

June 9, 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. Lewis DeWeese was absent. A quorum was present.

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

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve consent agenda. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Approve the agenda.

Approve the Board meeting minutes from May 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., and May 23, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney recognized the Fannin County High School Track & Field team members. Coach Miranda Roof highlighted the Track & Field team accomplishments from the 2021-2022 season. Mike Sullivan presented a \$3,450.00 donation to the FCSS that was raised through the STEM Soapbox Derby.

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

Fannin County High School Principal Dr. Scott Ramsey presented school happenings.

Superintendent Michael Gwatney shared the district leadership team duty assignments for SY 2022-2023. **(See attached)**

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Rigdon presented a video presentation prepared by the Director of Nutrition and Wellness Martha Williams updating the status of food bids for SY 2022-2023.

Director of Student Services Shannon Miller, FCSS Social Worker Tara Cantrell, and FCSS Licensed Clinical Social Worker Sheena Rymer announced the FCSS Summer Bash scheduled for July 9, 2022.

There was no public comment.

Associate Superintendent Darren Danner shared a facilities and construction update.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve the request to apply for a site approval application for the Neal Property. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve permission to advertise for a Request for Proposal for a new Greenhouse at the Agriculture Center. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to purchase energy control system upgrades for Fannin County High School. The quote is from Control Systems Integration for \$54,813 and will be paid using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to purchase energy control system upgrades for Fannin County Middle School. The quote is from Control Systems Integration for \$80,813 and will be paid using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to approve Fannin County High School surplus track equipment. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden to postpone the July 2022 Board of Education meeting by one week to July 21, 2022, and to relocate future Board of Education Meetings from 2290 East First Street to 6145 Old Hwy. 76, Blue Ridge, Georgia. The date change is a one-time approval and the location change is for all Fannin County Board of Education from the July 21<sup>st</sup> date forward. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the April financial report for approval. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Director of Finance Susan Wynn presented the SPLOST update. \$792,004.86 was collected for April 2022.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to approve FY 2022 budget amendments. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve amendment to the FY 2023 budget timeline. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to approve a spending resolution covering July 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve Mountain Education Charter High to use a bus on June 15, 2022. MECH will be responsible for fuel and driver costs. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to purchase six 72-passenger buses from Peach State Freightliner Thomas Bus Sales of Georgia with each bus being \$127,164.00 (\$762,984.00) funded by the GA DOE for Fannin in an allotted amount of \$88,110.00 (\$528,660.00). The balance of \$39,054.00 (\$234,324.00) will be paid using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried. **(See attached.)**

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve norms required as a part of the Exemplary Board application to the Georgia School Boards Association. 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.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole to approve the minutes of the Executive Session for May 12, 2022, and May 23, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to purchase two tracts of land for a total of approximately 66.7 acres that adjoins FCSS property with frontage on Old Highway 76. The purchase price is \$4,000,000.00 and will be paid using SPLOST funds. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole to approve the resignations of Megan Bailey and Jerry Mitchell effective May 27, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of Buck Rodgers effective May 30, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of Amanda Gilliam effective June 9, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway to approve the resignation of Joseph B. "Ben" Weaver effective July 29, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Bobby Bearden to approve the resignation of Mary Donna Ray effective August 1, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Melissa Ratcliff as Custodian effective June 10, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Mechelle Champion and Nicole Henson as Professional Staff effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Chad Galloway, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Ginger Hewatt as a Food Service Assistant effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Betsy Hyde (at 49%) and Lisa Taylor as Administrators effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve James Lucas Walden as Professional Staff effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Taryn Wellham as a Food Service Assistant effective July 25, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Cole, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve Patrick Lindstrom as a Substitute Teacher effective August 1, 2022, pending completion of paperwork, background check, and training. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Mike Cole, to approve Collin Bruce as Summer Custodial Worker effective June 1, 2022, through July 22, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Terry Bramlett, seconded by Bobby Bearden, to approve Caroline Young as Summer Clerical Worker effective June 10, 2022, through July 22, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.

The following transfers were presented to the Board for informational purposes: Katherine Cheatham transferring from Professional Staff to Intervention Coordinator, Annette Putnam transferring from Professional Staff to Career Technical Instructional Coordinator, Jenna Saxon transferring as Professional Staff from East Fannin Elementary to Fannin County Middle School. No action is needed.

Motion by Bobby Bearden, seconded by Chad Galloway, to approve an updated contract to include an additional year (to a current three-year contract) for Dr. Michael Gwatney as Superintendent of the Fannin County Board of Education. All members voted yes; motion carried.

**Superintendent’s Comments:**

**Superintendent Gwatney** thanked the special recognitions and the night’s presenters. He also thanked Mr. Frank Rigdon of ETC for their support of our retiring teachers. SROs and their recent training were acknowledged. Dr. Gwatney also restated that there will be a ribbon-cutting at the new Staff Development Center on July 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Gwatney thanked the Board for the additional year on his contract. He announced that with the completion of the new Transportation Facility and Staff Development Center along with the recent acquisition of additional properties for the Fannin County School System that he will be moving toward retiring during the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. He stated that he will assist the Board in naming his successor and with the transition planning. He will announce the official date of his retirement in the near future.

**Board Member’s Comments:**

**Chad Galloway** stated that he was thankful for Dr. Gwatney and his leadership. He went on to say that he was thankful that Dr. Gwatney will be assisting in the transition to the next Superintendent. Mr. Galloway complimented all the presenters who participated in the meeting.

**Bobby Bearden** stated his appreciation for everyone. He stated that there were two reasons to cry: When you are happy and when you are sad. He stated that everything that happened at the Board meeting tonight was great and that we have the best schools. He ended with the statement, “We are Fannin.”

**Mike Cole** stated his appreciation for all the athletes and their accolades. He said he will be glad to get into the new facility. Mr. Cole stated that Dr. Gwatney is his brother and that he loves him. He is grateful that Dr. Gwatney can retire and for how they have grown to have more than a working relationship.

**Terry Bramlett** stated that Dr. Gwatney has created a remarkable culture in our school system. He went on to state that we will tolerate excellence but prefer perfection and that Dr. Gwatney has come very close.

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 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