

September 14, 2017
6:00 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Bobby Bearden, Chair; Terry Bramlett; Chad Galloway; and Steve Stanley. Lewis DeWeese was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Bearden, Chair.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the minutes from August 30, 2017, 8:00 a.m.; August 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m.; and August 10, 2017, 5:30 p.m. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, Seconded by Terry Bramlett, to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fannin County Department of Public Health to provide a facility, if needed, should a possible health emergency occur. This MOU is effective from October 1, 2017, through October 1, 2018, and may be renewed on an annual basis if mutually agreed upon by both parties. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fannin County Department of Public Health to provide scoliosis screenings of public school children in the at-risk population, ages 10 – 15 years. The terms of this agreement shall be for the period of one year commencing on October 1, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Candice Sisson, Nutrition Director, shared information on the Georgia School Nutrition Association Fannin County Chapter fundraisers. The profits from the fundraisers are used to issue scholarships to Fannin High Seniors, pay membership dues, and cover the cost of officer training. The Fannin County Chapter of GSNA also plays a part in recognizing Fannin County Teacher of the Year nominees by accepting donations that are used to grant prize money to each nominee. GSNA fundraisers listed below are planned for the 2017-2018 school year (no action required):

- Banquets
- Food Sales (quotes from US Foodservice)
- Pan Sales (quotes from Manning Brothers Equipment Company)
- RADA Knife Sales
- Thanksgiving Dressing Sale

Betsy Hyde, Associate Superintendent, shared update from the FCSS School Governance Teams (see attached).

Public Comment:

None.

After public comment, Danny Shinpaugh, Maintenance and Facility Director, gave a construction update on the Fannin County Agriculture and Science facility.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the propane fuel bid for the 2017-2018 school year to UPG Fort Mountain Propane for $0.859 + .0005$ perk tax = .8595 price per gallon. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the financial report for the month ending July 31, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in August for July was \$479,009.37.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Performing Arts Center house controller swap from Parlights, Inc. in the amount \$2,792.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. The original purchase was on June 14, 2017, in the amount of \$23,089.59 paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve the Fannin County High School new gym acoustics phase II B from Atlanta Soundworks, Inc. in the amount of \$49,587.04 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of 42 desktop computers and monitors from Bytespeed in the amount of \$28,770.00 to be paid out of SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve technology salvage items. All members vote yes; motion carried (see attached).

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve revised Board Policy "GARH – Leaves and Absences" to lay on the table for public view until next scheduled board meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Sarah Rigdon, Director of Achievement, shared the Vision, Mission, and Beliefs with the Board for information purposes only; no action needed (see attached).

Sarah Rigdon, Director of Achievement, shared the Fannin County School Systems Strategic Plan with the Board for information purposes only; no action needed (see attached).

Sarah Rigdon, Director of Achievement, shared system goals with the Board for information purposes only; no action needed (see attached).

Robert Ensley, Curriculum Director, shared the Fannin County Board of Education local training sessions for the 2017-2018 school year for information purposes only; no action needed (see attached).

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Addendum to Americorps Service Site Agreement. All members voted yes; motion carried (see attached).

Michael Ruple, Georgia Homeland Security Officer, presented Dr. Gwatney and the Principals, as well as Fannin County Emergency Agency Director Robert Graham, certificates for being proactive in school safety plans and proper safety procedure preparedness.

Robert Graham, Fannin County Emergency Management Agency Director, presented a donation of weather radios to Assistant Superintendent Benny Long for use by the Fannin County School System.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to accept the resignation of Archie Bice effective September 12, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Telaka Holbrook effective September 15, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to accept the resignation of Lisa Tucker effective September 12, 2017. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Steve Stanley, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Kimberly Sams as a bookkeeper. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Misty Bennett as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve James Carter III as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Crystal Clore as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve James Davenport as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Brandi D. Holloway as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Amy Beth Kuna as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Susan Lynn as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Amy Mashburn as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Keith Nowicki as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Jennifer D. Pope as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Debbie Quinn as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Gloria Rooney as a substitute teacher. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Robert Gumaer as a substitute teacher pending completion of paper work. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Rebecca Kelley as a substitute teacher pending completion of paper work. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Noah O'Neal as a substitute teacher pending completion of paper work. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Brent Warberg as a substitute teacher pending completion of paper work. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Steve Stanley, to approve Lora Lewis as substitute clerical. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Superintendent, stated school has been cancelled for the sun because of the eclipse and for rain from Hurricane Irma. He believes we were spared the brunt of Irma, and for that he is very thankful. Regarding the eclipse, Dr. Gwatney commended the principals and Mr. Ensley for the safety education provided prior to the event. He also thanked Dr. Dillon Miller, Dr. Chris Jabaley, and Mr. David Sanders (from Fannin Regional Hospital) for being able to send home certified eclipse glasses with each student. Dr. Gwatney commended the student athletes, as well as the band and cheerleaders. He is making his way around to the various events, and he is very impressed with the students. Other notable events include First Lady Sandra Deal reading to the elementary students, as well as FCHS Student Jessie DeCosta being selected to serve on State School Superintendent Richard Woods' Advisory Council. There were 142 students selected out of 1,500 across Georgia. She will represent Pioneer RESA and the Fannin County School System. Superintendent Woods will also be at East Fannin Elementary on October 11, 2017, to present an award to their school. The Teacher of the Year banquet will be held September 19, 2017, at Willow Creek Falls at 6:00 p.m. On October 3, 2017, the annual REACH signing ceremony will be held at Fannin County Middle School. Dr. Gwatney thanked the property owners and for their contributions to school funding, and he thanked the Board for balancing the needs of the taxpayers with the needs of the students and rolling back the millage.

Board Members' Comments:

Chad Galloway thanked everyone that came to the meeting. He stated it was a joy and a privilege to see everything that is going on in the school system. He can't express how thankful and proud he is to be a part of the system. He thanked each and everyone there for the job they do and how they touch the kids' lives. Mr. Galloway commended Dr. Gwatney on a job well done since being appointed Superintendent.

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone for being at the meeting. It's an honor to be a part of the system. He is always amazed at the great things happening with the students of Fannin County. He said the stakeholders and the taxpayers fund the majority of the operating budget, and it is the goal of the Board to be the very best stewards they can possibly be of the taxpayers' dollars and to spend them wisely. He stated the Board has no bonded indebtedness and doesn't pay any interest. Mr. Bramlett is thankful for the visitors who come and enjoy our natural resources that help with the SPLOST collections. He commended Mr. Nuckolls on his presentation on school happenings. Mr. Bramlett thanked Robert Graham for the donation to the school system for the weather radios and thanked the school resource officers for keeping the students of Fannin County safe.

Steve Stanley said ditto to his fellow Board members' comments. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said it takes a community to raise a child, and it takes a community to teach a child. Mr. Stanley thanked everyone for the love and support during the loss of his father.

Bobby Bearden spoke about Fannin County Middle School student who lost her life in a recent automobile accident. He was really hurt to hear of her passing and how she left this Earth. He feels that God needed a special little girl, and he picked her. Mr. Bearden thanked Dr. Gwatney for going to visit with the family that was in the car with the child. He gave Dr. Gwatney a standing ovation for being the caring person he is! Mr. Bearden then shared a comment from someone who said the Board had done a remarkable thing by appointing Dr. Gwatney as Superintendent; he said he is an amazing person, and the Board appreciates him.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Steve Stanley, 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.

Bobby Bearden, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent