



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
November 8, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Todd Sansom, Chair; Ms. Sharon Mack, Vice-Chair; Mr. Brooks Taylor, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Member; Mr. Jason Tooley, 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 5:00 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to move into closed session:

- pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to consider and discuss assignment, appointment, and performance of specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Board; and
- pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(2) to discuss and consider matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in scholastic records concerning students.

Ms. Mack seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Mr. Sansom stated: does each member certify, to the best of his or her knowledge, that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under FOIA and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in this closed session?

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

Mr. Sansom requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Mack 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.

Ms. Mack made a motion:

I move that the Board accept the Superintendent’s recommendation for religious exemption # 24-05 under closed meeting actions.

Mr. Taylor seconded.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for the consent agenda:

- 11-1499 October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1500 October 9, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1501 October 12, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1502 October 19, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1503 October 27, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1504 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1505 Field Trip Requests
- 11-1506 Enrollment
- 11-1507 Staff to be Approved List
- 11-1508 Stipend/Supplement Schedule

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1499 through 11-1508 as presented. Ms. Mack 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 shared the following:

Please state your name and limit your comments to 3 minutes. Your comments shall address the entire board, as opposed to any particular individuals. This is your opportunity to provide input to the board; it is not meant to be a dialogue with the board. If you have specific questions that you would like

answered, please put them in writing, along with your name and phone number and submit them to the school board clerk. The appropriate person will follow up with you in a timely manner.

Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Rachel Stanley, a parent of an elementary school student, shared concerns regarding injuries at school, the incident form and the nurse at NGES.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1509, 2024-25 & 2025-26 School Calendars. Dr. Pursel shared at the October meeting draft A and draft B calendars were presented as well as staff and parent survey information. Based on those survey results and feedback I recommend that the board approve draft A for 2024-25 and 2025-26 School Calendars as presented. Mr. Sansom requested a motion. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve action item #11-1509 2024-25 & 2025-26 School Calendars Draft A as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Saylor presented information item #11-1510, GCPS Communications. Mr. Saylor provided an overview of GCPS Communications. This presentation included 2023-2027 Strategic Communications Plan, social media, media relations, parent and community engagement, and our new website.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1511, GCTEC and Academy Building Projects. Dr. Pursel provided building project updates for the Alternative Education Building and GCTEC Addition. This presentation included timelines, site plans, elevation plans, floor plans, and schematic plans.

Dr. Payne presented information item #11-1512, Virginia Literacy Act. Dr. Payne's presentation included an overview of the following: what is the Virginia Literacy Act, why is the shift important, and the implementation process in GCPS.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1513, FY24 Budget. Dr. Whitmarsh provided a budget update for FY24. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the FY24 Fiscal year began July 1, 2023. At that time the general assembly had not decided on a budget and therefore the Governor had not signed the budget. The School Board amended the FY2024 on May 10th, 2023. On September 7, 2023 the VDOE launched All in Virginia initiative addressing learning loss and absenteeism. On September 14, 2023 Governor Youngkin signed the state budget. On October 12, 2023 the VDOE released Direct Aid Payment Calculation Template based on the new budget that reflected the funding amounts for each school division. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the adopted budget totals and the proposed amended budget totals. No additional local funds are requested, federal remains the same, the state allocations is what has changed. The state funding from calculation tool has increased. The All in per pupil funding has been added. The net change is just over 1.5 million dollars and that's based on the same ADM as the previous

budget adoption. Dr. Whitmarsh shared categorical changes in new funding. Breaking down the funding increases the first is basic aid change to state funds is additional \$321,112; change to local match \$173,287 which we are not asking for additional local funds. The basic aid change is part of the support staff gap. This does not mean we need to add more positions it simply means we are getting more money back for support staff positions that we have. Also included is a compensation supplement. The Governor proposed a 2% salary increase. We are receiving \$175,214 for that purpose. At Risk funding \$17,913 based on increase state lottery proceeds and the bulk of the additional funds is for All in Virginia. Dr. Whitmarsh shared Dr. Payne talked about All in Virginia initiative. It focuses on three things ALL: Attendance, literacy and learning. Just over a million dollars that we are receiving is anticipated to be used the following: 70% to implementing high-intensity tutoring; 20% to expanding and accelerating the VA Literacy Act; and 10% to address the increased rates of chronic absenteeism across Virginia. The All in Virginia portion of funds is expected to be used for three years. Our plan has been approved we will start receiving funds this year. The recommendation that we adopt the amended budget proposal and include a 2% midyear raise for all employees effective January 1, 2024. The estimated cost for that increase is \$295,000. The majority will be provided by new state funds. We don't need any additional funds to do that. To move forward with the process, it requires a supplemental appropriation on the part of the local Board of Supervisors to take in the additional state funds. There will be a public hearing on the budget amendment as required by the Code of Virginia and hopefully approval of the supplemental appropriation and then my proposal would be that the School board votes at the December 6th meeting to adopt the amended budget proposal for the FY2024 Budget. Dr. Whitmarsh stated a 2% midyear raise is in effect a 1% raise for this year.

