

December 16, 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. All members were present. The meeting was held at the Fannin County Board of Education. (The December 2021 regular monthly meeting was approved by the Board on November 11, 2021, to be postponed by one week to December 16, 2021.)

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

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from November 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

- 1) Fannin County High's CTAE successes with the TSA team members whose electric car won first place in state competition; and
- 2) Fannin County High's welding students who recently placed second overall in a competition.
- 3) The Fannin County Board of Education was presented with The Georgia School Boards Association's 2021 *GSBA Exemplary School Board* award.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed summaries of recent activities at all five Fannin SGTs.

West Fannin Principal Alison Danner presented school happenings.

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

Fannin County High School Athletic Director Shannon York shared an extracurricular update with the Board.

Director of Transportation Denver Foster provided a central office update regarding the annual bus safety inspections.

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve purchase of security/surveillance cameras for the new Staff Development Center. Three quotes were received, and ETC Communications was the lowest at \$28,254.50 (which includes all equipment, installation, and related services). SPLOST funds will be used to pay for this project. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner also shared with the Board that ETC Communications will provide security/surveillance cameras for the Transportation Facility for \$23,215.71. SPLOST funds will also be used to fund this project. (Per Board Policy DJED, Board approval is not required for this project).

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve to declare CTAE equipment, a 1984 Campbell horizontal air compressor, as salvage. 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, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for October 2021 was \$840,363.09.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared the results of the latest SPLOST audit conducted by Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC from June 30, 2021. 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.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, 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.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Regarding Superintendent Michael Gwatney's annual professional performance evaluation, Chair Chad Galloway presented a statement on behalf of the Board: "Dr. Gwatney has received the highest possible marks in all of the performance standard categories and exceeded expectations on all standards."

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to resume the regular meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for November 11, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve a revision to Policy JBCB (regarding Non-Resident Students). All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recommended the Board continue the appointment of Lynn Doss as the Fannin County Board of Education attorney for the 2022 calendar year. Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Lynn Doss as Fannin County School Board attorney for the 2022 calendar year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the recension of Tracy Ridings as paraprofessional effective November 17, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Vicki Garland effective December 1, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Cindy Crowder effective December 3, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Sage Kafsky effective December 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Angela Usry as teacher pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 3, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Candy Rilling as paraprofessional pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 3, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Penelope “Penny” Bradburn for school nutrition food service assistant pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 3, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Trudy Smith as counselor pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 3, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Kristy Greeson as substitute teacher, effective January 3, 2022, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Cayci Cook as nutrition substitute, effective January 3, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the Fannin County High School Band ensemble for preparing music for tonight's meeting. He discussed the wonderful White Christmas events at the PAC. He also thanked those students who came to the meeting and those who presented.

Dr. Gwatney thanked the Board for their work on his professional evaluation. He stated that it is an honor to serve them and the FCSS. He also congratulated the members for being recognized as an Exemplary Board by the GSBA. Dr. Gwatney wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Board Members' Comments:

Lewis DeWeese stated that he hoped the young men that built the electric car were future teachers in Fannin county. He was very impressed with their accomplishment. He wished all a Merry Christmas and blessings.

Mike Cole stated that he was so happy to be a part of the Board; perception is one thing, but being a part of the process is something different. He stated that he is finishing up three years on the Board, and he is so happy to see the heart of the other Board members, the Superintendent, the administrators, and the teachers. Mr. Cole hopes that he is a part of this process in the future. We have a great school system; it is a family. He stated that he appreciates all and hopes that everyone has a Merry Christmas.

Terry Bramlett stated that it is an honor to be a part of this system. We are a family for which he is thankful. Seeing the successful students at tonight's meeting is so gratifying – to experience the success that our students are enjoying in fields that once were not available is incredible. Mr. Bramlett stated that he was thankful for all; we are blessed to have a Superintendent whose values are permeated throughout the system. He wished all a restful break and a Merry Christmas.

Chad Galloway stated that he is proud to be a part of this family. He thanked Dr. Gwatney for his work as Superintendent and stated that there were not enough words to describe his high achievement throughout our system. He wished all a Merry Christmas.

Bobby Bearden displayed metal works that were given to each member of the Board from the welding department. The items will be treasured. Mr. Bearden stated that he had received a phone call thanking him for his enthusiasm. He said that sitting where he does, it is great to see our school and that enthusiasm abounds. Mr. Bearden stated he loves the schools, the County, and our Superintendent. He also stated that he wants to complete projects for all of the schools. He wished all a Merry Christmas.

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

Chad Galloway, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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