



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
December 6, 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.

Ms. Mack 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)(8) to receive legal advice.

Mr. Tooley seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 stated after the Pledge of Allegiance there would be a moment of silence to honor Mr. Skip Coffman who passed away on Sunday, December 3rd. Skip worked in the Transportation Department for 12 years as a bus driver.

Mr. Sansom stated there were no closed meeting action items.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for the consent agenda:

- 11-1515 November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1516 November 9, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1517 November 13, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1518 November 21, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1519 November 30, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1520 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1521 Field Trip Requests
- 11-1522 Enrollment
- 11-1523 Staff to be Approved List

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1515 through 11-1523 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.

Jen Fuchs shared she was a mom of a kindergartner and 7th grader at GCPS. Jen Mitchell shared she was a mom of a kindergartner. They shared they were here tonight as Santa's helpers to help spread holiday cheer and to say thank you and acknowledge each of the people that we call up tonight with a small token of appreciation, for their hard work and dedication. School Board Members Jason Tooley, Sharon Mack, Todd Sansom, Brooks Taylor and Rebecca Roach. Board of Supervisor School Liaison Steve Bowman. Andrea Whitmarsh, Kyle Pursel, Katie Brunelle, Rhonda Houchens, Donna Payne, Wendy Mitchem, Dawn Gillette, Adam Midock, Danielle Alicea, Regina Hissong, Patricia Demitry, Jess Peregoy,

Kris Wimmer, Chad Saylor and Dale Herring. New School Board Members: Cherish Alberts, Kelly Greer, and Cara Bickers. Tonight, would not be possible without the help of Home Depot donating the Poinsettias, Chick-Fil-A, Zed French, Deputy Danielle Hildebrand and host of other staff as helpers.

Jo Ann Wood's kindergarten class sang Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Mr. Sansom open the public hearing on the FY2025 budget priorities.

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.

Jack Morris spoke in favor of adding strength and conditioning classes for all students at the high school and potentially at the middle school. Jack shared many reasons for this request. Mainly for safety and health. Mr. Morris shared previous injury issues that had occurred and how these classes would help. He shared a packet of information that includes student testimonies.

Mr. Sansom closed the public hearing.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1524, FY24 Budget. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that at the November 8th meeting the state finalized the FY24 Budget which is the budget we are in that started July 1. The state finalized the budget in September which include significant funding for ALL in Virginia as well as additional funds for a mid-year raise of 2%. Dr. Whitmarsh stated that she was proposing the board approve the FY24 Budget which includes additional funds from the state in the amount of \$1,538,352 for a total budget of \$51,735,642.

Ms. Mack made a motion to adopt the amended FY2024 budget in the amount of \$51,735,642 based on the supplemental appropriation of \$1,538,352 in additional state funds provided in the final state budget which was passed in September 2023. Mr. Taylor seconded.

Ms. Roach read the following statement:

I have a personal interest in the School Board's budget by virtue of my husband's employment by the School Board and the salary scales included in the budget. However, as the spouse of a teacher at GCPS, I am a member of a large group of individuals in the community who are affected by the School Board's budget and I am able to participate in discussions and votes on the budget fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Mr. Taylor stated it turned out better than we thought so that's positive.

Mr. Tooley asked for the amount of the previously approved budget. Dr. Whitmarsh responded with the increased dollar amount for the amended budget. She shared the majority of the increase is for ALL in Virginia.

Dr. Whitmarsh confirmed no change to local funding.

Mr. Sansom requested a roll call vote.

Mr. Tooley - Aye

Ms. Mack - Aye

Mr. Taylor - Aye

Ms. Roach - Aye

Mr. Sansom - Aye

Ms. Spencer presented information item #11-1525, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update. Ms. Spencer provided an updated for the Capital Improvement Plan for the Schools. She shared this is an evolving document. Ms. Spencer shared the changes from last year's plan, additions, completed items, and modified items. This will be an action item at the January meeting.

Mr. Wimmer presented information item #11-1526, WMHS Spotlight. Mr. Wimmer introduced himself and Jess Perego. Their presentation included the following: WMHS admin team, 2022-2023 Statistics, Goals for 2023-2024, Achievement for Math, Science, English, Instructional Updates, Post-Secondary Planning, WMHS Climate, Safe, Supportive, and Caring Schools, Connections and Partnerships with Our Community and Moving Forward

Mr. Sansom offered a time for public comment.

