

December 19, 2024  
5:30 p.m.

The Fannin County Board of Education met in regular session with the following members present: Mike Cole, Chair; Bobby Bearden, Vice-Chair; Terry Bramlett; Lewis DeWeese; and Chad Galloway.

The meeting was called to order by Mike Cole, Chair.

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

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from November 14, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard recognized the following before the Board: Director of Nutrition & Wellness Martha Williams and the nutrition staff for receiving the Georgia Farm to School Award. The Fannin County High School (FCHS) Cross Country Team for placing 7th in the state, and the FCHS Girls' Cross Country Team for placing as state runner-up.

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 presented the 2024 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) data for Fannin Schools.

Director of Communications & Information Services Gini Tipton shared the communication methods used for Fannin County School System closings and delays.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Board Policy DIB: Financial Reports. The policy was tabled for public review on November 14, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve rescission of CTAE Auxillary Building. It was originally approved on 11/14/2024 with Boss Buildings however that company was unable to produce documentation that they participated in the E-Verification process. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve CTAE Auxillary Building. The 70' x 24' x 12' commercial building will be purchased from Viking Steel Structures for \$29,568.04. SPLOST funds will be used for the purchase. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a construction/facilities update.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve District Financial Reports ending October 31, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for October 2024 was \$1,045,972.23.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, 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)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Executive Session minutes for June 13, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Board reviewed Superintendent Shannon Dillard's annual evaluation. Chair Mike Cole said Ms. Dillard exceeded expectations on all the performance standard categories and on all standards.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard recommended the Board continue the appointment of Lynn Doss as the Fannin County Board of Education attorney for the 2025 calendar year. Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Lynn Doss as Fannin County School Board attorney for the 2025 calendar year. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to rescind prior approval of Keith Bani effective 11/18/2024 and Dusty Henry effective 11/15/2024. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve the resignation of Jennifer Barnes effective 12/31/2024. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Matthew Abernathy as Custodian effective 1/6/2025, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

**Superintendent Shannon Dillard** thanked everyone for the honor and privilege to serve Fannin County and said our educators and all the people who support the educators are the best in the country. She talked about the CCRPI reports that are reported to the state, and that people think that is the value of education; however, she said she disagrees. She said the true value of education comes from employees showing up to work after the loss of a parent just to bring doughnuts to a

child because they knew there was no one else to do it, or the extra time teachers put in so kids can sing for their families at White Christmas. High school employees who came out to help with parking for events, and teachers who take kids to practice because parents can't. Ms. Dillard said when we get to a time in our county where education is defined on the non-quantifiable things, then we will have a true revival. She stated she appreciated the honor the Board has given her and the confidence they have in her stating "I will try my best not to let you down." She said the White Christmas programs have been amazing and she said she was looking forward to seeing the others. Ms. Dillard concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and she was thankful for the reason we celebrate Christmas. She said she hopes everyone has a Happy New Year; We Are Fannin, God is good.

**Chad Galloway** thanked everyone for attending and watching online. He reflected on all the accomplishments he had seen, all the things he had been part of, and the friends he had made. He said he thought about what he wanted to be remembered for, and he wanted everyone to know he was a born-again Christian and that was what he wanted to be remembered for. He said all the other things accomplished were great, but nothing compared to being born again. He concluded by saying the best advice he could give was to have a relationship with the savior. Mr. Galloway said it had been an honor and privilege to serve and if he could do anything for anyone to call him. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

**Lewis DeWeese** said he wanted to copy what Chad Galloway had said. He said he has had a wonderful life, wife, and family. Mr. DeWeese said he has enjoyed hunting, horses, and camping. He said that he has been blessed with many friends through education. He reflected on the words he always used, "Kids First." He said, "Jesus said God is Love, and Education reflects that." He said his life has been blessed to know so many people, people who care and are dedicated to children. Mr. DeWeese said it was his honest opinion that there would be a special place for educators when everyone in education walks up to the pearly gates. He said one thing he tried to do since being on the Board was to work up a job description for the Superintendent. He said it was impossible; he failed. He thanked Shannon Dillard for all she does and told Lynn Doss she held a special place in his heart because they shared a love for kids. He said, "Dr. Lucas Roof, you're the only man I hug, but that's because you are a special person." He told Mr. Danner, "you have the best job in the world if you just start riding some of the equipment you are around!" He said Susan Wynn was a genius bookkeeper. He told all department heads and principals that they were terrific. He said he has had the privilege for 32 years of being involved with children growing up to be better and have a better education. Mr. DeWeese concluded by thanking the good lord for letting him be a School Board member and said he took pride in that. He thanked everyone for listening, and he said he hoped the next person filling the chair would feel like he did, "Kids First!"

**Terry Bramlett** said he wanted to thank his wife, Ruth, for always working the hatchery during his absences so he could attend School Board functions. He thanked the men on the Board for their character and being godly men; he said it has been a privilege to work with them. He said we have had different perspectives, but one goal has always been what was best for the kids, teachers, and staff. He said there had been no agendas or ego and that every member of the Board was always willing to sit down and listen to each other's ideas. Mr. Bramlett said it's been a pleasure to work with and an honor to be part of a team. He told everyone thank you for what they do for the students; it blesses his heart. He said he had a special team he wanted to acknowledge for the level

of commitment and dedication to the safety of our kids, which exceeds every level of expectation for someone in their job. He said it's a great privilege to count himself among such great people of remarkable caliber. He thanked everyone for their prayers when he had some health issues and said thanks to prayer, he could return faster than the doctors thought. Mr. Bramlett said, "Thank you for your dedication and what you do for the kids." It's been an honor to serve.

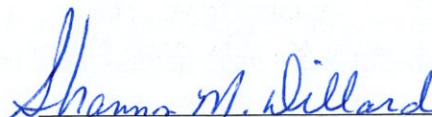
**Bobby Bearden** created a unique hand-made decorative piece for each Board member. Mr. Danner, Dr. Roof, and Ms. Dillard assisted Mr. Bearden in giving out the gifts. Mr. Bearden said it was a privilege to serve with all Board members, that he loved each of them, appreciated their wisdom, and would continue to pray for them. Mr. Bearden presented Lewis DeWeese and Mike Cole with their decorative pieces and said, "You are both appreciated and Mr. DeWeese, you have been an inspiration to work with."

**Mike Cole** told all three departing Board members he loved them and thanked them for always encouraging and educating him when he became a Board member. He thanked them for all their help and said, "We are a family, and thank you for all you have done for the school system." Mr. Cole concluded by presenting Mr. Bramlett with his gift and saying it had been an honor to work with him and appreciated all the wisdom he shared. He told Mr. Bramlett he prays God richly blesses him. He also thanked all the principals for coming to every meeting, SRO Tony for keeping the kids safe and loving on them, and the janitors and lunchroom workers for the work they do every day.

**Shannon Dillard** thanked the three departing Board members for taking a chance with her being Superintendent. She said you never enabled me but pushed me to be better. She said she appreciated the opportunity and the background work they have done to make the system work; we will all continue to make you proud. Ms. Dillard concluded by presenting Mr. Galloway with his gift and said she was thankful for everything he had done with the students and all the conversations they had shared.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Terry Bramlett, 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.

  
Mike Cole, Chair

  
Shannon M. Dillard, Superintendent