

May 12, 2022  
5:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Terry Bramlett, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from April 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., and April 22, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recognized Director of Nutrition & Wellness Martha Williams and Fannin County Middle School agriculture teacher Seth Davis for securing and participating in the Georgia Organics Mini-grant. The grant funded vermicomposting at Fannin Middle. Fannin County High School agriculture teacher Emily Fellenbaum recognized Emily Thomas and Evan Fish for outstanding FFA accomplishments. Fannin County High School soccer coach Nancy Jessen recognized the 21-member soccer team and congratulated them for their outstanding accomplishments including 7AA champs and Elite 8 competition participants.

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof introduced University of Georgia Cooperative Extension County Coordinator Ashley Hoppers to the Board for a 4-H program update.

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

West Fannin Elementary School Alison Danner presented school happenings.

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof shared a CTAE update. He also updated the Board on the FY23 CTAE Federal and State grants.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and Local Application for FY23. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Director of Nutrition and Wellness Martha Williams provided a wellness and nutrition update including the triennial wellness assessment and food bid/program status.

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities and construction update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve bid from Brenau University for Lot 2: High Jump Pit (\$300.00); and to place Lot 1: Pole Vault Pit and Lot 3: (2) Gill

Standards for Pole Vault back out for surplus bid(s) using same parameters as the original (May 11, 2022) advertisement. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve recommendation to release Dependable Lawn Care from their contract at Blue Ridge and West Fannin Elementary Schools on May 31, 2022, and East Fannin Elementary on May 14, 2022; and to award Gary Stanley the mowing bid at Blue Ridge Elementary (\$800/month) and West Fannin Elementary (\$1,400/month) beginning June 1, 2022; and to award Austin Belyeu the mowing bid at East Fannin Elementary (\$2,000/month) beginning May 16, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve district financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for March 2022 was \$825,155.85.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve school quarterly financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve FY2023 budget timeline. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Code, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve application to the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for Exemplary Board status. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney and Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner shared with the Board logistical options for the July 2022 Board meeting. Pending completion of the Staff Development Center, the meeting location/time/open house for the July Board of Education meeting will be further discussed during the next regular meeting on June 9, 2022.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, 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)) **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). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for April 21, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese to approve the resignation of Mary E. “Beth” Thomas effective May 12, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of John Travis Sinard effective May 20, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve the resignation of Robert Wood effective May 27, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of Sandy Walden effective May 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese to approve to rescind the May 31, 2022 resignation of Betsy Hyde. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Darren Reynolds as transportation effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Bailey Whitener as paraprofessional effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Shannon Dye, Lisa McFarland, and Mindy Pollett as school nutrition effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Katelyn Curtis, Paul Dely, Miachelle Fox, Jerrica Green, Carol-Ann Victoria Keaton, Kelly McArthur, Emily McGrady, Jeremy Scott Moat, Colleen O’Mara, Jessica Sanford, and Laurel Brittney Stinnett as professional staff effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Christopher Drury as administrator, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the transfers of Emily Adams to Academic Coach, Darren Danner to Associate Superintendent, and Virginia Tipton to Student Services Coordinator. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Angela Patterson as substitute teacher effective September 1, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Shirley A. Payne as substitute custodian effective May 13, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Elijah Gibbs as summer custodial worker effective June 1 – July 22, 2022. Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Bobby Bearden abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Toby Bell, Hayden Danner, Lilly Madden, Cole Pittman, Hayden Rose, Cade Sands, and Andrew Waldrep as summer custodial workers effective June 1 – July 22, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Gwatney** reflected on the incredible day that Fannin County had today. Governor Kemp signed the state's budget at the University of North Georgia campus in Blue Ridge with multiple education partners present, including Leadership Fannin, Mountain Education Charter High School, and members of the Board of Education. All of the collaboration that is happening to benefit our students is incredible. He does not take any of these things, such as the recent library announcement, for granted. Dr. Gwatney also recognized the local Board training that occurred today and specifically thanked Matt Cardoza from the Georgia Department of Education, Justin Old from Pioneer RESA, the Board, Mrs. Rigdon, and Mr. Danner for their valuable contributions. He also congratulated Mr. Danner on his promotion to Associate Superintendent.

Dr. Gwatney thanked the special recognitions and the night's presenters. He also thanked Mr. Glenn Harbison of the News Observer for covering the current concerns related to feeding Fannin's students in the coming year. Plans for the budget and Ms. Wynn's hard work were acknowledged. Dr. Gwatney also expressed his gratitude for the conservative Board leadership that has prepared our system should there be an economic decline.

Dr. Gwatney then gave a shout-out to the class of 2022! Graduation is just around the corner, and the success of our graduates can be traced back to the staff, teachers, administrators, and Board throughout the students' academic career.

Dr. Gwatney concluded his comments by reminiscing about the years that he has been on the stage of the Board meetings – since 2007. It is hard to believe that next month's Board meeting may be the last meeting held at the current Board office; however, the best is yet to come!

**Board Members' Comments:**

**Bobby Bearden** stated that he appreciated all in attendance. He commented on the Fannin Middle Future Farmers of America Banquet that he attended and reminisced on his experiences in FFA in the 60s. It is tremendous to see the things FFA is doing for our students. Mr. Bearden thanked the night's presenters and congratulated Mr. Danner on his promotion. Mr. Bearden concluded by stating that children are close to his heart and that they must have something to eat.

**Lewis DeWeese** stated kids first and God bless all.

**Mike Cole** thanked the night's presenters and especially Ms. Danner and the other elementary principals because they are the beginning of our graduates' success stories. Our schools build a good foundation. Experience and success are things that you can't simply Google.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all for being present and watching tonight's meeting. He thanked the night's presenters, especially Ms. Danner. He stated that he has great confidence in her at the helm of West Fannin. He also thanked Mr. Danner for his tireless work and congratulated him on his promotion to Associate Superintendent. He recognized Dr. Gwatney for his talent and strength in seeing the talents of personnel and placing them in the right roles to match. He concluded by stating that he loved the Board like his brothers and that he loves serving on the Board.

**Terry Bramlett** stated that he holds the school Board and our schools' employees in the highest esteem. He appreciates all and thinks of our organization as family for whom he prays nightly. He is thrilled with the success and future of our schools and students. He concluded by thanking all that were present.

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.

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Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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