

February 10, 2022  
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, and Chad Galloway. Absent was Lewis DeWeese. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Terry Bramlett, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from January 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney and Director of Learning & Achievement Lucas Roof recognized East Fannin Elementary School third-grade STEM students for placing first in a statewide STEM-Ag challenge competition.

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

Blue Ridge Elementary School Principal Dr. April Hodges presented school happenings.

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

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon provided a central office update regarding the leadership development initiative. Over 20 internal applicants expressed a desire to work toward their Tier I leadership certification through this innovative program. Interviews will be conducted next week and selected candidates will be presented at the March Board meeting.

There was no public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner provided a construction update.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve site approval application to the Georgia Department of Education for the Fannin County Agriculture & Environmental Facility located at 43 Station Ridge Road, Blue Ridge, Georgia. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Guaranteed Maximum Pricing (GMP) from Construction Manager at Risk, Bowen & Watson on replacing HVAC at FCHS not to exceed the amount of \$931,952.00 and to be paid with CARES funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Guaranteed Maximum Pricing (GMP) from Construction Manager at Risk, Bowen & Watson on replacing plumbing at FCMS not to exceed the amount of \$184,446.00 and to be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Guaranteed Maximum Pricing (GMP) from Construction Manager at Risk, Bowen & Watson on replacing HVAC at FCMS not to exceed the amount of \$1,230,672.00 and to be paid with CARES funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve bid received by Construction Manager at Risk, Bowen & Watson on replacing the Fire Alarm System at FCMS in the amount of \$128,054.00 and to be paid with SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Assistant Superintendent Darren Danner and Fannin County High School Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey provided the Board with an update for the FCMS prom. Prom will be April 30 at Inola from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Fannin High Graduation Date as Friday, May 27, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Fannin School Calendar for 2022-2023. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn, FCMS Band Director Dr. Scott Barnstead, and the Fannin Band Boosters presented band uniform information to the Board.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve purchase of FCMS band uniforms from Stanbury Uniforms, Inc. in the amount of \$76,315.50. The Band Boosters will donate \$38,157.75 toward the cost. The FCMS Student Activity Account will contribute \$8,157.75. The Fannin Schools General Fund will provide \$30,000.00. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve district financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for December 2021 was \$847,564.12.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve school quarterly financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to begin the process of obtaining bids related to district bank accounts and related services. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve Fiscal Year 2023 budget calendar. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve school nutrition property as salvage. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve bus requests from Mountain Education Charter High School (MECHS) for February 16 and February 28. MECHS will be financially responsible for fuel and driver costs. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve purchase of a LaserPro Spirit GLS 60W Laser Cutting Table from Learning Labs, Inc in the amount of \$38,573.00 using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, 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 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.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

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

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for January 13, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve revision to Policy GAAA (Equal Opportunity Employment). All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon shared information with the Board in regard to the annual review of the Board's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policies. Board members' agreement to abide by these policies is part of the annual review process and the GSBA Exemplary Board qualifications.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of Mindy Pollett effective February 7, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Jerrica Green effective February 11, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignation of Theresa Brown effective May 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of Jon Ayres, and Jeff Weaver effective May 31, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Mary Burch, Lenette Hall, and Holly Strickland for school nutrition food service assistants pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Chaya Stoughton as paraprofessional pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve Melissa Towe as bus driver pending completion of paperwork and background check. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Melissa Barker, Sherry Hicks, and Mindy Pollett as nutrition substitutes, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked all in attendance and online. He thanked the night's presenters, SRO Anthony Walden, Ms. Rigdon, and Fannin's leadership. Dr. Gwatney is proud of Fannin's student athletes and their successes in wrestling and basketball with state competitions on the horizon. He discussed the Young Farmer's banquet and the importance of our community partnerships. He congratulated Jan Hackett on her retirement and thanked her and the Fannin Chamber of Commerce for their support of Fannin schools.

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

**Chad Galloway** thanked all for coming to the Board meeting. He complimented Darren Danner for his Board presentations and work with facilities and construction projects. Mr. Galloway congratulated East Fannin Elementary School Principal Mat Price and students for their success. He stated that it was a joy to see the students at the meeting. Mr. Galloway thanked Dr. Hodges for her presentation and stated that he was thankful to see all of the wonderful things going on in our schools. He also thanked Dr. Ramsey for his support of the band and commented on the band's excellent program.

**Bobby Bearden** said he agreed with the other comments. He is very proud of the East Fannin Elementary School STEM students and all of our other schools and students. We have the best schools in Georgia!

Mr. Bearden extended congratulations to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Young Farmers for a wonderful banquet. He was reminded that farmers keep us fed and he is thankful for our programs in agriculture.

Mr. Bearden thanked all principals for attending the meeting and extended his love to all of our leadership teams.

**Mike Cole** stated that he concurred with the other Board members and Dr. Gwatney. He thanked all for being present and especially principals. The principals have a tremendous responsibility each day to watch over our precious students. He stated that he prays each day for our schools and principals. He also has been in prayer for Mr. DeWeese and Mr. Foster as they have faced some health challenges.

Mr. Cole concluded his comments by saying that he is thankful for all of our leaders and the things they do each and every day; he loves our team.

**Terry Bramlett** stated that he agrees with all that have spoken before him. It is exciting to hear about the monthly success and progress of the students and system. Our students' successes are the ultimate measure of our district's success. We are blessed with SROs and leaders at all of our schools.

In regard to the Board, Mr. Bramlett stated that it was truly an honor to serve with these men. Their love of our students without the encumbrance of politics is outstanding. They are such a high caliber in which to serve alongside.

Mr. Bramlett then updated his progress with his health and was thrilled to report that the doctor states his recovery time has been reduced from ten weeks to four! He thanked all for their prayers and asked the Lord to shower all with His blessings.

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

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Terry Bramlett, Chairperson

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Michael Gwatney, Superintendent

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