

April 9, 2020  
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; and Mike Cole. Lewis DeWeese was absent. Four members formed a quorum. The meeting was held at the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center to allow for adequate social distancing due to concerns with COVID-19.

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

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney shared that West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) Principal Alison Danner's School Happenings presentation and the School Governance Team updates were available to view online. **(See attached SGT update.)**

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Policy DJED – Bids and Quotations tabled on March 12, 2020: Bobby Bearden, Mike Cole, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Terry Bramlett opposed. The motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the district's financial report for February 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received for February 2020 was \$436,983.02.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, 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)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on February 13, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Mary "Betsy" Hyde effective March 31, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Dana Garrett, Brittany Mayfield, and Alexis Noe effective May 28, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of Susan K. Protzman, Yvonne Sams, and James Doyle Stanley effective June 1, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Mickey Diane Bailey with a revised effective date of August 1, 2020. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, and Chad Galloway voted yes. Mike Cole abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Morgan Helton as a teacher effective the 2020-2021 school year pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Sarah Rigdon and Sarah Welch as administrators pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the following as administrators pending completion of paperwork and background check effective 2020-2021 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Virginia "Gini" Bell	Robert Ensley	Clark Keith Nuckolls	Sarah Welch
Erik Cioffi	Heather Finley	Mathew Price	Martha Williams
Heather Collis	David Henson	Scott Ramsey	Mark Young
Andrea Crump	April Hodges	Sarah Rigdon	
Alison Danner	Connie Huff	Lucas Roof	
Darren Danner	Shannon Miller	Candice Sisson	

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the following as certified personnel pending completion of paperwork and background check effective 2020-2021 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Adams, Amy	Callihan, Samantha	Davis, Michelle	Gibbs, John
Adams, Emily	Callihan, Tonya	Davis, Sarah	Gilliam, Cindy
Adams, Kristy 49%	Cantrell, Tara	Deal, Jordan	Gilreath, Stacey
Adams, Sarah	Carder, Renee	Dean, Halle	Gobble, Althea
Ades, Heather	Cass, Linda	Dean, Nathan	Godfrey, Hannah
Ades, Shawn	Castro, Kelly	DeDonato, Megan	Goode, Karen
Allen, Rebecca	Chambers, Adrian	Dixon, Amanda	Goswick, Samantha
Anderson, Natasha	Chapman, Buffy	Dockery, Valdora	Bond
Arp, Tori	Chastain, Kaitlyn	Dotson, Shaunmarie	Grabowski, Amber
Ayers, Jon	Chastain, Ryan	Dover, Keshia Cox	Gray, Donna
Babcock, Laura	Cheatham, Chad	DuBois, Patricia	Griffin, Greta
Barnes, Cindi	Cheatham, Katherine	Dyer, Brenda	Grubb, Michele
Barnstead, Scott	Christian, Maranda	Dyer, Jill	Hamby, Michelle
Boyce, Pam	Cochran, Jennifer	Eisenhart, Lora	Harper, Dana
Brannon, Kimberly	Coffinger, Ashley	Erwin, Rebecca	Hart, Trevor
Breeden, Joseph	Colbert, Erin	Evans, Stephanie	Henry, Vicki
Brogden, Christy	Coleman, Jennifer	Fellenbaum, Emily	Herndon, Stacy
Brown, Kelly	Collis, Alan	Fleeman, Shannon	Hicks, Cynthia
Brown, Tiffany	Corbin, Mary	Forney, David	Hinman, Christine
Bryant, Hanna	Culpepper, Kathy	Franklin, Katherine	Hoeve, Laura
Bryant, Scott	Culpepper, Shannon	Garland, Betty J.	Holtman, Christie
Bryant, Cayley	Daves, Jeffrey	Geren, Todd	Holzworth, Jessica
Callihan, Cassie	Davis, Hannah	Gibbs, Anna	Hood, Christina

