



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
August 9, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Todd Sansom, Chair; Ms. Sharon Mack, Vice-Chair; Mr. Brooks Taylor, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

Member(s) of The Greene County Board of Supervisors Present: Mr. Steve Bowman

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and (A)(2) to discuss personnel and student matters. Ms. Mack seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Ms. Mack seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Mr. Sansom stated: The Board will certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and identified in the motion to convene in the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.

Ms. Mack - certified
Mr. Taylor - certified
Ms. Roach - certified
Mr. Sansom - certified

Mr. Sansom requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for closed meeting action items.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for religious exemptions 24-01 and 24-02. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for the consent agenda:

- 11-1450 June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1451 June 13, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1452 June 15, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1453 June 22, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1454 June 28, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1455 July 5, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1456 July 10, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1457 July 12, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1458 July 20, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1459 July 26, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1460 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1461 Enrollment
- 11-1462 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1450 through 11-1462 as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom stated it was time for first public comment on matters not listed below on agenda. Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1463, May 2023 VSBA Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared there have been no changes since June board meeting. Dr. Pursel stated his recommendation was to approve these policies as presented in June and that any updates regulations connected to these policies will be made as necessary.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve action item #11-1463, May 2023 VSBA Policy Updates as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Donna Payne presented information/action item #11-1464, Policy JEB – Entrance Age/Admission of Persons Not of School Age. Dr. Payne shared this item is for information and action tonight. Dr. Payne shared that our current policy states that if a child is outside of the entrance for school age which means if they reach their fifth birthday after September 30th but before October 31st and parent notifies us in writing then we would schedule a kindergarten readiness screener and based on staffing and resulting

of the screener we would decide if that student would be eligible for early admission. If the early admission would require us to hire additional staff then we would not grant that. We are recommending that we change that policy from the October 31st date to December 31st as that aligns with what the Code of Virginia says. Then our policy would be in align with the same age specifically as the Code of Virginia states. Mr. Sansom asked if that meant we were out of align. Dr. Payne said no we are still in the realm of what we could be but it still doesn't perfectly align. It's better for us to have complete alignment. Dr. Payne shared the current process. Mr. Taylor asked if there was a demand for this or an influx. Dr. Payne stated this year it's more than previous and the total is just five.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1464, Policy JEB- Entrance Age/Admission of Persons not of School Age as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Katie Brunelle presented information/action item #11-1465, Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU. Ms. Brunelle shared that this was an information/action item regarding our MOU with the Greene County Sheriff's Office. The MOU is the same as it has been previous and has already been signed by the Sheriff. Ms. Brunelle stated they met with the Sheriff and representatives of the Sherriff's Department on July 13th just to make sure with the MOU we all have the same understanding of where we were and where we were going. Then most recently on August 1st we met with all the SRO's, Brian Shifflett and Josh White from the Sherriff's Office, Commonwealth Attorney, and Building Administrators to talk about the upcoming year, the safety of our students, staff, our visitors as well as procedures that we will all be working with as the school year begins. Upon your acceptance of the 2023-2025 MOU I will then review the MOU details with each principal and SRO as soon as possible. Mr. Sansom asked if we were any closer in having a new SRO. Ms. Brunelle responded that the SRO at the high school has been replaced. They have not had applicants to fill the vacant positions. They are actively looking.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1465, Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information/action item #11-1466, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. Dr. Pursel stated he was presenting for information and action the Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. This is an annual certification that the division approves. The certification from the board is approving that the school division has met all eight standards of quality set by the

