

April 11, 2019  
6:00 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; and Mike Cole. Terry Bramlett was absent. A quorum was met.

Lewis DeWeese, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Gene Crawford presented a photo collage of four former Fannin County High Schools (Fannin County, McCaysville, Epworth, and Blue Ridge). Mr. Crawford was a Fannin County School System Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Teacher, and Bus Driver during his career with Fannin County Schools. He presented the gift in appreciation for the education that the school system provided to his family.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from March 14, 2019 and March 25, 2019.

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

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the transportation requests from the Fannin County Recreation Department (FCRD) and the Fannin Mountain Education Charter High School (FMECHS). FCRD would like to use a bus on April 16 and 17, 2019, while Fannin County School students are on holiday, to take students to the Blairsville Cinema in Blairsville, GA and for the duration of the Summer Day Camp June 3 through July 19, 2019. The FMECHS would like to use the bus to transport students from FCMS to FCHS to review pathway options on April 30, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Fannin County High School principal Erik Cioffi gave the “School Happenings” update.

Assistant Superintendent Benny Long introduced East Fannin Elementary School’s Resource Officer Thomas Kay.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn introduced herself to the Board of Education.

Deputy Superintendent Betsy Hyde gave an update on the Fannin County School System’s (FCSS) Charter renewal.

Director of Planning, Policy, and Curriculum Darren Danner gave an update on SPLOST V.

Director of Achievement Sarah Rigdon reviewed the Strategic Plan and System Goals.

**Public Comment:** There was no Public Comment.

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

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

Dr. Gwatney stated the SPLOST check received in March for February was \$398,448.47.

Finance Director Susan Wynn reviewed the results of the annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, including the independent auditor's reports. Mrs. Wynn explained there were no findings and/or questioned costs. The auditor's opinion was that the system's audit was "unmodified," which is issued when the independent auditors believe an entity's financial statements are free from material misstatements.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resolution to amend the school calendar for 2018-2019. All members voted yes; motion carried **(See attached.)**

Literacy Coordinator Sarah Welch shared an update on the first year of implementing the Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading (L4GA) grant.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided information on the next local board training scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2019. The topic will be "Legal Issues and Ethics for Boards of Education."

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to go into Executive Session for the following purpose: 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)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Lewis DeWeese, Chair, announced no action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on March 5, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to accept the resignation of Eddie Gilmore effective March 28, 2019. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to accept the resignations of Susan Carnahan, Donna Graham, Linda Greenleaf, Misty Nelson, and Deborah Gail Thomas effective May 30, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Elaine M. Keener, Debbie Patterson, and Diane Ritchie effective May 31, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Emily Wheeler Jarvis effective June 30, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Pamela Sweeny effective June 14, 2019. All members vote yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Anthony “Tony” Tichler and Deanna Beth Ware as teachers effective SY 2019-2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Vicki Roberson as a bookkeeper. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Temple Weinkle as a teacher effective School Year 2019-2020, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Anthony Rymer for the Transportation Department pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Jeff Taylor as a custodian pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the following as administrators effective school year 2019-2020:

Virginia “Gini” Bell	Heather Finley	Scott Ramsey
Erik Cioffi	David Henson	Sarah Rigdon
Andrea Crump	April Hodges	Lucas Roof
Alison Danner	Connie Huff	Candice Sisson
Darren Danner	Betsy Hyde 49%	
Theresa Dillard	Shannon Miller	*Sarah Welch approved 02-14-19
Patricia DuBois	Clark Keith Nuckolls	
Robert Ensley	Mathew Price	

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the following as certified personnel effective school year 2019-2020:

Adams, Amy	Bailey, Diane	Brown, Kelly	Callihan, Tonya
Adams, Emily	Barnes, Cindi	Brown, Tiffany	Cantrell, Tara
Adams, Sarah	Barnstead, Scott	Bryant, Scott	Carder, Renee
Allen, Rebecca	Baxter, Gary	Bryant, Cayley	Castro, Kelly
Anderson, Natasha	Bond, Samantha	Burch, Lynn	Chambers, Adrian
Arp, Tori	Boyce, Pam	Byers, Shea	Chapman, Buffy
Ayers, Jon	Brannon, Kimberly	Callihan, Cassie	Chastain, Kaitlyn
Babcock, Laura	Breeden, Joseph	Callihan, Samantha	Chastain, Ryan

