

September 14, 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, Chairman.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from August 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.;  
August 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard-Miller called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the tragic attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof presented East Fannin Elementary Principal Matt Price with the Debbie Galloway Memorial Book Fund. Debbie Galloway's family was present and spoke about her love for children and books.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof presented the Fannin County School System's annual certificate from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) to Superintendent Shannon Dillard-Miller and the Board. Dr. Roof also presented each of the principals with his/her school's certificate. All schools and the district were "Accredited with Quality," the Commission's highest rating.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn introduced Cherish Garmon from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. Members of the FCSS Finance Department were presented an award by Cherish for "Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting."

Director of Nutrition & Wellness Martha Williams presented Fannin County's 2024 District Teachers of the Year (TOTY) cohort: Laura Babcock, Blue Ridge Elementary School; Tessa Fowler, East Fannin Elementary School; Katy Roberson, West Fannin Elementary School; Katherine Franklin, Fannin County Middle School; and Hope Sowers, Fannin County High School. District TOTY will be announced on October 3, 2023, and the winner will be eligible for Georgia (TOTY) for 2025.

East Fannin Elementary School Principal Matt Price presented school happenings.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the 2023-2024 Fannin County Board of Education Local Training Plan. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof shared an update regarding the recent activities of each School Governance Team (SGT).

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof provided an update on the Charter System Amendment between the Fannin County School System and the State Board of Education.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Fannin County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) to provide a facility to FCDPH, if needed, due to a local health emergency; and to approve FCDPH to provide scoliosis screenings of students ages 10-15 years. The agreement shall be for one-year effective October 1, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the purchase of 121 HP 14" Chromebooks. Chromebooks will be purchased from SHI for \$40,142.96 and will be paid from the REI Technology grant. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

There was no public comment.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided facilities update.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Agriculture Greenhouse. The Ag Greenhouse Project is not to exceed the amount of \$347,254.00 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the District Financial reports for July 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared Fannin County's 2022 Sales Ratio Study with the Board.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the SPLOST update. \$987,638.02 was collected for July 2023.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve 4-H bus requests. 4-H requested to use an activity bus on November 11-12, 2023. 4-H will be responsible for fuel only; Katie Phillips will be the driver. Also, 4-H has requested a regular bus for the trip to Union County for their District Project Achievement on December 2, 2023. On this trip, 4-H will be responsible for the cost of fuel and the driver. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Mountain Education Center (MEC) to use a regular bus on September 19 & September 20, 2023. MEC will be responsible for fuel and driver costs. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Ashley Curtis effective September 8, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Kayla Fortenberry effective September 30, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve the resignation of Cindy Gilliam effective October 31, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Olivia Akins, Barbara Bell, Savannah Clemmons, Zoe Hodgkins, Kimberly Kea, Daniel Petkus, Crystal Stauf, Jessica Suri, Kent Thomas, Bethel Thompson, Skylar Tipton, and Erin Vogel as Substitute (Teachers) effective September 18, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Morgan Kreis, Misty Strickland, and Megan Walker as Substitute (Teachers & SNP) effective September 18, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Jan Whitaker as Substitute (SNP) effective September 18, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Robert Bausum as Substitute (Bus) effective September 18, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Steven Woody as Substitute (Custodian) effective September 18, 2023, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

#### **Superintendent's Comments:**

**Superintendent Shannon Dillard-Miller** thanked the men and women in the armed forces along with first responders. She gave a shout-out to Darvin Couch SRO. She said it has been a heavy week for the school system and that she was reminded, "We Are Fannin." She talked about "AG Day" and getting to observe high school students teaching elementary students. She concluded by saying, "The Lord is always faithful giving us the opportunities to find joy even in the strife."

#### **Board Member's Comments:**

**Mike Cole** stated that he appreciated everyone for coming out to the meeting. He said he is grateful for the Teacher of the Year and that those selected represent our district well. He is excited about the possibility of new facilities coming and said "The kids deserve it!" He asked for special prayer for a family that was very dear to him and the community.

**Bobby Bearden** thanked all in attendance. He wanted to recognize the principals for attending the

meeting. He said he loved the words that Mr. Galloway spoke about his wife's love for children and reading. He is reminded that's what it's about, "The kids."

**Lewis DeWeese** said, "Kids first!" He loved Mr. Galloway's message giving honor to Christ and sharing about his wife's love for kids and books.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all who attended tonight's meeting. He said he was thankful and blessed everyone got to hear his father speak at the meeting. Mr. Galloway said even in his mother's final hours she was teaching. He said he was grateful for all teachers and it was truly a calling. Mr. Galloway recognized and thanked East Fannin Elementary School and Principal Matt Price on behalf of the Galloway family.

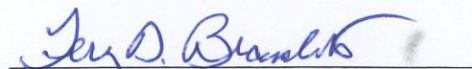
**Terry Bramlett** said it has been a tough week but Fannin County School System is resilient and will carry on and do the best they can for the students. He reflected on working with East Fannin when they combined Mineral Bluff and Morganton and said Mrs. Galloway was always smiling and always had a kind word for everyone. Mr. Bramlett took time to brag about his colleagues. He said they spend a lot of time preparing for the meetings and he just wanted to say thank you and let them know it is an honor to serve alongside them.


**Superintendent Shannon Dillard-Miller** said before the meeting was adjourned, she wanted to recognize 5 rockstar principals. Each principal received a decorative owl which was created by Board member Bobby Bearden. He created the owls to represent their dedication to the school system.

**Terry Bramlett** said principals are the gatekeepers to the schools. He said he was very honored and proud of their performance and all they do for the kids. Principals are the leaders of the schools. He talked about how the decorative owl was a great symbol of wisdom and learning. He said a Board member who is not only talented but has a huge heart designed a great gift for dedicated principals.

Mr. Bramlett said speaking of rock stars our CEO is a rock star! She is leading the organization with integrity, and thoughtful decision-making and doing a fantastic job. He said she is so highly qualified and it shows. Mr. Bramlett presented her with a decorative owl. Mr. Bearden said the owls are a piece of history because the body of the owl was made out of old lockers.

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 session by the Chair when deemed necessary. All members voted yes; motion carried.

  
Terry Bramlett, Chairman

  
Shannon Dillard-Miller, Superintendent

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