

July 9, 2020
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; and Mike Cole. Lewis DeWeese was absent. Four members formed a quorum. 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 Bobby Bearden, 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 consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A § 50-14-2(1)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on June 11, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the meeting minutes from June 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Sarah Rigdon provided an update on School Governance Teams (SGTs) followed by a review of the results of parent and staff surveys regarding the upcoming school year, and she outlined the district's reopening plan school year 2020-21. Mrs. Rigdon updated the board on the CARES Act – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act – funds received by Fannin County School System. **(See attached.)**

Transportation Director Denver Foster provided an update on “Here Comes the Bus” software that will alert families when the bus is near their location.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided an update on facilities and construction.

The Board heard public comment from four individuals.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the West Fannin Elementary School Serving Line Bid of \$28,191.61 from Mobile Fixture & Equipment to be paid using funds received in a United States Department of Agriculture Equipment Grant awarded through the Georgia Department of Education, School Nutrition Division. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the district's financial report for May 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn stated the SPLOST check received for May 2020 was \$590,291.57.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve a spending resolution for August 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Finance Director Susan Wynn shared information on Fannin County's 2019 Sales Ration Study.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Regents of The University System of Georgia by and on behalf of The University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension and Fannin County Board of Education. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the 2021 Fannin County Board of Education/Fannin County UGA Extension-AmeriCorps Service Site Agreement. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the resignation of Cherie White effective June 18, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the resignation of Kaitlin Brianna Rosas effective June 29, 2020. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Seth Davis as a teacher effective the 2020-2021 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 Rita Chapman and Gretchen Gordon as paraprofessionals effective the 2020-2021 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Dana Hawkins as a School Nutrition Manager effective the 2020-2021 school year, pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Gwatney thanked those in attendance and watching the meeting on Rebel TV.

He commended Susan Wynn for her presentation on the budget; he thanked her for managing the budget with the 10% cut in state funding and applauded her ability to lead the way with sound financial decisions.

He recognized that personnel is a significant portion of our budget and appreciated Robert Ensley for his presentation and leadership in personnel. He commended Sarah Rigdon for an

excellent presentation of the preparation of a restart plan and the work that has taken place with principals and directors in order to prepare to reopen schools. Superintendent Gwatney stated that he is excited about the implementation of the “Here Comes the Bus” technology; he appreciated Denver Foster for his work with Transportation and for his focus on service and leadership through his department. He recognized Darren Danner for his work leading the Maintenance Department, working on facilities, and keeping our schools in great shape. Superintendent Gwatney stated that he is thankful for the SPLOST that was approved by the voters which has allowed the district to accomplish many projects.

Dr. Gwatney stated that he is looking forward to a called meeting with the Board to discuss construction of future projects for Fannin County Schools. He concluded by saying that he is happy to see principals back in attendance at this Board meeting.

Board Members’ Comments:

Mike Cole thanked Sarah Rigdon for the explanation of SGTs. He expressed his amazement for the amount of money collected from SPLOST during a pandemic. He believes that Denver Foster will set the minds of many mothers at ease with the “Here Comes the Bus” technology. He commended Darren Danner for an awesome job maintaining facilities. Mr. Cole stated that his highlight for this meeting was seeing people come out for public comment and hearing what they had to say; he is excited to see people involved. He learned about Individual Education Plans from public comment and is interested in learning more. He stated that it is a great day to live in Fannin County. He thanked those who came out today to show support for the school. He is grateful to be a part of the school system and thanked those for allowing him to serve.

Bobby Bearden asked that Mr. DeWeese and his wife be remembered in prayers. He commended Susan Wynn for doing an excellent job. He appreciated Sarah Rigdon for doing an outstanding job, and he appreciates everyone who worked on the school reopening plan. He stated that he believes “Here Comes the Bus” will be a big help for parents. Mr. Bearden expressed to Darren Danner that he is doing an excellent job and thanked him for working with the City of Blue Ridge on the softball fields. Mr. Bearden asked that people pray for our children. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting.

Terry Bramlett stated that it is an honor to serve and thanked those who participated in the meeting. He is excited about “Here Comes the Bus.” The system prides itself on technology. He is impressed by the administrative team and all of the planning that has taken place to bring our students back into school. He thanked all those involved for their dedication to the Fannin County School System and our youth.

Chad Galloway thanked everyone who showed up to the meeting, especially those who came for public comment. He agrees with Mr. Cole that the public comment portion was a meeting highlight. He appreciated Robert Ensley for his money-saving efforts. Mr. Galloway appreciated the Maintenance Department for their hard work. He is impressed with Denver Foster and the Transportation Department, and he is excited about “Here Comes the Bus.” He thanked Superintendent Gwatney for managing the district’s finances and having a rainy day fund. FCSS is not having to cut pay, furlough, or lay off employees. He thanked Sarah Rigdon and all of the community members who assisted in developing a reopening plan. He is looking forward to school starting back.

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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