Cheatham, Chad	Harper, Dana	Minear, Carrie	Sexton, Donna
Cheatham, Katherine	Harper, Marcie 45%	Mitchell, Amber	Shinpaugh, April
Christian, Maranda	Hart, Trevor	Moates, Elden 49%	Smith, Stacey Lee
Cochran, Jennifer	Hemming, Anona	Morgan, Debra "Debbie"	Sowers, Hope
Coffinger, Ashley	Henry, Vicki	Morgan, Jodi	Sparks, Ashley
Colbert, Erin	Herndon, Stacy	Newton, Brittany	Stanley, Jason
Coleman, Jennifer	Hicks, Cynthia	Newton, Sydney	Stewart, Daniel
Collis, Alan	Hinman, Christine	Nix, Ashley McClure	Stiles, Alesha
Collis, Heather	Hoeve, Laura	Noe, Alexis	Strausbaugh, Vanessa
Corbin, Mary	Holtman, Christie	Odom, Diana Bice	Stone, Dana Taylor
Culpepper, Kathy	Holzworth, Jessica	Olivarria, Lisset	Stone, Mark
Culpepper, Shannon	Hood, Christina	O'Neal, Joey	Stone, Travis
Cutrone, Michele	Housley, Amanda	O'Neal Kayleigh	Stover, Brandy Morgan
Daves, Jeffrey	Howard, Sabrina	Owenby, Lauren Travis	Strobel, Erica A.
Daves, Penny	Hubbard, Charlene	Pace, Mary Jean	Summers, Tami
Davis, Hannah	Huffman, Kimberly	Pack, Kimberley	Tamberino, Ashley
Davis, Michelle	Hughes, Danette	Padgett, David	Tate, Teresa
Davis, Sarah	Hughes, Ginger	Padgett, Zachary	Taylor, Khalisa B.
Dean, Halle	Hulsey, Kelly	Parker, Chris	Taylor, Lisa
Dean, Nathan	Hutsell, Joe	Parris, Angela	Tesoriero, Brian
DeDonato, Megan	Hutsell, Niki	Pass, Blake	Thigpen, Christopher
Dixon, Amanda	Hyatt, Paula	Pass, Suzanne	Thomas, Amanda
Dockery, Valdora	Jantti, Joan	Patterson, Angela	Thomas, Dewayne
Dotson, Shaunmarie	Jessen, Nancy	Patterson, Kim	Thomas, Tammy
Dover, Keshia Cox	Johnson, Michael Lee	Patterson, Pamela	Tichler, Anthony
Dyer, Brenda	Jones, Angela	Payne, Callison	Turner, Adam
Dyer, David	Jourdan, Katrina	Payne, Lauren	Viccaro, Holly
Dyer, Jill	Kaye, Julia	Pickelsimer, Courtney	Waggener, Brittany
Eisenhart, Lora	Kendall, Jill	Pressley, Phil	Walden, Sandra
Erwin, Rebecca	Key, Jill 49%	Putnam, Annette	Walker, Jennifer
Evans, Stephanie	King, Barbara	Queen, Dwight "David"	Ware, Deanne Beth
Fleeman, Shannon	King, Jeremy	Queen, Megan	Watkins, Nancy
Forney, David	King, Melissa	Ragsdale, Trista	Watkins, Serena
Franklin, Katherine	Kuna, Jeff	Ramirez, Paul	Weaver, Jeffrey
Garland, Betty J.	Ladd, Donna	Reynolds, Wendy	Weaver, Michael
Geren, Todd	Lambert, Jill	Rhodes, Cynthia	Weaver, Vanessa
Gibbs, Anna	Lansing, Jenny	Rice, Milicent	Weeks, Ashley
Gibbs, John	Larson, Jennifer	Rich, Selena	Weeks, Krystal
Gilliam, Cindy	Lord, Nicole	Richardson, Kara	White, Cherie
Gilreath, Stacey	Martin, Teresa	Ritter, Pamela	Whitener, Alex
Gobble, Althea	Mashburn, Chris	Roberson, Katy	Williams, Amy
Godfrey, Hannah	Mathews, Rhonda	Robinson, Lora	Williams, Martha
Goode, Karen	Mathis, Pamela	Roof, Miranda	Workman, Jennifer
Grabowski, Amber	Mayfield, Brittany	Rose, Christie	Young, Angela
Gray, Donna	McDonald, Marcie	Russell, Siegrid	Young, Capprice
Griffin, Greta	Merold, Tina	Saxon, Jenna	Young, Mark
Grubb, Michele	Miller, Nicholas	Scarce, Yvette	
Hamby, Michelle	Mills, Robert	Sexton, Ben	

