



**Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Office Meeting Room
6/10/2020**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

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

The board's closed session meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the William Monroe Media Center Lab.

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

Ms. Mack called for a roll call vote to certify the closed meeting. All ayes from the board members.

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

Ms. Mack and Dr. Whitmarsh recognized the Educator and Staff Member of the year nominees. Ms. Mack read a brief overview of each nominees' accomplishments throughout their time in the division. Ms. Ashley Swingler was recognized as the staff member of the year for Nathanael Greene Primary and Elementary Schools. Ms. Swingler is an instructional assistant for grade levels three through five. Ms. Linda Haselton was recognized as the educator of the year for Nathanael Greene Primary and Elementary Schools. Ms. Haselton is a math interventionist for primary and elementary school students and has been at Nathanael Greene schools for 23 years. This year's staff member of the year nominee for Ruckersville Elementary school, Ms. Becky Locklear, was not able to attend the school board meeting. Ms. Locklear serves as an instructional assistant at RES.

Ms. Courtney Thompson was recognized as the educator of the year nominee for Ruckersville Elementary School. Ms. Thompson taught at RES for 9 years and now serves as an instructional coach at the school. Mr. Wendall Eppard was recognized as this year's support staff member for William Monroe Middle School. Mr. Eppard has been a custodian at WMMS for 14 years. Ms. Marlene Rombach was recognized as educator of the year for William Monroe Middle School. Ms. Rombach began teaching at the high school in 2008 and moved to the middle school in 2018 to serve as an instructional coach. Ms. Denise Shifflett was recognized as the support staff member of the year for William Monroe High School. Ms. Shifflett has worked for Greene County Schools for 31 years. She has served in various roles throughout the division including a Special education assistant, clinic assistant, health clinic secretary, and bookkeeper. She is currently the registrar at the high school. Ms. Leah Talbert was recognized as educator of the year for William Monroe High School. Ms. Talbert first came to the high school in 2007 as a science teacher. From there, she began a new position as the new teacher support and mentorship coordinator at the division level. She now serves at the high school media specialist.

Ms. Mack stated public comments could be made on matters not included on the agenda. There were two sign-ups. Mr. Paul Myers said he no longer needed to address the board at the time. Ms. Jennifer Peters addressed the board regarding the extended school closure due to COVID-19 and planning for the 2020-2021 school year. She suggested that division leaders survey families to learn more about their needs for the upcoming school year. She asked if there could be more consistency throughout the division in terms of communication and platforms for virtual learning. The board thanked Ms Peters for her comments. Ms. Mack also read an emailed comment, which was an option during the May meeting. The option was available due to state guidelines due to COVID-19. The comment was submitted by Ms. Amy Hollis. She expressed gratitude towards school leaders for their dedication during the school closure. She also recognized students who received scholarships from the WMHS PTO. Ms. Mack closed public comments.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented action item #11-882, the FY2021 Budget Adoption. She outlined several changes to the budget that was originally adopted by the board in February 2020. The amended total FY2021 budget that she presented was \$40,069,742. She explained that division leaders have instituted a hiring freeze, with the exception of essential positions. Mr. Jason Collier asked Dr. Whitmarsh to elaborate on the lottery funding and how it has impacted the overall budget. Mr. Sansom asked for more information on the expectations from the board if allotment totals do change in the future. She explained that division leaders consistently provide financial updates, but she does not anticipate any changes to the budget in the future. Leah Paladino moved to adopt the amended budget as presented and Mr. Jason Collier seconded. The board certified by a roll call vote to adopt the amended FY2021 budget.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented action item #11-883, the Federal Consolidated Application for the 2020-2021 school year. Each year, the school division must complete and submit this application in order to obtain federal funding for Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV. Mr. Huber explained there were no changes to the application since he presented it as an information item during the

board's meeting in May. Mr. Jason Collier moved to approve the application as presented and Mr. Todd Sansom seconded the motion. All ayes from the board, the motion carried.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented action item #11-884, the Migrant Children Certification for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Huber explained that this is an annual certification where several divisions in a regional program participate. During the board's meeting in May, Mr. Huber explained that this program protects the division from an unnecessary administrative burden of overseeing a federal program and provides access to necessary resources to serve migrant children in our area. Mr. Huber explained there were no changes to the application since he presented it as an information item during the board's meeting in May. Mr. Todd Sansom moved to approve the application as presented, Mr. Jason Tooley seconded the motion.

