



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
February 7, 2024

Members Present: Mr. Brooks Taylor, Chair; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Vice Chair; Ms. Kelly Greer, Member; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Ms. Cara Bickers, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Ms. Roach made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss assignment, appointment, and performance of specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Board. Ms. Greer seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Taylor 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. Bickers – certified
Ms. Greer – certified
Ms. Roach – certified
Ms. Alberts – certified
Mr. Taylor - certified

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Taylor stated there were no closed meeting actions.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion for the consent agenda:

- 11-1544 January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1545 January 24, 2024 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes
- 11-1546 January 4, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1547 January 12, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1548 January 18, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1549 January 25, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1550 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1551 Field Trip Requests
- 11-1552 Enrollment
- 11-1553 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1544 to 11-1553 as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared: It is my pleasure this evening to recognize the coach and members of our William Monroe High School Robotics team for their outstanding team and individual performances this competition season.

The team performed exceptionally well this competition season, and we are all so very proud of them. Not only did the team perform at the highest levels during their recent qualifying regional competitions, they were also recognized with coveted awards from competition judges.

This season, the Robotics team:

- Won 39/40 qualification matches
- Won two tournaments: Charlottesville and Harrisonburg Qualifiers
- Won their division bracket at the Chesapeake Championship
- Qualified for the Chesapeake Championship 3x over
- Holds the two highest scores in all of the Chesapeake region, including the record at 301 points in a single match.
- Had team member Aidan Miller selected for the FTC Dean's List for his outstanding contributions to the sport.
- Won awards for: Robot Design, Programming and Sportsmanship

Although a twist of fate prevented them from advancing to the world championships, the team is currently ranked #12 out of the nearly 6,000 teams competing around the world - firmly in the 99th percentile!

These dedicated students have built a program from the ground up and have left a lasting legacy at William Monroe High School. I'm so excited to see the program develop for many years to come.

Ms. Jess Peregoy spoke about the Robotics Team and how amazing the students are.

Dr. Whitmarsh recognized Keith and the team individually with certificates.

Members: Akhil Marri, Thomas Traber, Jacob Dulin, Aidan Miller, Mustaq Faiz, Thomas Hurst von Krebs, Mizou Mazur, William Rice, Logan Rice, Kingston Roach, James Connolly, Anastasia Knight, & Mukund Marri

Dr. Whitmarsh shared this month is School Board Appreciation Month and we want to recognize our dedicated and passionate School Board members, two of which are familiar faces, and three who began their terms last month.

School boards are truly at the heart of education. School board members work closely with our schools and division leadership on many issues crucial to the success of our students and schools. Some of the roles include setting high academic standards, supporting teachers and staff, creating a safe and positive school culture, and advancing policies that allow our students to thrive. We certainly could not deliver the many positive impacts to our students and schools without our Board's leadership and support.

On behalf of our more than 2,800 students and 475 staff members, I want to thank Brooks Taylor, Becky Roach, Kelly Greer, Cara Bickers and Cherish Alberts for their dedication and service to our students, staff, schools and the Greene County community.

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

Dominic Brown spoke regarding asynchronous days and how he feels about these days for students.

There were no other public comments, so Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Mr. Taylor presented action item #11-1554, Greene Co. School Board Norms & Protocols. Mr. Taylor shared on January 31, 2024 the School Board attended a VSBA Governance Training in Charlottesville and agreed to adhere to the attached Norms and Protocols. Mr. Taylor shared this is something I feel is very important and helps transparency with the board to the public. Ms. Greer made a motion to approve the action item 11-1554 Greene Co. School Board Norms & Protocols as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. Mr. Taylor stated we will certify this by roll call vote.

Ms. Greer – certified

Ms. Bickers – certified

Ms. Alberts - certified

Ms. Roach – certified

Mr. Taylor - certified

Motion carried.

Ms. Katie Brunelle presented information item #11-1555, Bus Stop Arm Cameras. Ms. Brunelle shared this is a video monitoring system that will produce recorded images of the violating vehicle license plate, warning device activation status, date, time and location. There is a local ordinance that has already been passed by the county that includes the video cameras zone speed limit. This is an additional part

of that ordinance. Penalties collected will be paid to the jurisdiction. The presentation also included why to add stop arm cameras, stop arm information and next steps, how does the camera actually work and additional information and reminders.

Mr. Adam Midock and Ms. Danielle Alicea presented information item #11-1556, School Spotlight – NGES/PS. Mr. Midock and Ms. Alicea began the presentation with details regarding their space team, NG School Goals, Culture of Excellence, Exceptional Workforce, Safe and Supporting and Caring Schools, and Connections and Partnership with Community and what's next.

Dr. Donna Payne presented information item #11-1557, Culture of Excellence: Core Academic Update. The presentation included ELA, math, social studies, and science updates in addition to Winter SGA Parent Reports.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1558, FY2025 Budget Proposal. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she was going to share her budget proposal. This budget was put together under the board's direction following our workshop on January 24th. Dr. Whitmarsh shared a budget is a moral document and should reflect our vision, mission statement and align with our strategic plan, Impact 2027. The budget is a reflection of our goals for the school division.

Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of demographics our 2023-2024 fall enrollment prek- 12 equals 2,818. She noted that enrollment total is not the same as ADM. She reviewed an economically disadvantaged chart, English Learners chart, students with disabilities chart, and categorical breakdown of students with disabilities chart.

