

July 21, 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 Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from June 9, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.; and June 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.; 07/08/2022 @ 12:00 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney made the following recognitions before the Board. Members of the FCSS Finance Department were presented an award by Cherish Fulton from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts for "Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting." Michelle Davis was recognized as the State of Georgia TSA Sponsor of the Year for Middle School. The members of the Tri-State EMC were recognized for a Round-Up Foundation donation to support the Summer Bash for the FCSS Children's Fund.

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

Information was presented for SY 2022-2023. Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney shared updated Central Office Leadership information. Director of Instructional Services & Curriculum Dr. Connie Huff shared information about Open House on Friday, July 29. Director of Nutrition & Wellness Martha Williams shared information about school meal prices and COVID procedures. Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared an update on school transportation.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

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

Motion by Chad Galloway seconded by Mike Cole to approve the May financial report. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the SPLOST update. \$814,004.93 was collected for May, 2022.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese to approve a spending resolution covering August, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve FY 2022 amended budgets including Special Revenues and SPLOST. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole to approve the FY 2023 tentative budgets for advertisement. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve the 2022 millage adoption timeline. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve District Code of Conduct update. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve 4 lots of transportation items as surplus. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve a transportation department Ricoh copier model number AFICO 2027 as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve to purchase CTAE automotive course equipment from Snap-On Industrial for \$43,659.49 utilizing SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese to approve to table for one month 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 Lewis DeWeese, 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 Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for June 9, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve to rescind the July 8, 2022 hiring recommendation of Anthony Scott Back. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Chaya Stoughton effective July 15, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Michele Jones effective July 18, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Tiffany Hurd effective July 29, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Sandy Acker effective July 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Timothy Tyler Messer effective August 19, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Crystal Guay, Joshua Ledford, and Debby Settle as Paraprofessionals effective July 25, 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 Rex Janson and Karen Waters as Custodians effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Robin Gilliam as Food Service Assistant effective July 25, 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 Tashina Eller as Professional Staff effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney began by giving a shout-out to Susan Wynn for her tremendous work on the 2023 budget. He congratulated her and her department on the Georgia Audit award. Dr. Gwatney also gave a shout-out to the local government and the huge job that the tax commissioners have with the current reassessment.

In public safety, Dr. Gwatney thanked SRO Tracy Summers, District Attorney Alison Sosebee, and Sheriff Dane Kirby. He also thanked the county commissioners and discussed the move of the Board and the construction of the new public library.

Dr. Gwatney reflected on the Board's vision and support in building the new Staff Development Center. He stated that he was thankful that our voters support SPLOST and that visitors' tax dollars helped build the debt-free facility. Partnerships like ETC and employees like Frankie Rigdon, who was present, along with the FCSS technology department, Heather Finley and Scotty Mathis, make the technology happen.

Dr. Gwatney stated that he was proud of Martha Williams and her work to secure food with procurement and food supply issues. She had conversations with Senators and shared facts with anyone that would listen which has helped lead to the success of the program.

Dr. Gwatney thanked the Tri-State EMC for the Round-Up donation. The summer bash was amazing with the coordination of county government, local organizations, and personnel from Student Services: Shannon Miller, Tara Cantrell, and Sheena Rymer. It was an incredible event.

Dr. Gwatney recognized Sarah Rigdon for hosting the new teacher orientation earlier in the day. That training requires a great amount of work. The promise of the future and these new teachers warms his heart.

A shout-out was given to the coaches and band camp. Many activities are ongoing and have occurred throughout the summer. Dr. Gwatney reflected that extracurricular programs are often the events that students remember. He stated that he was thankful for their work.

To the principals, custodians, and maintenance staff, Dr. Gwatney congratulated them on an amazing job getting facilities ready for a new school year. He concluded his remarks by thanking God for the abundant blessings in Fannin County.

Board Member's Comments:

Chad Galloway thanked all for attending. He stated that it was such a pleasure to him to know that those present would be in the new Staff Development Center. He thanked everyone for letting him be a part of it. He thanked Dr. Huff for her first presentation to the Board. Mr. Galloway continued by thanking the News Observer and Mr. Danner for his countless hours of work. Mr. Galloway concluded his comments by thanking Dr. Gwatney for his forethought and vision. He asked for God's blessing on all and the new facility.

Lewis DeWeese asked all present to continue what they were doing to make things better for our children and asked God to bless them.

Bobby Bearden thanked all in attendance. He stated that the new building has been a need for many years. He thanked all that had prayed for the new facility and that God would be there to help.

Mr. Bearden congratulated the finance department for their hard work. He reflected on the needs of our students and the heart-breaking reality that some students might be hungry. He asked for all to pray about that.

Mr. Bearden stated that he loved “Here Comes the Bus.” He also recognized Mr. Danner for his hard work as well as maintenance and the principals. He concluded by stating that he appreciated all.

Mike Cole began by thanking Darren Danner for an awesome job. He stated that he was excited about the switching of leadership roles. He also wanted to recognize the Fannin Middle cheerleaders for two trophies. He thanked driver Lisa Cheatham for driving the students to events during the summer. Mr. Cole concluded his statements as he congratulated Dr. Connie Huff for her first Board presentation.

Terry Bramlett stated that it was an honor to serve and be a part of the team. He stated that it was impossible to quantify everyone’s value to the Board and the students. He recognized the accomplishments of the TSA students including being in the top 10 in the nation. Mr. Bramlett concluded his statements by stating that there is much to be proud of.

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

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

mfw