Code of Virginia. Dr. Pursel stated his recommendation was to approve annual certification that Greene County Public Schools' has met all eight standards of quality set by the Code of Virginia as presented.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1466, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1467, Extension of Authorization to Hire. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we currently have nine positions which are mostly support positions that are currently unfilled. We are actively recruiting for. We are looking really hard to find the perfect candidates, have interviews and we like to be as efficient as possible in getting the new staff in as we are getting ready for students on Wednesday. In order to be efficient in getting contracts and work agreements to new staff, I am asking for the authorization to hire be extended until September 12th.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1467, Extension of Authorization to Hire presented to authorize the Divisions Superintendent to Hire through September 12, 2023. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Kristie Spencer presented information/action item #11-1468, Technology Grant. Ms. Spencer shared each year the Virginia Public School Authority issues technology grants to help support the cost of educational technology including hardware, software, and infrastructure. Local school divisions are awarded an annual grant amount that also includes a local match. For the 2023-2024 school year grant award amount is \$180,000, the required local match is \$36,000 and the total is \$216,000. This is the same amount we have received the past several years. These funds are already included in the 2023-2024 approved annual budget so they do not require any additional funding. As a procedural step in accepting these funds local school divisions are requested to pass a resolution confirming the funds will be expended during the school year and expended on approved categories of classroom multimedia network computers, internet-ready local area network capabilities, assume adequate high speed, high bandwidth capability, instructional software and handheld devices. The reimbursement request must be submitted to the state within the required timeframe. The recommendation is to approve the technology grant resolution as presented.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1468, VPSA Technology Grant as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1469, School Safety Update. Ms. Brunelle shared some safety updates that have been made since last spring. These updates include panic button installation, new intercom systems, handheld radio upgrade, upgrades to middle school and high school camera systems, installation of window perf, new aed's, narcan training, GCTEC vestibule, gym door replacement, purchase of Garret Security wands, and clear bag policy.

Ms. Gillette presented information item #11-1470, Update to Attendance Procedures. Ms. Gillette shared information regarding chronic absences, supporting students and families, Greene County Public School procedures and expectations.

Mr. Sansom stated it was time for public comment on information items. Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1471, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared summer is a super busy time including preparing for the new school year, by cleaning our buildings, including safety projects, maintenance projects, professional development curriculum work, and everything that goes into planning for a new year. She thanked all 12-month employees who focused on that especially our custodian and maintenance staff. She thanked Guy Laine, Katie Brunelle and Kyle Pursel. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we still do not have a state budget beyond the skinny budget. There was a JLARC report that was released July 10th regarding school funding. The County of Greene passed an ordinance allowing speed cameras to be placed in our community within school zone signs. Dr. Whitmarsh shared she has met with the new county administrator a few times. Her name is Cathy Schafrik. Dr. Whitmarsh shared she is incredibly encouraged for the ideas with partnering with the County that we have discussed. Dr. Whitmarsh shared details of the Here Comes the Bus App. Yesterday we welcomed back all our staff with breakfast and division convocation emceed by Katie Brunelle in her gold sequin jacket. We have a new website that is coming soon. We hope to have everything live next week. Thanks to Chad Saylor, our communications coordinator who has been working on this project for several months. The tech center building project despite not seeing progress we have been working on it throughout the summer it had been stalled a little bit while we were investigating a sewer situation. We will know a little bit more on how we move forward next week. In the meantime, we are looking at Construction Management At Risk and we will likely issue an RFP shortly. The Alt Ed Project did go out to bid and Harrisonburg Construction was the low bid. We are working with them to make some changes. These projects are funded by either the State Construction funds we were provided or ESSER Funds from COVID. Open houses are tomorrow from 12 to 7 at all of our buildings and we are looking forward to welcoming back our students Wednesday, August 16th.

Mr. Sansom welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Mack welcomed back all staff and she hoped convocation went well. She welcomed all new staff. Ms. Mack shared she hoped we can keep filling the open positions. She spoke about the safety updates that Ms. Brunelle shared. She thanked everyone for their efforts. We welcomed everyone and wished everyone a great year.

Mr. Taylor shared that he wanted Jason Tooley to know that everyone is thinking about him during this time. He welcomed all new staff and thanked Ms. Brunelle for the safety update. He thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone safe travels going home.

Ms. Roach started off by thanking for coming out tonight. She spoke about the attendance and safety presentations. She is excited for school to start.

Mr. Sansom echoed Mr. Taylor's comments regarding Jason Tooley's brother. Our hearts go out to that family. We will be praying for them. Mr. Sansom recognized the two school board candidates that were in attendance. Everyone is excited about school getting started and fall sports getting started. Mr. Sansom shared he was at convocation yesterday and it was very uplifting. It was encouraging. They thanked everyone for the updates.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:00 pm.



Chair



Clerk