

May 13, 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. All members were present. The meeting was held at the Fannin County High School (FCHS) Performing Arts Center (PAC) to allow for adequate social distancing due to concerns with COVID-19.

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

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from April 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. and April 30, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recognized the following:

1. Fannin County Chamber of Commerce 2020 “Community Service Award”
2. Fannin County Emergency Management Agency Director Robert Graham
3. Coach Ryan Chastain, Assistant Coach Megan Queen, and FCHS Lady Rebels Basketball Team
4. Fannin County School Nutrition Program “2020 Vision for School Nutrition”
5. 2021-22 FCHS Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon reviewed information from recent School Governance Team (SGT) meetings.

West Fannin Elementary School (WFES) Principal Alison Danner presented school happenings.

Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared a district health update.

Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) updates for FY2022.

Director of Applied & Integrated Instruction Lucas Roof shared an update on the FY2022 CTAE Federal and State Grants.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and Local Application. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resolution to amend the school calendar for 2020-2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to amend the school calendar for 2021-2022 to have students' first day be on July 30, 2021, and September 7, 2021, (Labor Day) be a holiday. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett to approve school quarterly financial reports. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the district's financial report for March 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for March 2021 was \$741,418.69.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the FY2022 Budget Timeline. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve to table new board policy GBIA – Teacher Evaluation Appeals Status. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of School Nutrition Candice Sisson shared an update on school meal prices for SY 2021-2022. There will be no student meal price increase from SY 2021 to SY 2022 for the National School Lunch Program.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley shared a local board training update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, 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)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on January 14, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignations of Hannah Davis, Marcie E. McDonald, and Murphy McConnell effective May 26, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Sara Stewart effective June 18, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Betsy Hyde at 49% as an Interim Administrator effective SY 2021-2022, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Renee LaHue as a substitute custodian, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Ben Barber as a teacher effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Kristy Kouns as teacher effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. Bobby Bearden, Terry Bramlett, Mike Cole, and Lewis DeWeese voted yes; Chad Galloway abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Adrianna Reed, Kristy Sanchez, and Lacey Walden as teachers effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Brittany Nations as bookkeeper effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Stephanie Boisjolie as a counselor effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Sheena Rymer as a school-based mental health provider effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Geneva Cook as a paraprofessional effective 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney stated that no matter one's role in the district, we are all educators, and everyone who is a part of this team is essential in making a difference in the lives of students. This

has never meant more than it has in the past year. He thanked those who presented at the meeting and appreciated Eldon Moates for his work on audio. He recognized the Calendar Committee, Heather Finley, and the Fannin County Middle School SGT for their work on the calendars. He appreciated the FCHS SGT, led by Debby Decubellis and Sarah Rigdon, for their work on the selection of the next FCHS Principal, Dr. Scott Ramsey. Superintendent Gwatney congratulated Dr. Ramsey on being selected as FCHS Principal for SY 2021-22. He recognized and appreciated interim administrators for their assistance– Debby Decubellis, Milly Rice, and Betsy Hyde. He thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to achieve Exemplary Board Status with the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA). Superintendent Gwatney shared memories and congratulated Candy Sisson on her upcoming retirement. He gave a shout-out to all of the extracurricular activities that have continued throughout the Pandemic.

Board Members' Comments:

Chad Galloway thanked Ms. Sisson for her years of service. He congratulated Coach Ryan Chastain, Assistant Coach Megan Queen, and the Lady Rebels for their accomplishments this season. He appreciated those who shared presentations at this evening's meeting. He thanked Erin Carver and Mary Ann Walker for assisting with technology during the meeting. He thanked those in attendance.

Terry Bramlett offered congratulations to Ryan Chastain, Megan Queen, and the Lady Rebels. He recalled that he coached Ryan Chastain in youth basketball. He stated that Ms. Sisson would be missed. He recalled that she had taught his children in high school and has always been pleasant and positive. He stated that he received positive feedback regarding the school system while attending the FCMS Future Farmers of America (FFA) banquet. Fannin County School System is making a difference in the lives of children, and many people are pleased that we – teachers, administrators, staff – were able to do the hard work to keep our kids in school. He stated that he is proud to be part of this system.

Lewis DeWeese recalled the April 22, 2021 Board Retreat where he saw many things that were focused on children. He saw this theme repeated in tonight's presentations. He stated that students are happy, confident, and willing to share. He is thankful and appreciates teachers and everyone in the school system because they all seem to have kids first.

Bobby Bearden stated that he is proud of the Rebels, and he believes Fannin County has the best schools in Georgia. He is thankful for the Georgia Grown products that are served through the school meal program. He was pleased with the evening's presentations and looks forward to the possibility of an automotive/small engine pathway being offered. He thanked Robert Ensley for organizing Board member training, and he was pleased to see students speaking and leading at the FFA Banquet. He thanked Ms. Sisson for her service. He thanked those in attendance and said it is a privilege to serve on the Board.

Mike Cole stated that he is proud of our school system and likes going into schools. He believes that because we are "face-to-face," we are achieving. He said that we have great principals in our schools and thanked them for their hard work. He stated that he is excited about CTAE; he recently attended a Blue Ridge Parade of Homes event where five \$10,000 scholarships were given to

students pursuing trade industry related careers. He loves the school system; he is thankful for teachers and appreciates them for the job(s) they do.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, 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

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