



## MEETING MINUTES

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### FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Superintendent

Shannon M. Dillard

#### Board Members

Mike Cole, Chair

Bobby Bearden, Vice Chair

Adam Born

Robert Patterson

Ashley H. Weeks

#### Attendees

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##### Members in Attendance

Bobby Bearden, Vice Chair

Adam Born, Board Member

Robert Patterson, Board Member

Ashley H. Weeks, Board Member

##### Members Absent

Mike Cole, Chair

#### 1. Call To Order

Bobby Bearden, Vice Chair, called the Fannin County Board of Education meeting to order with the intent to opt out of Homestead Exemption (House Bill 581).

The following Fannin County Governmental Boards were present with a quorum: the Fannin County School System, the Fannin County Board of Commissioners, the City of Morganton, and the City of McCaysville. The City of Blue Ridge, although some members were in attendance, did not have a quorum.

#### 2. "INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION" (HB 581)

Fannin County Tax Assessor's Office Chief Appraiser Dawn Cochran explained the intent of House Bill 581 which went into effect on January 1, 2025. This legislation created a floating homestead exemption for all local governments. Those governmental agencies that do not wish to participate must opt out. Ms. Cochran reviewed current tax exemptions available to the residents of Fannin County and reviewed current and historical Millage rate data emphasizing that local property taxes originate predominately from residential parcels. Ms. Cochran reviewed a provision in HB581 that allows for governmental entities to consider a 1% FLOST (Floating Local Option sales tax) to help recover taxes that would be lost from the homestead exemption. However, school systems are not eligible to participate in the FLOST. In conclusion, Ms. Cochran commended past and present government servants who have made decisions that were best for the county.

**3. Public Comment**

The County Commissioners facilitated public comment. Ten individuals spoke.

**i. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion and a second were made to adjourn subject to being called into special session by the Chair when deemed necessary.

Adjourned at 11:06 AM

Motion made by: Bobby Bearden

Motion seconded by: Adam Born

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

*Shannon M. Dillard 2/13/25*

Shannon M. Dillard, Superintendent/Date

*Bobby Bearden 3/13/25*

Bobby Bearden, Vice Chair/Date

*Stephanie M Newman 2/13/25*

Stephanie M. Newman, Submitted By/Date