Housley, Amanda  
 Howard, Sabrina  
 Hubbard, Charlene  
 Huffman, Kimberly  
 Hughes, Danette  
 Hughes, Ginger  
 Hulsey, Kelly  
 Hyatt, Paula  
 Jacobson, Ashley  
 Jantti, Joan  
 Jessen, Nancy  
 Johnson, Michael Lee  
 Jones, Angela  
 Kendall, Jill  
 King, Barbara  
 King, Jeremy  
 King, Melissa  
 Kuna, Jeff  
 Ladd, Donna  
 Lambert, Jill  
 Larson, Jennifer  
 Lord, Nicole  
 Martin, Natalie  
 Martin, Teresa  
 Mashburn, Chris  
 Mathews, Rhonda  
 McDonald, Marcie  
 Merold, Tina  
 Miller, Nicholas  
 Mills, Robert  
 Minear, Carrie  
 Mitchell, Amber  
 Moates, Elden 49%

Morgan,  
 Debra"Debbie"  
 Morgan, Jodi  
 Newton, Brittany  
 Newton, Sydney  
 Nix, Ashley McClure  
 Odom, Diana Bice  
 Olivarria, Lisset  
 O'Neal, Joey  
 O'Neal Kayleigh  
 O'Neal, Noah  
 Owenby, Lauren  
 Travis  
 Pace, Mary Jean  
 Padgett, David  
 Padgett, Zachary  
 Parker, Chris  
 Parris, Angela  
 Pass, Blake  
 Pass, Suzanne  
 Patterson, Angela  
 Patterson, Charles  
 Patterson, Kathleen  
 Patterson, Kimberly  
 Patterson, Pamela  
 Payne, Callison  
 Payne, Lauren  
 Pickelsimer, Courtney  
 Pressley, Phil  
 Putnam, Annette  
 Queen, Megan  
 Ragsdale, Trista  
 Ramirez, Paul

Reynolds, Wendy  
 Rhodes, Cynthia  
 Rice, Milicent  
 Rich, Selena  
 Richardson, Kara  
 Richerson, Bryan  
 Richerson, Myriah  
 Ritter, Pamela  
 Roberson, Katy  
 Robinson, Lora  
 Rogers, Tessa  
 Roof, Miranda  
 Rose, Christie  
 Russell, Siegrid  
 Saxon, Jenna  
 Scarce, Yevette  
 Sexton, Ben  
 Sexton, Donna  
 Shadden, Jason  
 Shinpaugh, April  
 Smith, Heather  
 Smith, Stacey Lee  
 Sowers, Hope  
 Sparks, Ashley  
 Stewart, Daniel  
 Stewart, Sara  
 Stiles, Alesha  
 Strausbaugh, Vanessa  
 Stone, Dana Taylor  
 Stone, Travis  
 Stover, Brandy  
 Morgan  
 Strobel, Erica A.

Summers, Tami  
 Tamberino, Ashley  
 Tate, Teresa  
 Taylor, Khalisa B.  
 Taylor, Lisa  
 Tesoriero, Brian  
 Thigpen, Christopher  
 Thomas, Amanda  
 Thomas, Dewayne  
 Thomas, Tammy  
 Tichler, Anthony  
 Turner, Adam  
 Viccaro, Holly  
 Waggener, Brittany  
 Walden, Sandra  
 Walker, Jennifer  
 Ware, Deanne Beth  
 Watkins, Nancy  
 Watkins, Serena  
 Weaver, Jeffrey  
 Weaver, Michael  
 Weaver, Vanessa  
 West, Krystal  
 Weinkle, Temple  
 White, Cherie  
 Whitener, Alex  
 Williams, Amy  
 Workman, Jennifer  
 Young, Angela  
 Young, Caprice

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Heather Boyle at 80% as certified personnel, effective 2020-2021 school year pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

**Superintendent's Comments:**

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked Alison Danner for preparing the School Happenings presentation and Elden Moates for providing assistance with sound and video projection for the meeting. He shared that this has been a long and difficult month and expressed his appreciation for our community's mindset that we are all in this together. He thanked the Fannin County Local Government members for their work to coordinate efforts and provide support for our citizens. He recognized Emergency Management Agency Director Robert Graham, Fannin County Government/Board of Education Attorney Lynn Doss, as well as area physicians Dr. Dillon Miller, Dr. Douglas Nuelle, and Regional Health Director Dr. Zack Taylor for their support. He also thanked our other area health care providers, especially our FCSS school nurses. He shared that these folks, along with EMS, law enforcement, and fire personnel, are on the front lines protecting us, and they need our prayers.

