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Shannon Miller



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Fannin County Schools Staff Development Center

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September 26, 2022

Dear FCSS Community:

The purpose of this letter is to share updates from a called Board meeting held earlier today. As announced on September 7, Director of Student Services Shannon Miller has been named as the sole finalist to become the next Superintendent. During today's meeting, an update to her professional employment contract was approved. For the remainder of this school year until my retirement, Ms. Miller will serve as the FCSS's second-in-command, and upon my retirement, which will occur before the end of this school year, Ms. Miller shall automatically become Superintendent. In the meantime, Ms. Miller's priority remains to organize her district leadership team, including the appointment of her successor. That particular opening was announced on September 19 and remains open through October 4. If you are interested in that district leadership position, you are encouraged to apply before the deadline.

Other action taken today included to accept the resignation of Sarah Rigdon. Mrs. Rigdon, who currently serves as my deputy superintendent, intends to retire; her resignation is effective October 31. Many thanks to Mrs. Rigdon for her years of service to the FCSS; the Board and I wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in life. One of Mrs. Rigdon's recent duties has been to serve as the personnel director. This is an essential district leadership role, and Mrs. Rigdon's resignation creates an immediate need to find a successor. Fortunately, Betsy Hyde, who has been serving this year (post-retirement) as an interim assistant principal at Fannin County High School, has agreed to return to district leadership. This is a blessing for the FCSS, as Ms. Hyde served previously as both a personnel director and a deputy superintendent. She is an experienced leader and was highly successful in both roles. Ms. Hyde will do an excellent job for the FCSS by serving in an interim capacity for the remainder of this school year. Ms. Hyde's promotion creates an opening at FCHS, and Ms. Hyde, Ms. Miller, and I will work with Dr. Ramsey to fill it as soon as possible.

Finally, the Board and I are pleased to announce that the rollback millage rate of 7.439 for schools was approved today. This information will now go to the Fannin County Commissioners so that they may set the final rate for 2022. Many thanks to Commissioners Jamie Hensley, Glenn Patterson and Johnny Scearce, as well as Tax Commissioner Rita Newton and Chief Appraiser Dawn Cochran, for their assistance during this year's process.

Please know that Ms. Miller and I remain committed to working together to ensure a smooth leadership transition later this school year. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Gwatney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Gwatney, Ed.D.
Superintendent