

May 9, 2019
4:30 p.m.

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

Lewis DeWeese, Chair, called the meeting to order.

The Board participated in local board training for the 2018-2019 school year. Pioneer Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) Executive Director Justin Old and Matt Cardoza of the Georgia Department of Education facilitated the training. The topic was “Legal Issues and Ethics for Boards of Education.”

Jerry Guthrie presented the Board with architectural drawings for Blue Ridge, Epworth, and Morganton High Schools.

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 11 and April 26, 2019.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the transportation requests from the Fannin Mountain Education Charter High School to use a bus on May 29, 2019. The bus will take students to SunTrust Park to see a Braves baseball game. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde gave a review of recent activities of School Governance Teams. **(See attached.)**

Mike Sullivan and Lindsey Baldrige presented a donation of \$4,900 for STEM education activities.

Blue Ridge Elementary School Principal April Hodges gave the “School Happenings” update.

Director of Student Services Shannon Miller announced that each of Fannin County elementary schools would have a Pre-K classroom in SY 2019-2020.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon reviewed the results of the recent AdvancED accreditation visit.

Director of Facilities and Maintenance Danny Shinpaugh gave a construction update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district financial report for March 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in April for March 2019 was \$445,276.15.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve school quarterly financial reports. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Fannin County regarding transportation and meals served through Fannin County Recreation Department. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve an increase of \$0.10 for student lunch prices for School Year 2019-20 for students enrolled in Fannin County School System. Elementary student lunch prices will be \$2.25; middle and high school student lunch prices will be \$2.50. The price for a reduced lunch will remain at \$0.40. A free breakfast will continue to be offered by the Board to all students enrolled in the Fannin County School System. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the purchase of security/surveillance cameras for Fannin County Middle School from ETC Communications for a turnkey price of \$48,501.10 to include all equipment, installation, and related services. Thirty-thousand dollars to be paid with GaDOE School Safety Grant funds and \$18,501.10 to be paid using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the request to seek proposals to replace current Fannin County High School stadium lighting with LED fixtures. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the renovation of the Fannin County High School main parking lot by Johnson Paving for \$49,475.00. This price is turnkey for all demolition, paving, and a five-foot sidewalk. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve technology equipment as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve network technology hardware switches as salvage. Items that are capital assets are noted. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve one laminator at Fannin County Middle School as surplus equipment. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the completion of this school year's local board training.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to accept the resignation of Michelle Sechrengost effective May 24, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to accept the resignation of Shea Byers and Amanda Sisson effective May 30, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Joe Hutsell and Niki Hutsell effective June 1, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Hanna Bryant, Christy Brogden, and Christina Gutierrez as paraprofessionals for the 2019-2020 school year pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Vicki Whittenbarger as a secretary for the 2019-2020 school year pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Dionne Ryff as a student information specialist for the 2019-2020 school year pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Heather Smith as a teacher for the 2019-2020 school year pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Martha Finch Williams and Mark Young as administrators for the 2019-2020 school year. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Liza Summers and Robert Wood as substitutes for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and criminal background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney recognized Pioneer RESA Director Justin Old, Georgia Department of Education representative Matt Cardoza, and Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley for facilitating the local board training. He thanked Major David Sanders and Lt. Col. Jerry Guthrie for their presentations. He expressed gratitude to Mike Sullivan and Lindsey Baldrige for coming to the meeting to present the STEM donation from the Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby.

Superintendent Gwatney commended April Hodges and Sarah Rigdon for their presentations and recognized that everyone who is affiliated with the school system is responsible for the AdvancED results – total team effort!

He issued a thank you to the Board for funding the Orchestra Pit and noted that students are putting it to great use in the drama production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, which is a combined effort of the band, chorus, drama, and construction classes.

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated athletes in soccer who went to state, athletes in golf and track who qualified for state, and the baseball team for making it to the Elite Eight.

Superintendent Gwatney reminded everyone that FCHS Graduation will be May 24, 2019, and he issued his congratulations to the Class of 2019. He reminded everyone that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and encouraged all to “Thank a teacher!”

Superintendent Gwatney shared a presentation regarding the signing day for upcoming graduates planning to pursue the teaching profession, and he recognized Benny Long and Danny Shinpaugh for their upcoming retirements.

Board Members' Comments:

Terry Bramlett congratulated all FCSS administrators. He commended Sarah Rigdon on a successful accreditation with the 50-point gain (from 2014). He stated that it has been his pleasure to witness the great work done by all those in the school district. He thanked Mr. Sullivan for the STEM donation and commended Danny Shinpaugh for his years of dedication. He commented that Benny Long set the bar high as the Transportation Director. Mr. Bramlett stated that he is blessed to be part of the Fannin County School System.

Chad Galloway said he is blessed to sit on the Board. It is his honor and privilege to brag on the Fannin County School System. He enjoys learning of the history and legacies related to the school system. He thanked EFES and Principal Matt Price for bringing back the Wildcat mascot.

Bobby Bearden said ditto to previous comments. He thanked all who promoted the baseball team and stated that in his book, they are all winners. He commended Sarah Rigdon on a great job and thanked her for providing help in preparing for the accreditation visit. He stated that Blue Ridge Elementary School is doing well. He appreciated the Superintendent and principals. He stated that he knows Benny Long and Danny Shinpaugh will do well in their upcoming retirements. He feels we have the right person in Denver Foster. He also stated an interest in the possibility of having additional stop arms on school buses.

Mike Cole thanked Mike Sullivan for the Soap Box Derby and hopes to see the program grow. He congratulated Benny Long and Danny Shinpaugh. He thanked Superintendent Gwatney for keeping the Board aware and informed.

Lewis DeWeese agreed to all previous comments. He noted that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked all FCSS employees for supporting students. He commended Sarah Rigdon on the AdvancED score of 355.97. He stated that teachers affect all others and feels that the Lord is pleased with the work educators do.

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.

Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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