7.5-8.0. The actual rate won't be available until the September Board meeting; 6. Assistant Superintended Robert Ensley announced the Open House for the new Transportation Facility on August 18 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. followed by a ribbon cutting.

There was no public comment.

Associate Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities and construction update with the Board.

Motion by Bobby Bearden seconded by Mike Cole to approve a change in the funding source for the West Fannin Elementary School window project from Federal Funds to SPLOST. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway seconded by Lewis DeWeese to approve each school's quarterly financial reports for June 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the district's June financial report. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the SPLOST update. \$888,206.89 was collected for June, 2022.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the annual SPLOST engagement letter with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. The audit will review compliance with the voter-approved referendum and the use of funds for those items.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett to approve to adopt the FY 2023 budget. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the purchase of a virtual environment from Howard Technology Solutions for \$138,556.79 utilizing SPLOST. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole to approve to purchase 3 sets of tools from Snap-On tools for a combined total of \$69,677.74 utilizing local funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve Policy IKBB: Divisive Concepts Complaint Resolution Process and Policy IKBC: Material Harmful to Minors Complaint Resolution Process. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Lennette Hall effective July 22, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Karen Waters effective July 26, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Rex Janson effective July 28, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Justin Foster effective August 5, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Dana Martin as Food Service Assistant effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Hobart "Dan" Brown as Custodian effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Tamra Payne as School Nurse effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Ansley Waters as School Nurse (RN) effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Kayla Fortenberry as Bookkeeper effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Nicole Fish as Paraprofessional effective August 22, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Vicky Rymer, Barbara “Khalisa” Taylor, and Vanessa Weaver as Substitute Teachers effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Lennette Hall as Substitute Nutrition effective September 1, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Ian Best as Substitute Transportation effective August 12, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Teresa Gunnell Paraprofessional will transfer from Mineral Bluff Pre-K to East Fannin Elementary. No action is necessary.

### **Superintendent’s Comments:**

**Superintendent Gwatney** began by asking participants to look about the room and take a moment to appreciate the new facility and all of its comforts. Moving into the new facility took a lot of coordination and effort. He gave a shout-out to Darren Danner for making it happen. He also thanked Frankie Rigdon from ETC and Scott Mathis from the technology department for getting all technologies operational.

Dr. Gwatney stated that Susan Wynn’s work on the budget and presentation was outstanding. He also thanked the Board for their work to have 180 days for students and 190 days for all

personnel with no furloughs. Dr. Gwatney recognized Dawn Cochran and Rita Newton for their work with data and reassessments in Fannin County. He told the audience that he looked forward to presenting a roll-back rate.

Dr. Gwatney then thanked the principals for outstanding open houses. Again, he recognized and thanked the custodians for impeccable work and thanked the district leadership and principals, faculty, staff, and parents for a great start of a new school year. He also thanked all that presented.

Dr. Gwatney stated that he was looking forward to the ribbon cutting next week at the Transportation Facility. Also, the GADOE released a press statement moments before the Board meeting regarding the economic development partnership grant – Fannin has earned this amazing honor. In September, at the Georgia Economic Development Conference, Fannin will be recognized. Dr. Gwatney concluded by stating that it has been awesome to see the departments and personnel begin the year; we are blessed in Fannin County, and he is thankful to be here.

#### **Board Member’s Comments:**

**Lewis DeWeese** thanked all for being present and asked God to bless them and keep them safe.

**Bobby Bearden** stated, “We are Fannin!” He appreciated all principals being present. Mr. Bearden then thanked the custodial staff and their high school summer workers for presenting beautiful facilities at the start of the year. He also stated that he appreciated being on the Board and that he is excited when groups from the school present like Dr. Huff and the parent liaisons.

**Mike Cole** thanked all that were present and online. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board. He said he was excited to be a part of this.

Mr. Cole stated the CarRiderPro system was impressive and works well. He thanked the teachers because sometimes it is the SROs that are most visible and we often don’t see the teachers that are directing kids as well. However, all need to be recognized for their efforts.

Mr. Cole acknowledged Heather, Scott, and Mary Ann for keeping the technology running. People can’t imagine what it takes. He then addressed SPLOST and its importance at a time when the property value is climbing. Mr. Cole thanked Darren, Ms. Connie Huff, and the parent liaisons for the tremendous job they have done; their heart is in it. He also thanked the custodians and stated that, like the Superintendent, he was amazed to see the cleanliness in the schools at open house. He also thanked the principals and concluded by wishing everyone an awesome night.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all for attending. He thanked the night’s presenters and gave a shout-out to all that make up the Fannin family. He thanked everyone for a wonderful start to the year. Mr. Galloway stated that parents’ participation in open house was amazing and that we live in an amazing community that backs the Board 100%. He thanked the community for their support and asked God to bless them.

**Terry Bramlett** stated that it was truly an honor to serve on the Board of Education for Fannin. He stands in awe of the dedication and talent of the Board's employees; their work is remarkable. Touring schools on the first day, he saw so many smiling faces. The things/opportunities that are happening in the classroom are wonderful. He thanked the employees for all that they bring to the table and stated the children are the ultimate beneficiaries. Mr. Bramlett expressed his desire to frame every issue on how it will affect student achievement

Mr. Bramlett stated that he was thankful for SPLOST and what it allows the Board to do. There has been a lot of confusion since the property tax reassessment notices were mailed recently. The roll-back will help adjust the millage rate so that the residents' taxes will remain similar to last year.

He concluded his statements by wishing all a great evening and thanking the participants for being present.

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

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Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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