

August 12, 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 Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from July 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., July 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and July 26, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Martha Williams Director of School Nutrition & Wellness shared information about the USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant awarded to the FCSS elementary schools for FY 22 she also recognized the receipt of the No Kid Hungry Georgia award for FCSS nutrition personnel.

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

Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof shared a district health update announcing daily reporting of COVID numbers at FCSS and current Department of Public Health guidance. He also updated the board on the purchase of new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machines for multiple campuses and facilities.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Ensley provided a central office update including a welcome back to school presentation with curriculum and assessment information and helpful links including parent portal.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update with photographs from each school.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update including drone footage from the Toccoa property.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided information about applying for the Capital Outlay Projects (COPS) for FCMS HVAC and FCHS HVAC. However, the Board received information August 11, 2021 that funding was secured through the CARES budget. Therefore, no action is necessary on this item and COPS funding will not be pursued for this project.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve pursuing Construction Manager (CM) at Risk for FCMS HVAC & FCHS Plumbing & HVAC. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve school quarterly financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve district financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for June 2021 was \$804,346.19.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the annual SPLOST audit engagement letter with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC in accordance with Georgia Code Section 20-2-491.

Finance Director Susan Wynn reviewed the 2021 Millage Timeline, LGS Computation of Millage Rate Rollback 2021, LGS FLPA Revenue Reduction Worksheet, LGS Tax Digest and Five-Year History of Levy 2021, and 2021 LGS Compliance Guide for Advertising Digest History and Public Hearings of Increases in Taxes. It was noted that the LGS Computation of Millage Rate Rollback 2021 and the LGS Tax Digest and Five-Year History of Levy 2021 had changed since the July board meeting as the 2020 digest numbers were updated. The information presented for advertisement and tonight's presentation are the same.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the 2021 millage rollback rate of 10.159. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the Fannin County 2020 Sales Ratio Study.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to adopt the FY 22 Budget. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve purchase of one 23-passenger special-needs-equipped bus from Peach State Freightliner Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia for \$106,580.00. The state of GA bond bus funds will cover \$77,220.00 of purchase price with the remaining balance, \$29,360.00, to be paid with local SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the 2021-2022 4-H/AmeriCorps agreement. The \$3,000.00 fee includes a full-time AmeriCorps state member to serve Fannin County. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve for salvage of CTAE equipment, healthcare lab bed A. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve hay as surplus on the recently purchased “Neal” property. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve for surplus two lots of gymnasium lockers at Fannin County Middle School. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

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 Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, 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 for June 10, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of Tina Dillingham and Brittany Johnson effective July 29, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Jennifer Hooper as a teacher effective August 13, 2021, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Brenda Thomas and Sara Attard Taylor as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Susan Michelle Lynn substitute clerical. All members voted yes; motion carried.

**Superintendent’s Comments:**

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked Susan Wynn for her budget preparation. He then thanked the board for supporting a full calendar for students with no furloughs and raises for employees. Dr. Gwatney recognized Chad Cheatham for his motivating presentation to the Fannin County School System during preplanning. He also extended his thanks and appreciation to the principals and directors for their leadership. Dr. Gwatney thanked all personnel for a terrific start of the year and commented on the excellent appearance of the schools and grounds. Dr. Gwatney thanked all presenters to the board extending congratulations to the nutrition department for their recognition. He also thanked Mr. Mason for his public comment.

Dr. Gwatney spoke about the commitment of all stakeholders to come together for the benefit of students and the overarching desire of all to have normalcy. He stated that his prayers continue and that each day he monitor's the health of our community. He stated that we will continue to take one day at a time. We are blessed. Dr. Gwatney concluded with his thankfulness to be here.

### **Board Members' Comments:**

**Terry Bramlett** stated that it is an incredible start of the year and parents appreciate what we are doing. Our position is fluid as we monitor safety and make it a priority. He thanked everyone for making it possible to go to school in person. Mr. Bramlett stated that he is thankful for SPLOST and what it is doing for our system and the millage rate. We have rolled back the millage for the last six years; many other districts are not in this position. Mr. Bramlett stated that it is a blessing and honor to be a part of this system. He stated that his health has had a bump in the road but it is only a bump and that he is overwhelmed by the love and support of our school family. He concluded by saying that it is an honor to be a part of this.

**Lewis DeWeese** stated - kids first, God is good, and praise His holy name.

**Bobby Bearden** said ditto to the prior board member comments. He said he appreciates all being present and thanked the principals for being present and involved.

**Mike Cole** introduced Zac Kea who was not able to be present for the invocation as planned. Pastor Kea recently relocated and is looking forward to being involved in our community. Mr. Cole told Mr. Ensley that he had never seen him so excited. He said that his little girl was just as excited and loves school. Mr. Cole thanked Ms. Wynn for what she does. He also extended birthday greetings to Mr. Moates tomorrow – they have a shared birthday.

**Chad Galloway** thanked all that were present and those that presented and their excitement. He stated that excitement is in the air and it is great; it is also exciting to be a part of this family. Mr. Galloway stated that he loves each of the gentlemen serving on the board. He concluded by saying that it is an honor and privilege to serve this system.

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.

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Chad Galloway, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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