\*Jason Shadden approved 03-25-19

\*Sara Stewart approved 03-25-19

All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Heather Boyle 50% as certified personnel effective 2019-2020 school year. Bobby Bearden, Mike Cole, Chad Galloway voted yes. Lewis DeWeese abstained due to family relation; motion carried.

## **Superintendent's Comments:**

**Superintendent Dr. Michael Gwatney** thanked the voters of Fannin County for supporting education in Fannin County by approving the next SPLOST, Darren Danner for his work with the Fannin County Board of Elections and community groups for SPLOST, and Danny Shinpaugh on his showcasing of SPLOST projects.

Superintendent Gwatney recognized Rev. Scott Mathis for leading the invocation and Mr. Gene Crawford for leading the pledge and his gift to the Board.

Superintendent Gwatney appreciated Gini Bell, head of Fannin County Special Olympics, for all she has done to prepare for this year's games held on Friday, April 12, at the Fannin County Recreation Center, as well as the torch relay on April 11, 2019.

Superintendent Gwatney commended those who presented during the meeting:

- 1) Former Superintendent Gene Crawford;
- 2) Erik Cioffi for School Happenings;
- 3) Sarah Rigdon for Strategic Planning and System Goals; and
- 4) Sarah Welch for the update on L4GA.

Superintendent Gwatney commended Sarah Rigdon for working with the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce to set up Leadership Fannin's "Education Day," which was held on April 4. He also thanked Sarah Welch for her work with the recent district Literacy Night and dedication of the Little Free Library to Sandra Mercier.

Superintendent Gwatney appreciated CTAE for hosting the Third Grade Agriculture Day at the new agriculture center and noted that it was great to see so many community and school supports coming together.

Superintendent Gwatney thanked Heather Finley, technology personnel, personnel at the schools, and our local news media outlets for all of their hard work to share the many wonderful things that are occurring in the Fannin County School System.

Superintendent Gwatney stated that all of these things happening within the school system are because of people, and he recognized Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Administration Mr. Robert Ensley as the person who oversees the people.

## **Board Members' Comments:**

**Mike Cole** stated that he is excited about the new resource officer Thomas Kay. He feels Officer Kay has a heart for kids. He stated that Mrs. Rigdon did an awesome job preparing Board members for the AdvancED visit.

**Bobby Bearden** said ditto to the superintendent's comments. He commended Sarah Rigdon on the incredible job she did preparing them for the AdvancED visit. Mr. Bearden thanked Danny Shinpaugh for all he has done for the school system throughout the years. Mr. Bearden stated that he thinks the Special Olympics Torch Relay and games are great for our students.

**Chad Galloway** thanked those who showed up for the meeting. He appreciated Mr. Cioffi for the presentation on Fannin High. He stated that Mrs. Rigdon did an excellent job preparing him for the AdvancED visit.

**Lewis DeWeese** commended his fellow Board members as fantastic, kid-loving people. He stated that Danny Shinpaugh is to be commended for working behind the scenes, with little recognition, for the students of Fannin County. Mr. DeWeese stated that he believes Mr. Shinpaugh's heart is with the Fannin County kids, and he should have a pass to heaven for all he has done for them over the years. His immense respect for Mr. Shinpaugh is not just for his skills, but also for him as a grand and fine person. Mr. DeWeese said ditto to all previous comments.

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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Lewis DeWeese, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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