

February 09, 2023
5:30 p.m.

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

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 January 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Shannon Miller as Acting Superintendent for the remaining portion of the night's meeting and any Board of Education meetings in February and March 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Acting Superintendent Shannon Miller introduced the winners of the annual school Spelling Bees and the district Spelling Bee.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde reviewed summaries of recent activities at all five Fannin SGTs.

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof introduced Extension Agent Ashley Hoppers from The University of Georgia. Ms. Hoppers shared an update with the Board and introduced Kate Phillips, who now oversees Fannin County's 4-H and Youth Development programs.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared an update with the Board on the status of the ESSER-III ARP budget and offered opportunities for stakeholder feedback and input.

Director of Student Services Gini Tipton introduced Tara Cantrell, the Fannin County School System Social Worker, who reviewed district procedures regarding homeless students with the Board.

Blue Ridge Elementary School Principal Dr. April Hodges presented school happenings.

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Connie Huff presented an update to the Board regarding behavior support, student discipline, and instructional integrity.

There was no public comment.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to rescind the nomination of Bowen & Watson as Construction Manager (CM) at Risk for: drainage issue at FCSS Stadium; Baseball, Softball Complex; and Health, Wellness & CTAE Facility; and to pursue a revised CM at Risk for the same projects. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

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

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

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the FY 2024 budget calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for December 2022 was \$900,978.69.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the FCHS graduation date of May 19, 2023, at FCHS stadium at 8:00 p.m. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the SY 2023-2024 Option 1 School Calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve technology items as surplus. Items listed will be offered via online auction at GovDeals.com. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

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

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve a bus request from Mountain Education Charter High School (MECHS) to transport students to downtown Blue Ridge, GA, and Dalton State University in Ellijay, GA. MECHS will be financially responsible for fuel and driver costs. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve to salvage a 2003 International CE 300 bus (Vin# 4DRBRAANX4B964514) and to transfer it to the Fannin County government for public safety training purposes. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Academic Officer Lucas Roof presented Board members copies of the Board Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policies. These will be reviewed and discussed at the March 30, 2023, Local Board Training to ensure compliance with the GSBA Exemplary Board status requirements.

Also, the annual Board self-assessment has been launched and is available for members to complete.

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 Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for December 08, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Lisa Cheatham effective January 20, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Mike Hoopagh effective January 31, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of Kimberly Greenway and Angela Usry effective February 10, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Michael Gwatney effective March 31, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of Sarah Davis and Melissa Reese effective May 23, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Malissa Annis as School Nutrition Program effective February 10, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Jacquie Neal 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 Chad Galloway, to approve Jessica Cochran, Daniel Farrar, Kristin Hunt, Leigh Lioi, Amber Reed, and Heather Young as substitute teachers effective February 13, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Sarah Davis as substitute teacher effective SY 2023-2024, pending completion of paperwork and background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Acting Superintendent Miller shared an internal transfer with the Board for informational purposes, Heather Cobb to Fannin High as cafeteria Manager.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked the Board for their support. He stated that was blessed to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people during his career. Dr. Gwatney commended Shannon Miller for her work during the meeting. He also commended the Board for their support of the leadership transition.

Shannon Miller expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve as the next Superintendent.

Board Members' Comments:

Lewis DeWeese stated that the meeting had been good and encouraging.

Bobby Bearden congratulated the night's presenters, Rebel Radio, the spelling bee winners, and 4-H. He reiterated that he, too, was excited about Ms. Miller and the great job she performed presiding over the night's meeting.

Chad Galloway thanked all that participated in the night's meeting and congratulated Ms. Miller on a job well done.

Terry Bramlett thanked Dr. Gwatney and Ms. Miller for creating a model transition that is demonstrated by their willingness to coach and be coached. He thanked all of the night's presenters and stated that their presentations were excellent. He noted that profound wisdom is often found in odd places and that we must all decide what to do with the time that we are given as tomorrow is not promised to any. Mr. Bramlett concluded by stating his admiration for teachers and mentors because their shown love is a valuable example for those who come behind us next.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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