



**Minutes School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
WMHS Performing Arts Center
7/8/2020**

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and state guidelines limiting the number of attendees, this meeting was livestreamed so members of the public could view the proceedings in real time. The link was published on the Greene County Public Schools website and made available on the division's Facebook page.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Mack, Chairperson; Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Ms. Leah Paladino, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

MEMBERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Mr. Jason Collier, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR(S) PRESENT: Steve Bowman, Liaison

Ms. Leah Paladino moved that the Greene County School Board move to closed session at 5:30 p.m., Mr. Todd Sansom seconded, all certified by roll call vote.

Ms. Sharon Mack called the Greene County School Board public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Leah Paladino made a motion to allow Mr. Jason Collier to participate in the meeting electronically. Mr. Jason Tooley seconded, all ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack, Ms. Paladino, Mr. Sansom, and Mr. Tooley all voted to certify the closed meeting session.

Ms. Mack stated there were no closed meeting actions to report.

Ms. Paladino made a motion to approve the presented consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Tooley. The board approved the consent agenda 5:0 by a roll call vote.

Ms. Mack asked those in attendance if they would like to address members of the board on matters not listed on the agenda items. There were no attendees who wished to address the board at that time.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh introduced agenda item #11-901, School Reopening Plan. She outlined the planning process and steps division leaders have taken to reopen schools safely and in alignment with state guidelines that have been established due to COVID-19. She emphasized that the plans will be adaptable and will be generated collaboratively. Mr. Huber presented survey results from parents, students, and staff members that helped division leaders during their initial planning process. He then outlined the division's Return to Learn plan. He thanked the task

forces that were directly involved in the process. The task forces included teachers, administrators, parents, community partners, and more. Ms. Mack asked how the members of those groups were selected; Mr. Huber explained that the selection process involved both volunteers who reached out directly and selections from building administrators. He outlined the two reopening options the board could vote on, option 1 and option 2. The recommendation division leaders proposed to the board was to approve option 1 which includes: students in grades PK-5 attend school in-person Monday through Friday. Students in grades 6-12 attend school at least 2 days per week in person and work remotely the remainder of the week. Parents of all K-12 students may elect to have their child attend virtual school. Face coverings will be required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. Dr. Kyle Pursel outlined the operational planning the division is currently working on. This included considerations for cleaning, health and hygiene, social distancing, and transportation.

Ms. Mack called for a 5-minute break before moving into public comment on the reopening plans. She asked that members and audience members return at 9:30 p.m.

After the brief break, Ms. Mack opened the floor for public comment. She allowed those who signed up to speak first.

Ms. Rachel Peters was the first to address the board. She explained she is a current music teacher at Ruckersville Elementary School. She outlined her concerns over some of the health and safety considerations currently outlined in the division's plan.

Ms. Maryanne Cauley, a parent of two students in the division, was next to speak. She expressed concerns over how COVID-19 could impact teens' mental health. She said keeping students in grades 6-12 out of school buildings could worsen their mental health.

Mr. Kevin Carruthers was next to speak. He expressed concerns over putting 5th grade students in the same school building as middle school students. Additionally, he said he was worried about the risks associated with students bringing COVID-19 home to family members.

Ms. George-Jean Welichko was next to speak. She expressed concerns over the safety of teachers and what precautions are being taken to ensure they do not get sick. She also said she is concerned about options for students who contract COVID-19.

Mr. Wayne Thomas was next to speak. He expressed concerns over students not having the needed support of teachers.

Ms. Jessica Welichko, a student at William Monroe High School, explained that she agrees with option 1, which includes wearing masks, social distancing, and the opportunity to come to school at least 2 days out of the week.

Mr. Todd Sansom moved to approve option 1 for the reopening plans for 2020-2021 school year, Ms. Paladino seconded. All members of the board approved the plans 5:0 by a roll call vote.

Mr. Huber presented agenda item #11-902, the updated 2020-2021 school year calendar. He noted the most important change to the amended calendar was the first day of school, which would be moved to August 18th, rather than August 12th. Mr. Todd Sansom made a motion to approve the new school year calendar, Ms. Leah Paladino seconded. All board members approve the new calendar by a roll call vote.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented agenda item #11-903, a resolution to allow Superintendent to reassign staff. She explained that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, she will need to make decisions that will involve moving staff members to different buildings in order to execute the approved Return to Learn plans. Ms. Paladino moved to accept the resolution, Mr. Jason Tooley

seconded. All members voted ayes, the motion carried.

All board members encouraged parents, students, and staff to continue emailing them with their concerns with the upcoming school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

Rhonda Houchens

Rhonda Houchens, Clerk



Sharon Mack, Board Chair