No public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1527, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Ms. Woods, Mr. French, and our holiday performers. We are very appreciative of the gifts. Dr. Whitmarsh shared Greene County lost a legend Mr. Skip Coffman has been with use for a number of years and was well loved by our staff and students and was a tremendous loss for our school division. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the division celebrated Veteran's Day with Special Programs to honor our military connected students and local veterans, we received \$169,684 in grant funds for security upgrades to NGPS, NGES, WMHS and WMMS. The division applied for the funds for security lightening, voice and video communication systems, interior and exterior cameras and vape detectors. The Tech Center was featured in a CBS19 story about its work-based learning and career coaching programs. We congratulate the following for significant accomplishments: Ruckersville Master Eagles Robotics Team and their Coaches for earning first place in their division for team work at the Regional Lego Competition. Samantha Nitzsche 2nd overall at the State Cross County Meet. Elizabeth Kelpe 30th overall

at the State Cross County Meet. Our Scholastic were winners at the Winter Tournament at VCU Quiz Bowl. E-Sports Super Mash Brothers Ultimate Team qualified for the 1st Round VHSL playoffs but unfortunately, they lost. Alternative Education has been temporary relocated and the trailers have been demolished and fencing has been put up around the area and utility poles have been removed so site work will be starting very soon. ALL in Virginia tutoring related to our budget started November 27th. Phase one includes utilizing online platforms Zearn for math and Lexia for reading for most student grades 3-8. The first phase will last six weeks or so. Nathanael Greene had pancakes and PJ's breakfast on Saturday. There was a great showing for that. As Mr. Wimmer shared the vape sensors have gone live in the high school and middle school. Our governor school applications closed this Friday for rising 9th graders. Construction Management Interviews take place on Monday, December 11th for the Tech Center addition. We have a new SRO that has joined us Deputy Tash at NGPS. The Department of Education is holding an accountability listening session from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm tomorrow evening at Liberty Middle School in Bedford, Virginia. Team Maker Market is on Saturday morning from 10 to 1. The WMHS Winter Concert will be held December 12th a 7:00 pm. The Middle School Winter Concert will be held next Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. December 15th is a 1:00 pm dismissal for students. Winter Break is December 18 – January 1st. Students return January 2nd. Central office will be open December 18, 19, 20, 27 and 28. Our next board meeting is Wednesday, January 10, 2024. This will be our board's organizational meeting.

Dr. Whitmarsh recognized Greene County Supervisor School Board Liaison Steve Bowman. Mr. Bowman was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2020 and has served as our School Liaison all four years. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked him for serving our children and presented him with a gift.

Dr. Whitmarsh recognized the three school board members that terms end this year. Jason Tooley serves as our at-large member since January 2020. Mr. Tooley has been an advocate for students, staff, parents, extra-curricular activities, athletics and the safety of our students and staff. He has served as our BRVGS Representative and PREP Representative. Dr. Whitmarsh presented him with a gift.

Todd Sansom serves as our Monroe District member since January 2020. Mr. Sansom has served as Vice-Chair and Chair, Representative and School Liaison for the Greene Education Foundation, PREP Alternate. Todd was instrumental in moving forward with the Tech Center addition. Dr. Whitmarsh presented him with a gift.

Sharon Mack serves as our Ruckersville District member since January 2012. She has served for three terms. In her 12 years on the school board she has served as Vice-Chair, Chair, and has built a solid foundation for teachers at GCPS. She helped implement important upgrades to the middle school and high school. She served multiple terms as our BRVGS Representative. Dr. Whitmarsh presented her with a gift.

Mr. Sansom welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Ms. Roach shared thoughts of Skip Coffman. She thanked everyone for the gifts. The kindergartners singing was the cutest thing ever. She thanked them and Ms. Woods. Ms. Roach stated she is very interested in learning more about the health and wellness class. Ms. Roach spoke about the new Alt Ed. She thanked the high school for their presentation and looked forward to progress in the reading department. She stated she's glad vaping systems are working and the security grant is wonderful. Glad to see there is a new SRO at our NGPS. She thanked Mr. Bowman for coming out tonight and shared she appreciated him. She stated she's looking forward to winter break and teacher and students getting a break. She thanked everyone for coming and she stated she appreciated everyone.

