

December 8, 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, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from November 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney introduced Fannin County Probate Judge Scott Kiker to administer the Oath of Office to incumbent Board members Bobby Bearden and Mike Cole. Both were reelected to a four-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

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

- 1) Fannin County High School's quintet and Dr. Scott Barnstead for performing holiday music prior to the meeting being called to order.
- 2) Trent Lowery, Fannin High CTAE/EMT student and Fannin EMT work-based-learning employee who performed heroically while on the job.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed summaries of recent activities of the Fannin County School Governance Teams (SGTs).

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared a central office transportation update with the Board including annual bus inspection results.

Fannin County Middle School Principal Mark Young presented school happenings.

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof presented the 2022 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) data for Fannin schools. Mr. Roof reminded the Board of the balanced scorecard data that was discussed in detail last week and emphasized the opportunities for growth and progression.

There was no public comment.

Chief Operating Officer Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the purchase of a new intercom system for Fannin Middle from ETC in the amount of \$33,875.00. SPLOST funds will be used to pay for this project. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve district financial reports for the period ending October 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for October 2022 was \$1,007,806.06.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, 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 Lewis DeWeese, 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 October 13, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Madison Ponton, Estrella Kreais, Owen Mathis, and Luke Pelfrey as student workers for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Kelsey Mayfield effective December 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Amy Curtis as Parent Liaison, Jimmy Green as Custodian, and Brandi Smiley as Nutrition employee, all effective December 9, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Tina Merold as Professional Staff (at 50%) effective January 2, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Taryn Wellham as nutrition substitute, effective December 9, 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 Kelsey Mayfield as substitute teacher, effective January 4, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent Gwatney shared with the Board for informational purposes an internal transfer of Rodney Ensley in the transportation department.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recommended the Board continue the appointment of Lynn Doss as the Attorney of the Fannin County Board of Education during the 2023 calendar year. Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Lynn Doss as the Board's attorney for the 2023 calendar year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the amendment of the current, existing 1989 contract between the Board of Education and The Appalachian Mountain Regional Campus Council, Inc. (formerly the Appalachian TMC Regional Mountain Campus Council, Inc.) to change the way that insurance is provided. The amendment provides for the Board to be reimbursed for their current umbrella policy instead of furnishing a separate 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance plan. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the transfer of the property and the former Board of Education building (and any remaining contents as salvage) located at 2290 East First Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia, to Fannin County Government effective January 1, 2023. This approval fulfills the Board of Education's commitment to the Fannin County Public Library project as described in an existing agreement previously approved by both the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners during simultaneously called meetings held at the Fannin County Performing Arts Center on April 22, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Regarding Superintendent Michael Gwatney's annual professional performance evaluation, Chair Terry Bramlett presented a statement on behalf of the Board that Dr. Gwatney has received the highest possible marks in all of the performance standard categories and exceeded expectations on all standards. He added that the Board is proud of the job that Dr. Gwatney has done and that they are thankful for his leadership.

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

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked the Fannin County High School Band ensemble for preparing music for tonight's meeting. He congratulated the band, CTAE, athletics, and extracurricular groups on their successes and concluded that Fannin is an amazing place. Dr. Gwatney congratulated the Mr. Bearden and Mr. Cole and thanked Judge Scott Kiker for coming to the SDC to complete their swearing-in ceremony.

Dr. Gwatney stated that he is thankful for the opportunity to be the Superintendent and that the team needs credit for his success. Strong leaders help by serving their schools, community, staff, and students. He stated that he is proud of the Board and what is happening with the Fannin County Public Library. In conclusion, Dr. Gwatney wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023!

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

**Chad Galloway** congratulated Bobby Bearden and Mike Cole. He stated that he loved each and that it was an honor to serve on the Board.

**Lewis DeWeese** said God Bless and may the Lord take a special liking to all of you.

**Bobby Bearden** stated Ditto and Merry Christmas.

**Mike Cole** stated that the Ag Holiday Classic was an awesome event and that he was amazed by the ag facility. He congratulated Trent, the band, all that presented, and the CTAE department. He said it is exciting to see all that is going on. He wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked them for letting him serve another 4 years.

**Terry Bramlett** congratulated the re-elected Board members and wished all a Merry Christmas.

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 special 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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