

January 13, 2022
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 called to order by Chad Galloway, Chair.

Chad Galloway, Chair, relinquished the Chair to Superintendent Michael Gwatney for reorganization of the Board.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney, as acting Chair, called for nominations for Board Chair for the 2022 calendar year. Lewis DeWeese nominated Terry Bramlett. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to elect Terry Bramlett as Chair of the Board of Education for the 2022 calendar year by a show of hands in favor. Bobby Bearden, Mike Cole, Chad Galloway, and Lewis DeWeese voted yes; Terry Bramlett abstained; motion carried.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney transferred the meeting to the elected 2022 Chair Terry Bramlett.

Terry Bramlett opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Bobby Bearden nominated Mike Cole as Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to elect Mike Cole as Vice-Chair for the 2022 calendar year by a show of hands in favor. Terry Bramlett, Bobby Bearden, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Mike Cole abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to set the regular monthly Board of Education meetings for the 2022 calendar year on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are to be held at the office of the Fannin County Board of Education, which is currently at 2290 East First Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia (until the completion of the new Staff Development Center). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from December 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

National Law Enforcement Recognition Day – Certificate of appreciation given to Fannin School Resource Officers (SROs): Darvin Couch, Anthony Walden, James Burrell, Thomas Kay, and Tracy Summers.

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

Fannin County Middle School Assistant Principal Matt Rosenberger shared a Fannin County Middle School extracurricular update with the Board.

Fannin County High School Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey presented school happenings.

Director of Student Services Shannon Miller provided a central office update regarding the wrap-around services provided by the FCSS student services department. Notable accomplishments of a 100 on the GADOE LEA scorecard for 2020-2021 were highlighted as well as new personnel.

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

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve district financial reports for the period ending November 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for November 2021 was \$838,732.29.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve to declare CTAE equipment, 16-VEX EDR Control Systems, as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to purchase media center shelves for Fannin County High for \$41,437.91 using approved L4GA ARP funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve E-rate switch project of \$473,111.00. E-rate will provide \$378,488.80 of the funds for the project with SPLOST covering the remaining cost of \$94,622.20. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve purchase of technology hardware to support network infrastructure at Blue Ridge Elementary School from MDSI for \$51,541.00. SPLOST funds will be utilized for this project. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve quote for purchase of audio/visual equipment for the Staff Development Center from ETC Communications for \$49,924.77. SPLOST funds will be utilized for this project. 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) **and** to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A § 50-14-2(1). All members voted yes; motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

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

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for December 16, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve to table revision to Policy GAAA (Equal Opportunity Employment). The proposed changes update contact information. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared information with the Board in regard to the annual Board self-assessment tool that is used in the GSBA Exemplary Board qualifications.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared information with the Board about local Board training. To date, our Board has completed 6 of the 12 required hours needed for GSBA Exemplary Board qualification with plans to complete training in the Spring.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Doris Towe effective January 21, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Melissa Barker effective January 28, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Keshia Dover as administrator pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 14, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Kristen Gladding as teacher pending completion of paperwork and background check effective January 17, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Veronica Romano and Kameron Stone as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Vanessa Weaver as substitute administrator, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Chad Galloway for his outstanding service to the Board and system as the Chair Board of Education during 2020 and 2021. He congratulated the newly-elected Chair, Terry Bramlett, and Vice-Chair, Mike Cole. Dr. Gwatney thanked all of the presenters and the members of the Fannin County School System road crew for their efforts.

Board Members' Comments:

Mike Cole thanked law enforcement and our SROs for their service.

Lewis DeWeese stated that kids are first and he thanked all for making it about the children.

Bobby Bearden thanked everyone for being there and agreed with his fellow Board members' comments.

Chad Galloway thanked the Board for the honor and privilege to have served as Chair. He thanked all for participating and being present.

Terry Bramlett stated that there were great reports all around. Presentations like Ms. Miller's tug at his heart strings. He thanked the SROS for keeping all safe. Mr. Bramlett then thanked all of the presenters.

He recognized Chad Galloway for his outstanding service and dedication to the Board and system. Mr. Bramlett thanked all of the system employees and the Board for their support. During this time of a personal health challenge, everyone's prayers, calls, and support have been amazing as has God's grace. It is an honor to be able to serve this Board and system.

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 special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

mfw