

March 9, 2023
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 Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from February 9, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Board Chair Terry Bramlett recognized Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney for his years of service to Fannin County School System and presented him with a plaque.

Fannin County Probate Judge Scott Kiker administered the Superintendent Oath of Office to Shannon Miller. Ms. Miller officially begins as the Superintendent of Fannin County Schools on April 1, 2023, following Dr. Gwatney's retirement.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney reviewed the Governor's proclamation of School Board Appreciation week March 13-17, 2023 and recognized the Board for their years of service. Mementos from FCSS principals were presented to each Board member.

Transportation department technicians were recognized for their successes at a recent Pioneer RESA competition. The Fannin High wrestling team and individual members were recognized for their SY23 accomplishments.

Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Director Chris Stallings, who is also an alumnus of Fannin County High School, shared a school safety update with the Board. Mr. Stallings summarized pending legislation and implementation of new school safety initiatives.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed recent activities of the Fannin County School Governance Teams (SGTs).

East Fannin Elementary School Principal Matt Price presented school happenings.

There was no public comment.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve to award mowing bids to Gary Stanley for mowing at Blue Ridge Elementary and West Fannin Elementary for \$2,760 per month (\$19,320 per year) and to B & D Landscaping for mowing at East Fannin Elementary, Fannin County Middle, Fannin County High, Fannin County Agriculture Building, Staff Development

Center, and Transportation Facility for \$7,575 per month (\$53,025 per year). All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve district financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for January 2023 was \$759,864.84.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve a bus request from Fannin County Chamber of Commerce to transport Leadership Fannin participants to the Capitol on March 22, 2023. The Chamber will be financially responsible for fuel and driver costs. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve an intergovernmental agreement and summer meal contract with the Fannin County Recreation Department and Fannin County. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof presented Board members with a summary of the recent internal review. He also discussed the upcoming Local Board Training on March 30, 2023, where the GSBA Exemplary Board status requirements will be discussed further.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, 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 consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A § 50-14-2(1). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Jonah Pierce, Jonah Couch, Dakota Harris, Ian Delashmitt, and Jacob Phillips as Student Custodians for the remainder of the spring semester of the 22-23 school year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Shirley Payne effective February 15, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Tonya Callihan, Erin Colbert, Kristin Gladding, Betsy Hyde, Donna Ladd, Chris Mashburn, Angela Parris, Kent Thomas, and Krystal West effective May 23, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve to rescind the recommendation of Guy Woody effective January 12, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Wade Woodall as Professional Staff effective SY 2023-2024, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Donna Ladd and Krystal West as substitute teachers effective SY 2023-2024, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Laura May, Kim Strube, Madison Stueve, and Darlene Turner as substitute teachers effective March 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Angela Cracknell and Helen Melissa Towe as substitute bus drivers effective March 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Shirley Payne as substitute custodian effective March 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Wanda Burleigh as substitute custodian and substitute nutrition effective March 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Ashley Green and Brenda King as substitute nutrition effective March 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendents' Comments:

Shannon Miller thanked all in attendance and their work to ensure students grow and learn. She stated that she was honored and humbled to serve as the next Superintendent, and she reflected on the responsibility of all educators to prepare students to become productive citizens and perpetuate our great nation.

Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Ms. Miller and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work alongside them for many years. He also thanked the leadership team for their support, and he quoted the message on the plaque he received from the Board: "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." Dr. Gwatney stated he was honored by that sentiment, and he concluded by challenging Ms. Miller to leave the FCSS better than she finds it – a challenge that he also worked toward during his service as Superintendent.

Board Members' Comments:

Bobby Bearden stated that recognition of students and their performance is what being in education is all about. He thanked the night's presenters and echoed Mr. Price's praise of the student work displayed at the Art Center in Downton Blue Ridge. He congratulated both Dr. Gwatney and Ms. Miller for their roles as Superintendent. Mr. Bearden also thanked the principals for the gifts.

Mike Cole thanked the night's presenters and exclaimed that he was glad to be back after missing last month's meeting. He congratulated those that were in attendance and honored/recognized during the meeting and stated that it is a divine appointment that has allowed our system the security and successes that we have had.

Chad Galloway congratulated those that were recognized during the night's meeting. He congratulated Ms. Miller and stated that he was looking forward to working with her in the future. Mr. Galloway also thanked the principals for the gifts and stated that he appreciated all who attended the night's meeting.

Lewis DeWeese told Ms. Miller that he has the highest expectations and hopes for her, and he thanked Dr. Gwatney for his service as Superintendent.

Terry Bramlett thanked the night's presenters for their work with children. He told Dr. Gwatney that it had been an honor to work alongside him for his six years as Superintendent, and he added that he was looking forward to that same journey with Ms. Miller, too. He congratulated both on the smooth transition that has been brought about by servants' hearts. Mr. Bramlett concluded by thanking the administrative team for their dedication of time and talents to the school system and students.

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.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Shannon Miller, Superintendent

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