

September 12, 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; and Chad Galloway. Lewis DeWeese was absent. A quorum was present.

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 August 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. and August 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard recognized Karen Armstrong District 9 Georgia School Board Association Director and Dawson County Board of Education School Board Member.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard introduced Fannin County Commission Chairman Jamie Hensley and Fannin County Public Library Board of Trustee Chairman Dustin Smisson. They provided the board with a building/construction update for the new Fannin County Public Library. Mr. Hensley requested an extension for the completion date of the original contract with the School System, requesting August 2026.

Recommendation by Mike Cole, motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve extending the date of construction completion to August 2026 for the Fannin Public Library and to leave the rest of the contract intact as requested by Fannin County Commission Chairman Jamie Hensley and Fannin County Public Library Board of Trustee Chairman Dustin Smisson. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof shared the new School Governance Team Member Names, Terms, & Meeting Dates for SY 2024-2025.

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 updated the Board on the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) accreditation for all FCSS schools. Each school and the district received certificates for being Accredited with Quality for the SY 2024-2025.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve 2024-2025 Fannin County Board of Education Local Training Plan. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve to Table Board Policy IEDA: Recess/Unstructured Break Time. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Fannin County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) to provide a facility to FCDPH, if needed, due to a local health emergency; and to approve FCDPH to provide scoliosis screenings of students grades 6th & 7th. Both MOUs are effective from October 1, 2024 through October 1, 2025. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

West Fannin Elementary School Principal Alison Danner presented school happenings.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner updated the Board on school safety. Mr. Danner spoke about the Audio Enhancement System installed at all schools and the district level. He reminded everyone about school keyless access, an electronic device on doors requiring a key card to open.

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner updated the Board on the current construction work for the Fannin County High School Athletic Complex.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Blue Ridge Elementary Surplus Item: Cafeteria Tables. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Blue Ridge Elementary Surplus Item: Aquaponics. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve CM at Risk Bowen & Watson for the following projects: HVAC Replacement at East Fannin Elementary, West Fannin Elementary, and Fannin County High School Gymnasium; Fannin County Middle School Driveway; and Show Barn at the Fannin County Agriculture Facility. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Capital Outlay Program (COP) Application for West Fannin Elementary Dishwasher. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve District Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for July 2024 was \$987,434.95. The Local Government Service Division with the Georgia Department of Revenue has informed Ms. Wynn that SPLOST V will end December 31, 2024.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn shared Fannin County's 2023 Sales Ratio with the Board.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Mountain Education Bus Requests. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the purchase of 4 special needs buses from Rush Truck Centers of Georgia for \$157,000.00/bus with a total purchase price of \$628,000.00. This purchase will utilize the Statewide Contract with the Georgia Department of Administrative Services and will be paid using SPLOT funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve to postpone the October 10, 2024 Board Meeting to October 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Staff Development Center. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following classified positions: April Hoskins effective 9/13/2024 and Lisa Kelaher effective 9/16/2024, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Shannon Dillard said she continues to pray for healing and peace for Barrow County, the State, and the Nation. She said she feels blessed to have the local community and Sheriff's office supporting the school system. Ms. Dillard extended her thank you to the Fire Department for all they do with the school events, parent volunteers helping with the schools, and the Library Board for all their support in wanting to make a place for the kids to benefit. She said times are changing, and everyone must stay proactive to ensure safety. We must help build our community and love one another. Ms. Dillard said she appreciated Jamie Hensley's presentation and Ms. Armstrong for traveling, attending, and supporting our school system. She thanked Alison Danner for her presentation and the School Board for all they do daily.

Board Member's Comments:

Terry Bramlett thanked everyone who presented at the meeting and said being part of the team was an honor. Mr. Bramlett reflected on the tragic events in Barrow County and said it was very personal for him as he once attended school there and has many relatives and friends in that hometown. His grandfather had served as a principal and then as Superintendent of the school system in Barrow County. He said since the incident, he has lost sleep, trying to figure out what could have been done to keep the kids safer. He talked about the school resource officers at Barrow County, and their response was exemplary, saying that without them, things could have been much worse, and his heart goes out to those affected by the tragedy. He encouraged parents to educate their children early on right from wrong. He said it's our job as school officials to educate them, but parents, please spend time with your kids, love them, get to know them, and find out what they are into. Mr. Bramlett referenced video games, some graphic and violent; young, impressionable minds see it, and then it's there. He said if you have a troubled child, don't go out and buy an AR-15 when the child is 13 years old. He ended by saying, "I love you all; thank you. It's an honor to serve."

Chad Galloway thanked everyone attending, watching online, and presenting tonight. He reflected during the past debate when the question was asked, what is the most pressing issue the

school system faces? He said he answered with school safety and still feels like that is today's most important issue. He said everyone who has a position on the school board constantly worries about the school system. Mr. Galloway said the school system does a wonderful job keeping the kids safe, and a lot of it is unnoticed but done daily. He thanked everyone in the school system for all they do and said from the bottom of his heart that he appreciated everyone. He talked about an accident his daughter had and the unbelievable support and love from the coaching staff. It's a family here. He said I didn't even realize until I ran for school board how close a family everyone is and what it would mean to me. He gave a huge shout-out to Coach Cheatham and his staff for all their support and for going above and beyond their job duties. Mr. Galloway encouraged everyone to get their kids involved with school activities. He said, "Love and appreciate you all, God Bless."

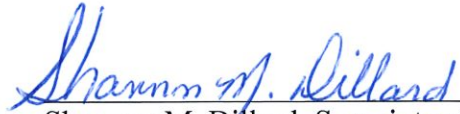
Bobby Bearden wanted to commend the Superintendent, staff, and local law enforcement for handling the threat/rumor over the weekend. He said there is not enough recognition for all they have done, but he wanted them to know they are all appreciated. He thanked Ms. Armstrong for attending the Board meeting and speaking. Mr. Bearden told Alison Danner her presentation was wonderful, and Mr. Danner, your presentation on safety was excellent. He referred back to saying, "Children first, is safety." He thanked Mr. Hensley and Mr. Smisson for coming to the meeting and giving an update on the public library. He reflected on the magnitude of the Barrow County shooter and the sadness that this young man's family must endure. He said, "We are Fannin, we are family."

Mike Cole thanked Ms. Armstrong for attending the meeting and said he looked forward to working with her to improve the state of Georgia. He said he enjoyed attending GSBA and getting to meet new people. Mr. Cole thanked Vicki Henry from Mountain Education for attending board meetings and supporting the kids. He recognized SRO Tony Sirianni; he said he had witnessed the kids responding to him with "fist-bumps," it was great to see the kids see him as their friend and protector. He thanked the Library Board for attending the meeting and supporting the Commissioner with the Library project. Mr. Cole recognized and thanked Scott Mathis for the prayer he led and for sharing his faith. Mr. Cole said Isaiah 9 says, "the increase of his government and his peace there will be no end." When we start to follow the laws of the kingdom of heaven, we start those laws that are put in place. If I'm in a foreign country and I'm a pilgrim walking through here but a citizen of another country in this one, I will be giving the laws of the kingdom in my life every day. When I start to understand those laws, this isn't church, but this is what I live my life by. The increase of his government and peace that those need in Apalachee continues to grow. Thank God for that.

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.



Mike Cole, Chair



Shannon M. Dillard, Superintendent

smn

