

October 14, 2021
6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chad Galloway, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from September 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed summaries of recent activities at all five Fannin SGTs.

Fannin County Middle School Principal Mark Young presented school happenings.

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof updated the Board on the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) accreditation visits from October 5- 6 at all FCSS schools. Each school and the district was accredited with quality for the next five years, the cycle for GAC.

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof shared a district health update including current COVID data.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon provided a central office update regarding the development and launch of the new “FCSS Aspiring Leaders” program. This program has been developed to build our district’s leadership capacity from within by identifying, nurturing, and supporting potential future leaders. The application process, program participation requirements, and timeline were presented to the Board. The application for program consideration begins October 15 in Frontline for internal candidates, only.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update with photographs.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update with photographs.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Bowen & Watson as Construction Manager (CM) at risk for three projects: FCMS HVAC Replacement, FCHS HVAC Replacement, FCHS Plumbing Project. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve for salvage of technology items. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to purchase a Squickmons Maverick Model RED-MAV44PMX85 48" x 48" CNC Plasma Cutting Table from Wm. J. Redmond & Son, Inc for \$31,000.00 using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve district financial reports for the period ending August 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for August 2021 was \$710,868.61.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve a revision to Policy JBCA (regarding Resident Students). The proposed change allows a resident student to remain in their current school until the end of the school year should they move outside of the school's attendance zone (parents would be responsible for transportation). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon presented the local board planning calendar and plans for an October 26 (rain date October 28) Board retreat to be facilitated by Pioneer RESA to discuss "Facilities Planning for Local Boards of Education." The Board will gather for breakfast and then travel to the Neal property, the Toccoa property, and Fannin Middle.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, 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 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)) **and** to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 USC § 1232g). All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, 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 Terry Bramlett, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for September 09, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Roxianne Flowers effective September 15, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Renita Staton effective September 16, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Erica Ballantine effective October 04, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Donna Sexton effective October 17, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Jordan Harris effective November 26, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Shannon Fleeman effective January 01, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Amanda McBride as teacher pending related action by Union County BOE to formally accept her resignation and pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve William “Sam” Banks for transportation pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Thomas Dilbeck as teacher and transportation pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Jacob Reece, Barbara Foley, and Nancy Custer as teachers pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Melissa Barker for school nutrition food service assistant effective November 01, 2021 pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve transfer of Jeannie Garland to position of Intervention Coordinator. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Amy Cochran, Christy Cook, Leslie Lindsey, Amy Marson, Tracy Ridings, Liza Summers, and David Yancy as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Mackenzie Dale as nutrition substitute, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve David Yancy as substitute transportation, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve William “Sam” Banks as substitute mechanic for transportation, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent’s Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney gave a special shout out to CTAE with the Georgia Ag Day experience. He also thanked Mr. Bramlett for his help in arranging for this opportunity. Dr. Gwatney congratulated Chris Parker of Blue Ridge Elementary School for being named the Fannin County School System Teacher of the Year (TOTY) in a ceremony held at the Fannin agriculture facility. Dr. Gwatney thanked Mr. Young for his school happenings presentation. He also thanked all principals and Mr. Roof for their efforts during the GAC accreditation. Dr. Gwatney thanked all presenters. He thanked Ms. Wynn and looks forward to a good outcome from the October 25 state audit. Dr. Gwatney thanked Denver Foster for the new SRO vehicles, which were presented to Fannin County Sheriff Dane Kirby prior to the start of the official meeting.

Dr. Gwatney discussed the effect that state policy changes have had on incentivizing teachers to become leaders. He applauded the efforts of Ms. Rigdon and the creation of the Aspiring Leaders program to develop leaders for Fannin County.

Dr. Gwatney discussed exciting school events including: Georgia Pre-k week (reading), the upcoming REACH ceremony (October 27 at 9 a.m. at Fannin Middle), local board training (October 26), and the Homecoming Parade in Downtown Blue Ridge (October 21 at 6 p.m.). He discussed the hard work of the many that organize these events: Shannon Miller, Denise Messer, Shandra English, Vanessa Weaver, and Dr. Scott Ramsey.

Dr. Gwatney displayed a Georgia Youth Science & Technology (GYSTC) publication featuring Fannin educator Kim Patterson. A great success story from one of our own.

Board Members’ Comments:

Bobby Bearden thanked his lifelong friend Mr. Dale Dyer for his comments in the newspaper—that Fannin County Schools are great, something that Mr. Bearden has said all along. Mr. Bearden thanked the principals and Mr. Young for his presentation. He also thanked Ms. Rigdon for the creation of the leadership program.

Mike Cole thanked Mr. Young and the principals. He stated that many do not know the load that principals carry, and he wanted the principals to know that they are loved and appreciated. He thanked Ms. Wynn for explaining finances. He also thanked the SROs for their protection and for giving of themselves and their time.

Lewis DeWeese stated that tonight's meeting has been a really good board meeting. Kid's are at the center of all that happens and it is a privilege to serve.

Terry Bramlett stated that he admired the dedication and excellence that each in the room bring to their job each and every day. He said that it is an honor to be associated with a team like those present. He thanked all for their encouragement and prayers for both he and Ruth; it is overwhelming. He thanked Ms. Rigdon and stated that the Aspiring Leader program is a great example of Fannin County stepping up to the plate with a solution for a problem. This program is a game changer.

Chad Galloway thanked Mr. Young for his presentation. He commended Mr. Young and his team for their fast response to a situation involving student safety. Mr. Galloway stated that the Board wants chain-of-command when anyone has a problem. He stated that the Board is available if someone feels that the chain-of-command has let them down. Mr. Galloway thanked public commenters and encouraged others to participate. He thanked all present.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, 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.

Chad Galloway, Chairperson

Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

mfw