Superintendent Gwatney gave a huge thank you to our Fannin County School System (FCSS) Nutrition Department! He stated that the nutrition workers, led by Ms. Sisson, have worked hard to keep our students (and any other children in Fannin County) fed during this pandemic – Thank you! He also thanked the FCSS Transportation Department. He stated that Mr. Foster and the

drivers have learned new routes, helped each other navigate, kept the buses full of food, and make a difference for children by making the deliveries possible – Thank you!

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the faculty and staff of each of our schools. He shared that they have taken on new roles, including supporting the feeding of students – both on the bus routes and at the drive up lines at the schools. We have flipped the classroom since the last Board meeting, and everyone has done an outstanding job figuring it out. With hard work, dedication, and love for students, we have been able to still serve students academically and nutritionally. Beginning March 18 through today, we have served 25,562 meals to children – Thank you!

Superintendent Gwatney expressed this curriculum flip would not have happened without the FCSS Technology Department. They have helped 70 students receive in-home WiFi devices that only accept connections from our district's devices. They are working hard to close the technology gap that is real in our community.

Superintendent Gwatney stated that while the buildings have been generally vacant, there are core groups of personnel who come in to keep the business end of our district moving. He thanked the support staff, secretaries, principals and assistant principals – including Dr. Ramsey, Mr. Henson, and Mr. Young for reassigning to the elementary schools in the mornings to assist with meal distribution. The maintenance and custodial staff members have also been working hard during this time. The normal issues that occur during a school year are still happening. For example, the overnight storms caused widespread power outages and issues with trees along bus routes. There was a two-hour delay this morning, and he appreciated everyone's understanding about the district notifying those who would have been waiting at bus stops for meal about the issue. He went on to thank the utility crews who clear the way to restore services.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked our local news media for their support in getting the word out on important issues. He reminded everyone to help Fannin County by completing the U.S. Census information, and he shared that it is quick and easy to do.

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Sarah Rigdon and stated that he is proud of her promotion to Assistant Superintendent. He shared that he first worked with Mrs. Rigdon as a paraprofessional in 1993. She is an exceptional teacher, a strong leader, a true professional, and she will be an asset to the leadership team in Fannin County. He recognized that Sarah Welch is a coordinator and will work with Assistant Superintendent Rigdon. He stated that he is very proud of Mrs. Rigdon and Mrs. Welch, and they will be a great team.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the district personnel and leadership team of this school system, as well as the members of the Board of Education. Their support has made a difference during this difficult time, and he appreciated how everyone has completed his or her job and proved that each employee of FCSS is essential.

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

**Mike Cole** stated that he is thankful for all the work put in over the past few weeks. He wished to leave with a quote from the *Word* that says, "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." We must keep our minds focused where it needs to be so we don't go down the wrong path. He spoke a blessing each person for prosperity, to let your mind

prosper. Mr. Cole thanked the Lord that we have someone else to look to who knows more than we do.

**Terry Bramlett** encouraged everyone to stay safe and wished everyone a blessed Easter season.

**Bobby Bearden** said ditto to what Dr. Gwatney stated about the school system. In reading the paper regarding the county commissioners and school board members, he stated that Fannin County is privileged to have five spiritual men on the Board, and we are doubly blessed to have a superintendent that is, too. He stated that in his opinion the biggest part of this school is spiritual. He referenced the trip to the Capitol in Atlanta and David Ralston's statement that Fannin County Schools are the best in Georgia. Mr. Bearden said that Speaker Ralston's statement was correct. He stated that he did not have the words to tell how much he appreciates those feeding, calling, and teaching our children. We have the greatest school system in the state and one of the best in the United States. He thanked everyone for being part of the system.

**Chad Galloway** stated that Superintendent Gwatney covered many points he wished to make. Mr. Galloway stated that he is thankful for every person in the district stepping up in a way that is unimaginable with grace and dignity. Fannin County is a role model for the state to follow. He is so proud to sit on the Board and see how much love there is for the system. He is blessed to be part of the system, to see how well it operates and how well the kids are cared for. He does not have words to express his appreciation, but he thanks everyone for the part they play. From one Board meeting to the next, everything turned on a dime, and no one balked or backed up. All have excelled in a way that no one thought possible. He is thankful for each of us. He commended Superintendent Gwatney for his love and dedication the system, and we are blessed to have him as superintendent. He thanked all those who came out for the meeting.

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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Chad Galloway, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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