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

No public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1514, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared congratulations to Kelly Greer and Cherish Alberts for winning the At-Large and Ruckersville seats on the school board respectively. I look forward to working with you starting in January we also look forward hearing the official word on the Monroe District. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that Ruckersville Elementary School has been featured on CBS19 for National Bullying Prevention Month. Students had the opportunity to attend career day on October 27th. WMMS Football team had a perfect season winning the Valley District Championship. The Tech Center unveiled a new courtyard made possible by a generous donation from Greene Education Foundation and we are very appreciative of that. Parent teacher conferences were earlier this week and also a professional day. On Tuesday

Central Office Staff provided a well-deserved lunch to the WMHS staff for winning the convocation challenge. We will celebrate Veterans Day, Friday, November 10th with a variety of special assemblies honoring our Veterans and military connected students. WMHS Football Team is in the playoffs and will play at VA State University Friday night at 7:00 pm vs Armstrong High School. The Greene Education Foundation will meet at 3:30 pm November 14th at the Giuseppe Center. Thanksgiving Break is November 22-24. Our next School Board meeting Wednesday, December 6th where we will hold a public hearing on budget priorities for the FY2025 budget and vote on the FY2024 budget again.

Mr. Sansom welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Tooley congratulated WMMS Football team and their coaches Mr. Roach and Mr. Donaldson. Mr. Tooley shared his thoughts on middle school baseball and softball. There is a public comment for budget proposals on December 6th everyone come out that wishes that's involved with baseball and softball please show up. I have one meeting left and I want that middle school stuff going. I encourage parents to contact the email, fill out applications, and we need coaches. Congratulations to Ms. Kelly and Ms. Alberts and Ms. Bickers. I wish you'll good luck and hope you have thick skin. Hunter safety class I'm still pushing for that. Teacher's every meeting we have there is always something new you are having to do. I greatly appreciate it. Career Day and WMHS went great. I also saw on social media Ms. Brunelle was cheffing it up on the grill, thank you for cooking. Congratulations to the WMHS Football program going to payoffs. I'm going to get another list together for the next meeting. Our kids are our future. I'm still upset COVID threw a curve in a lot of things I wanted to get done. I have enjoyed it and I will see you'll one last time next month. Administrators, principals, central office thank you and greatly appreciate it.

Ms. Mack congratulations to Ms. Greer, Ms. Alberts, and Ms. Bickers. As I depart my roll here I would like to offer my services to help you transition. By all means reach out. The Literacy effects hope I didn't come across negative I think it's great that we are focusing on that and just hope the science is right and this is the right thing. Hopefully the three of us leaving the board will continue be part of the school and being active. I realize Ms. Stanley is not here but I saw a lot of vigorous writing and note taking so I know the matter will be looked into and followed up with. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Taylor said, ladies' congratulations. I think you'll for being eager to serve your community so I look forward to working with each one of you. Coach Rocha and his staff and WMMS football team congratulations. WMHS football team playoffs is Friday, super exciting. Veteran's Day is coming up, please thank a Veteran. They are the reason why we are the greatest country on this planet. Very important. Happy Thanksgiving early. Thanks for everyone coming out and we will see you in December.

Ms. Roach congratulated the new upcoming members. Ms. Roach stated she looks forward to working with them and feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Ms. Roach thanked Mr. Saylor for everything, for all you do. The website is amazing the social media posts are great. I feel like the communication with the community is not unnoticed and not unseen. I appreciate your hard work with

that. The Academy and Tech Center progress looking forward to that. Everything looks great my only concern is the security part of it. We have time to look at that and come up with solutions for that. I'm looking forward to seeing about that. Literacy, Dr. Payne, a lot of work was put into that presentation. I appreciate that. I'm looking forward to progress with our students in that manner. Career Day and Tech Center Courtyard that is exciting. The kids have to appreciate that. The playoffs for the WMHS Football Team congratulations to them. Congratulations to our WMMS Football Team to go undefeated and then to be the District Champs. Hopefully since the program was successful, more kids will want to come out and be more part of that. I want to second Mr. Tooley's comments on the baseball and softball for Middle School. I would love to see that pick up and get going if we can. I understand that's a process too in finding fields and space. Thank you all for coming out. Drive home safe.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have two cross county students that are running in the state cross country meet Saturday. Congratulations to Samantha and Elizabeth.

Mr. Sansom congratulated the ladies to the board and wish you all the best.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 8:41 pm.



Chair



Clerk