Mr. Taylor thanked each of the out-going members for their experience, mentoring, and leadership. He shared he looks forward for what is to come. He thanked everyone and told everyone to be careful going home.

Ms. Mack thanked everyone for the great gifts. She thanked the holiday cheer especially the children. Ms. Mack shared she started 12 years ago and Michelle Flynn came to her about running. It was a lot to learn. Dr. Jeck was Superintendent at the time. Had some budget shortfalls at the time. She shared the names of the board members she had served with: Mr. Collier, Mr. Higgins, Troy Harlow, Rodney Kibler, Harry Daniel, Leah Paladino, current board members Jason Tooley, Todd Sansom, Brooks Taylor and Becky Roach. She enjoyed working with all of them. Didn't always agree, we worked through it. I appreciate the dedication. She thanked Kim Powell, Rhonda Houchens, Kristie Spencer, Kyle Pursel, Katie Brunelle, and Wendy Mitchem and Bryan Huber is another one. Our community is blessed and we are blessed to have Dr. Whitmarsh. She shared she appreciates Dr. Whitmarsh professionalism, dedication, friendship, mentor, and as a parent. Everyone just wants what's best for kids. She recognized her husband Dave, who has been an incredible listener and she thanked her children Steve and Thomas. She said she always tried to do what was right for the people since we are in a people business. Going forward she spent some time at the VSBA Convention with Cherish, Kelly and Cara. The three of them are super enthusiastic and have a lot of energy coming to the board. I can step away and feel good about the board who cares about our schools and community. She thanked all the voters in the Ruckersville District that allowed her to serve 12 years. It's been an honor. She wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Mr. Tooley thanked the fellow board members. He shared this position takes more than four years to learn. He shared COVID really hurt us. It shut down a lot of stuff. I'll still be in school buildings. He shared the strength and conditioning presentation 150%. I hope the future board goes with that. Great documentation on that. I'm happy with how far we have come with security. He recognized Dr. Pursel and his work with grants. I was pushing for the active shooter training and we got that done. We need to do a live training. We have a lot of teacher, parents and students that want to volunteer. We can't sit around and wait. It's not if it happens it's when. Mr. Tolley shared thoughts regarding Skip Coffman and his dedication. Mr. Tooley spoke about truancy. Parents need to be accountable. Our employees are burnt out. He thanked Ms. Mack and Mr. Sansom. They will tell you I'm passionate about certain things. He stated he enjoyed working with Dr. Whitmarsh. We have had a balance in the end we are

both very passionate. He stated he greatly appreciate Dr. Whitmarsh. We are your voice. I speak the truth. I'm the person that wants to have the uncomfortable conversations. I appreciate everyone of you'll. This is hard to step away. I have built great relationship with teachers, principals and staff. With my promotion in April I'm unable to dedicate 100% of my time to this position. It would not be fair. In August I lost my brother to suicide. Between work and that I have to make a choice. I'm going to miss everyone of you'll. I'll be in the schools. He thanked everyone and he appreciates what everyone does. Merry Christmas.

Mr. Sansom thanked everyone for the gifts. He thanked the kindergarten class and Ms. Woods for putting that together. He spoke about Mr. Morris' presentation. I hope the next board will make that a priority. He spoke about the CIP plan. It takes money. The state dollars we are receiving have been spoke for. That leaves local dollars to attached to our local priorities. We have several incoming Board of Supervisors that have spoken about an interest in slashing the budget of GCPS. So next year you are going to have a fight on your hands. We need to make sure that does not happen. I would encourage parents and staff members to speak up in the next budget season. It's been a pleasure to serve with Mr. Tooley and Ms. Mack. He thanked Ms. Mack for her 12 years of service. He shared that GCPS is a lot better off for all your work. Mr. Sansom stated he appreciated Dr. Whitmarsh very much. We are blessed to have you. I have leaned on you. He stated if he could ever be of service to you or the schools to please let him know. All the challenges that we are facing are not on our own making. We have to be here for the kids. He thanked everyone. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve. He stated he hoped everyone had a nice holiday season. He wished the new board members good luck.

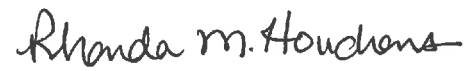
Mr. Sansom requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 8:41 pm.



Chair



Clerk