

March 14, 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 February 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.;
February 27, 2024 at 7:45 a.m.

The following were recognized during special recognitions: The Wrestling Athletes had a State runner-up and was part of the Elite 8. The Weightlifting Athletes placed in the top 6 at State. The Fannin High School Dance Team "Rebelettes" finished in the top 3 at State. The 8th Grade Girls Basketball Athletes won the Mountain League Middle School Championship. Tom Cook placed 2nd at the Pioneer RESA School Bus Technicians Competition.

The Board heard public comment from one individual.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof shared the FY24 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Exemplary Board Recognition Criteria with the Board. He noted changes from the previous criteria: the Superintendent and a Central Office Administrator are now required to take the self-assessment.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof reviewed the annual Board Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies with the Board. All Board members received electronic and hard copies of the policies and signed the affirmation as part of the annual expectation and confirmation that policies are in place.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof reviewed the results of the 2023-2024 Annual Board Internal Review Committee meeting. This instrument is based on the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) standards for local Boards of Education. The committee concluded that the Board of Education members do an outstanding job at adopting and following board policies while abiding by the Code of Ethics for board members. It was also noted that the Board members work alongside the superintendent toward the common goal of assuring that students have a multitude of opportunities and avenues in which to succeed.

Superintendent Shannon Dillard recognized the Fannin County Board Members for School Board Appreciation Week, March 11-15. The Board was presented with the Exemplary Board Award they received for 2023. With appreciation for their years of service to the Fannin County School System and the community, each Board member received a certificate of appreciation, a pin for years of service, and gifts from FCSS principals.

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Lucas Roof shared an update regarding the recent activities of each School Governance Team (SGT).

East Fannin Elementary School Principal Matt Price presented school happenings to the Board.

Director of Student Services Dr. Connie Huff shared an update on the FCSS Pre-K Lottery window: March 11, 2024 through March 22, 2024.

Interim Director of Transportation Chris Drury shared an update on the Transportation Department. State Inspections were held on November 25-26, 2023; Fifty buses were inspected and passed with no out-of-service violations.

Director of Nutrition & Wellness Martha Williams announced the selected 2026 Teachers of the Year. They will represent their schools during the 2025 School year. Nominees are Caprice Ramsey (BRES), Kayla Majors (EFES), Christy Brogden (WFES), Jill Abercrombie (FCMS), and Christie Rose (FCHS). The ceremony will be held on May 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Agriculture Building.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve FCHS Old Greenhouse Bid. One bid was received from Ruth Bramlett for \$80.00 for lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 & 19 (4' x 10' metal tables). Mike Cole, Bobby Bearden, Lewis DeWeese, and Chad Galloway voted yes; Terry Bramlett abstained; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve FCHS Property as Salvage: Lot 1 Greenhouse, Lots 2-10 & 17 metal tables. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Chief Operations Officer Darren Danner provided a facilities update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve district financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn informed the Board that the SPLOST check received for January 2024 was \$769,236.29.

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented FY 25 Budget Calendar and Timeline to the Board for informational purposes.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Lewis DeWeese, to approve Intergovernmental Agreement and Summer Meal Contract with Fannin County Government. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, 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 school safety plans prepared pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185 or personnel pursuant to policies related to weapons in schools; (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18- 72 (a) (25.1) and 16-11-130.1 (f)). All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Executive Session minutes for February 8, 2024. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the resignations of William Joseph Hayes effective 3/1/2024; Kyra White effective 3/15/2024; Deborah “Debbie” Plush effective 5/24/2024; Loretta Diane White effective 5/24/2024; Travis Sanderson effective 5/28/2024; Milicent “Milly” Rice effective 5/29/2024; Edith “Lorraine” Wright effective 5/29/2024; and Sandra “Sandi” Graham effective 5/31/2024. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Terry Bramlett, to approve the following staff as Classified effective 3/18/2024: Lee Olson, Charles Poss, and Cody Watkins, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Denton Petty as Substitute Custodian effective 3/18/2024, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Lewis DeWeese, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve the following substitute teachers effective 8/2/2024: Sandra “Sandi” Graham, Debbie Plush, Milicent “Milly” Rice, and Edith “Lorraine” Wright, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training requirements. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Superintendent’s Comments:

Superintendent Shannon Dillard thanked Sheriff Dane Kirby and School Resource Officers for their service and availability to support the Fannin County School System. She also thanked Principal Mathew Price for his presentation. She recognized and congratulated Chris Drury on his new title as Transportation Director. Ms. Dillard concluded the meeting by saying, “We are Fannin, and we are Blessed!”

Board Members’ Comments:

Chad Galloway thanked everyone for participating in person or online. He said he had the privilege of attending a Band Concert and wanted everyone to know what a professional and

excellent job the band directors were doing with the kids. Mr. Galloway said he could see growth from the group year to year. He thanked the Sheriff and School Resource Officers for all the safety they provide to the schools and community. He also congratulated Chris Drury on his new title.

Lewis DeWeese said that seeing all the accomplishments come forward tonight at the Board meeting showed what great things were happening with the school system. He congratulated all the children on their accomplishments. "Kids First!"


Terry Bramlett said being on the Board and serving was an honor. He said he appreciated everyone from Ms. Dillard, Darren Danner, Dr. April Hodges, Sheriff Kirby, School Resource Officers, and all involved with the recent school threat. He said security was top-notch and handled efficiently, effectively, and magnificently.

Bobby Bearden thanked everyone in attendance and online. He congratulated all the kids who were recognized for their accomplishments. He said he loved and enjoyed being part of the Internal Board review. He told Principal Mathew Price his presentation was excellent. He congratulated Chris Drury on his new title and stated he was excited to see the new buses with the latest safety features and rearview cameras. He said he could not say thank you enough to Sheriff Kirby, School Resource Officers, Ms. Dillard, Darren Danner, and Dr. April Hodges for all the work and dedication to make sure all kids were safe. We are Fannin!

Mike Cole thanked Ms. Dillard for her service to the Fannin County School System. He thanked Chris Drury for stepping into the role of Director of Transportation and giving support and leadership to the Transportation Staff. He also thanked the bus drivers for their dedication and constant maintenance checks to ensure the safety of the buses. He told the School Resource Officers there was not enough praise for all they do. He concluded by sharing a statement that touched him, "If you can ever keep in mind the kids are watching." He said that statement spoke volumes about the importance of one's attitude and how they deal with situations. Mr. Cole thanked everyone for attending and being a part of the meeting.

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