

November 14, 2024  
5:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mike Cole, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from October 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

The following were recognized during special recognitions: West Fannin Elementary School 4th-grade student Eva Key for winning the November 2024 Fire Safety contest. Terry Flowers for being chosen to participate in the LEAD CTAE Class of 2024-2025. Fannin County High School SkillsUSA students for their competition performance. Athletes and coaches from Fannin County High School Volleyball Team for making it to the third round of the GHSA Class A State Playoffs. Fannin County Middle School Girls Cross Country Team for their Middle School Division 2 Public State Runner-Up finish.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the new Fannin County Public Library exterior façade rendering and minimum square footage requirement as agreed upon in the original real estate purchase contract of 4/22/2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Superintendent Shannon Dillard and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof recognized the School Board members for earning Georgia School Board Association “Exemplary Board” status for 2024.

Blue Ridge Elementary School Principal Mark Young presented a school update to the Board.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof shared an update regarding the recent activities of each School Governance Team (SGT).

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Heather Collis provided the board with a central office update.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to table Board Policy DIB: Financial Reports. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Fannin County School System Charter Amendment. Fannin County Board of Education seeks to amend its Charter System

contract by extending the contract term end by one year to June 30, 2026, to align with the District's Cognia accreditation process. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve School Resource Officer Program Intergovernmental Services Agreement. This agreement began on July 1, 2024 and remains in full force and effect for the FCSS 2024-2025 regular academic session until June 30, 2025. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve to declare West Fannin Elementary furniture as surplus. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a construction/facilities update.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve CTAE Auxiliary Building. The 70' x 24' x 12' commercial building will be purchased from Boss Buildings for \$31,721.50. SPLOST funds will be used for the purchase. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented an overview of HB 581 to the Board.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve District Financial Reports for September 30, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve school quarterly reports for September 30, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPOLST check received for September 2024 was \$832,775.39.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared the results of the SPLOST audit conducted by Mauldin & Jenkins from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The audit concluded that the SPOLST program is 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 approve to postpone the December 12, 2024 Board Meeting to December 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Staff Development Center. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following as classified staff: Dusty Henry effective 11/15/2024; Keith Bani effective 11/18/2024; and Traci Roenicke effective 11/18/2024, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Shannon Dillard** thanked Mr. Ferguson for attending and speaking at the meeting. She recognized North Georgia Honor Guard for doing a tremendous job supporting all five schools as they participated in the Veterans Day programs. Ms. Dillard said she was thankful to live in a community where school leaders and community members help teach the young kids the importance of serving their country. She thanked Mark Young for his presentation. She also thanked Commissioner Jamie Hensley and Dustin Smisson for attending the meeting and helping Fannin County get a free-standing library. She recognized Martha Williams and her staff for their hard work during Thanksgiving. She thanked the Board members for all the hard work they put in to earn the exemplary status. She concluded by thanking the Lord above for each person and every moment that is given.

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

**Mike Cole** said that since Mr. Smiley was at the meeting, he wanted to publicly apologize for the information he had given Mr. Smiley when he saw him at the Barbershop. At the time, he thought the information he had given him was correct, but it was miscommunicated, so he wanted to correct what he had said. He clarified that all SGT meetings about security had not addressed clear backpacks. He told Mr. Smiley that he had left him a message, but he publicly wanted to say he was sorry. He talked about the competition for SkillsUSA, where he witnessed a young lady dominate over the males competing. He said it was an honor to watch the drive that the students have in all areas. He talked about another young man who competed in the skid steer competition and, without any practice, dominated in that division. Mr. Cole spoke about the rows of honor students who graduated in May and the level of academic education it took to get to that point. He thanked all the schools for the Veterans Day programs and talked about the high school students who prepared breakfast and the students who served; it showed hospitality, which was overwhelming. He concluded by thanking Bobby Bearden and Lewis DeWeese for their service, Tony Sirianni for all he does, and the SROs for their daily work with the kids and community.

**Bobby Bearden** said he was very proud of Mr. Flowers, the welding instructor at the High School. He talked about how the kids respond and work with him to learn. He said watching special recognitions gets emotional, and he is very proud of the kids and their accomplishments. He talked about the Veterans Day Program and how his great-granddaughter wanted him to come to Blue Ridge and watch it. She told him there would be a song in the program that would make him cry. He said he was proud to watch, and the song made him emotional, along with many others watching. He commented on how beautiful the music was. Mr. Bearden told the three Board members who got recognized and received plaques that they deserved way more than that and he thanked them for serving with him. He said he appreciated the principals, everyone attending, and watching online. He concluded by saying he loved all, and have a great Thanksgiving.

**Terry Bramlett** said it was a great evening celebrating levels of success. The success of our students is the ultimate measure of what we do in our success. It was indeed a great night, and congratulations to all and the ones who contributed to those programs. He said we will never be satisfied with education, but we will keep pushing, raising the bar, and moving forward. It's not just tonight for all the successes but through the entire school system. He told Mr. Young that he


had done an excellent job on his presentation and thanked him for the details on security that needed to be shared. He told Dr. Roof and Mrs. Collis it was great to see the concentration on literacy. He said it's the foundation of all learning. He concluded by saying, "It is an honor to serve."

**Lewis DeWeese** thanked Ms. Dillard for always putting kids first. He said it showed tonight by all the wonderful recognitions. He said the school system was blessed, and the educators are outstanding. He asked all educators to reflect and see what they have accomplished; they are changing the world step by step and day by day. He said that he appreciated everything they are doing with the kids. Mr. DeWeese concluded by saying, "Thank you, Thank you."

**Chad Galloway** said this is a season for Thanksgiving, and he reflected on his grandmother and the tradition she started years ago. He said she always made them stand up and say what they were thankful for. He said he is grateful and incredibly thankful for the school system, all the hard work that everyone puts into it, the community, and the kids that make up this school system. He said this was just a glimpse of what has been achieved tonight during recognitions. He stated that he believes there will be even more accomplishments, even state championships because the amount of talent we have in our school system is just incredible. He wanted to take a minute and do something he had never done in 8 years of being on the Board and be political. Mr. Galloway said he was thankful we have a President who can be trusted, and he is grateful he is in office. Tonight, he said he was celebrating the fact that things are looking better and better. He concluded by saying he was thankful to have a family that took him to church and taught him that the number one thing in life is being saved. He said he would follow the other Board members and hold up the cup he was given, which says, "God Bless."

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

  
Mike Cole, Chair

  
Shannon M. Dillard, Superintendent