Mr. Huber presented action item #11-885, which was a specific policy from the VSBA May 2020 updates that goes into effect July 1st. Mr. Huber explained that due to this timeline, the board would need to vote on approving policy GCG - "Professional Staff Probationary Term & Continuing Contract" during this month's meeting. He said the policy directly impacts the language included in teachers' contracts. He said the policy reverts teachers' probationary period back to 3 years, instead of 5. Leah Paladino moved to accept the policy update, Mr. Todd Sansom seconded the motion. All ayes from the board members, the motion carried.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented action item #11-886, a motion to appoint a superintendent's designee. She recommended the board appoint Mr. Bryan Huber. Leah Paladino made a motion on this action item, Jason Tooley seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Huber presented information item #11-887, the VSBA policy updates established in May 2020. The board will vote on the policy updates during a future school board meeting.

Mr. Huber and Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-888, an update on the division's response and planning for COVID-19. Dr. Pursel outlined operational details and planning. This included items like nutrition and meal distribution, maintenance, and transportation. Mr. Huber gave an overview of what the end of the continuity of learning in the spring looked like at the end of May. He explained that division leaders updated the continuity of learning progress trackers and said the information from those trackers are going to be used for fall planning. He also explained the division's plans for summer school and how they are going to use information from that for planning as well. He outlined various graduation-related activities that leaders at the high school planned and implemented. He also listed the stats for the class of 2020. He also explained some of the training that has already been planned for staff to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Mack asked if any members of the public had public comment. Mr. Paul Myers explained he would like to see a community feedback survey. Ms. Tabitha Myers also spoke during this time, stating that she is both a parent and teacher. She expressed interest in learning more about training

opportunities. She also thanked division leaders for their time and work on planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

During Dr. Whitmarsh's general superintendent's update, information item #11-889, she explained that there is uncertainty about the timing of reopening schools, since Governor Northam released the phased plans the day before the board's meeting. She outlined some of the initial guidelines that were released for each phase. She explained that there will be a lot of planning and adjustments so the division is compliant with state guidelines during the 2020-2021 school year. She said two task forces are being created to focus on operational and instructional logistics. She explained leaders are releasing a survey to parents to gauge their plans for the new school year. She also said the state must approve the division's plan for the school year. She explained that she is currently requesting some of the County's CARES act funding to help with costs associated with internet connectivity. Ms. Mack said she spoke during the supervisor's meeting the night before requesting consideration on this matter.

Ms. Tabitha Myers, a member of the public, asked if there was going to be guidance for parents who are planning to keep their students home for virtual learning or help during the blended learning model that could be offered. Dr. Whitmarsh explained that this is something that is going to be included in the planning process.

Jason Collier expressed gratitude to school leaders and staff for their hard work during the spring semester and said he has confidence in their ability to form a great plan for families for the 2020-2021 school year.


Leah Paladino thanked everyone who attended the meeting, including staff members and parents. She expressed confidence in division leaders' ability to form a plan that will best serve students.


Todd Sansom thanked division leaders for their work and consideration during this time. He says he is hopeful that they take advantage of some of the flexibility the state is giving localities to reopen schools.

Jason Tooley echoed Mr. Sansom's sentiment regarding planning for the new school year. He also thanked school leaders. He congratulated Dr. Brenda Walton on her new position in the division as the middle school principal.

Sharon Mack stated she commented several times throughout the meeting. She said she has confidence in leaders to parse through the state's guidelines to make the best decisions. She said she would like to see a lot of participation on the community survey.

Ms. Mack adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.


Chairman


Clerk