Dr. Whitmarsh provided details on retention, recruiting and the state of the profession, changing and increasing demands. She stated we can't do what we do without people. Dr. Whitmarsh provided a chart for the typical class of 20 students that includes the needs of students, top critical teacher shortage endorsements in Virginia, regional salary data for bachelors and master's degrees.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated we are in FY2024 and the budget that I'm proposing tonight is for FY2025. The Governor's budget was released in December as well as the caboose budget. The Caboose budget is released at the same time as the Governor's proposal for next year but they are two separate budgets. The caboose budget is for \$26,470,300 with an ADM of 2723.25. That includes the ALL in Virginia money, compensation supplement funding and state construction carryover funding. GCPS's approved FY24 state funding is \$26,718,723 so you can see that our state funding is already fluctuating for the year we are in. The state's projection for next year 2702.1 ADM in the amount of \$29,035,641. We should have the House and Senate budget soon. We received in FY2023 \$1,716,894 in State School Construction Grant and we locally carried that over each year and a portion of that will be used for the Tech Center addition. In the FY2024 budget we also have All in Virginia per pupil funds in just over a million dollars to last for three years. We will receive the money this year and we will carry it over for three years.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared we also received federal funding FY2024 budget just over \$3,070,000. Actual FY2023 was \$3,124,867 with a difference of almost \$55,000. We are estimating FY2025 \$3,070,000. Dr. Whitmarsh shared guidelines of federal revenues. Federal funds are targeted and specific. Dr. Whitmarsh shared this is the last year for federal COVID Pandemic Related Funds and it ends effective September 30, 2024. This includes American Rescue Plan ESSERIII, Before and After School, Summer School, and Unfinished Learning. All expenditures under these funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024. In this year's budget we have over two million dollars allocated for those funds. This includes positions as well as projects at the Alt Ed Building and the Tech Center.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local funding county fund amounts for the last three years. FY23 actual for the category is \$197,826. Dr. Whitmarsh noted the increase from FY22 to FY23 difference to cover 7% raise for employees as well as the addition of some programs and from FY23 to FY24 the increase was due to 5% raise as well as a 9.9% health care benefit cost increase.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated VRS rates are changing for FY25. She provided the FY25 Governor Proposed rate of 17.78%, VRS Board Approved rate of 16.42% and the current rate is 19.17%.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated while we don't have the final health insurance renewal we are using the projection of 3.5% increase for health insurance which would cost the division \$160,000 or pass it along to the employees.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the details of the budget survey.

Dr. Whitmarsh provided an overview of the budget process.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the items that are included in the budget proposal. We have to add an English Language Teacher. We are repurposing funds so no new funding is being request for this position. We are proposing to add a family support specialist for student supports. This will require new funding and as you know student success coach program is ending. We currently have nine people that serve as student success coaches. By adding a family support specialist who will assist the social worker in supporting students and families. Dr. Whitmarsh shared a compensation increase chart for what it would cost to give a 1% to 3% raise. The state will provide \$147,281 for a one-time 1% bonus. The bonus money may be applied to the raise.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared operational costs. Text Books \$185,000 funding will be from new state/local funding. Teacher substitute rate increase cost \$32,500 funding new state/local funding. This amount is for 12% increase and it does include FICA. Supplements/stipends rate increase cost \$46,000 in new state/local funding. She shared the School Construction Carryover amounts and All in Virginia Carryover amount.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a Summary of Capital Debt chart. For FY2025 retiring debt of \$56,391.

Dr. Whitmarsh provided a spreadsheet that included FY24 original budget, FY24 Supplement, FY24 Current, and FY25 based on ADM of 2702.1. The chart included expenditure requests, 3% salary increase, 12% sub rate increase, 12% supplement increase, and absorb health insurance increase. The difference in new money we are proposing to ask the board of supervisors for \$179,535 to balance our budget based on where we are right now. The total budget proposal is \$52,551,018. In order to balance this request we have a request of \$179,535 from the Board of Supervisors. The total budget proposal is 1.6% increase. Local funding increase .9%.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the following: we will have a public hearing this evening. February 28, the school board votes to adopt FY2025 Budget, and then in March the local budget process begins with the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for the public hearing on the FY2025 Budget. Mr. Taylor opened the floor and invited those that signed up to speak.

Luke Windett, a senior at WMHS and varsity athlete, spoke in favor of having a strength and conditioning program at the middle school and high school. He also spoke in favor of Jack Morris.

Noah Windett a freshman athlete at WMHS spoke about the things that Jack Morris had done for him. He shared how Mr. Morris would be able to help all students.

Preston Hollinsworth-Rush, a senior athlete at WMHS, shared how he was having hard times around the 2022 season and how Mr. Morris has helped him so much in his life. He spoke in favor of adding strength and conditioning program.

Jackson Wood a senior athlete at WMHS shared how he has worked with Jack Morris for about 2 ½ years. He shared Mr. Morris has a lot of dedication. He spoke in favor of Jack Morris and strength and conditioning class.

AJ Vandyke a senior athlete at WMHS shared his thoughts on how much support there is for Jack Morris. He spoke in favor of Jack Morris and how much knowledge he has for strength and conditioning.

Rob Hamblin spoke in favor of having a strength and conditioning program. He shared information on other counties and divisions that have strength and conditioning programs. He spoke in favor of Jack Morris.

Amanda King, a parent of a student athlete that was unable to attend due to homework, spoke in favor of Jack Morris and how he has worked with her son.

Larry Wood, a parent of a student at WMHS, shared the benefits of having a strength and conditioning coach at the WMHS and WMMS. He spoke in favor of Jack Morris and adding strength and conditioning position.

Angela Windett asked that we applaud the young kids that spoke this evening. Ms. Windett shared she has two sons that attend WMHS and both have worked with Jack. She spoke in favor of Jack Morris and why we should have a strength and conditioning coach.

Jack Morris shared he was disappointed that his proposal was not being introduced to the budget next year. He is disappointed for the kids. He shared statistics and reasons why strength and conditioning classes are so important and needed. He shared details about the current advanced PE class. He asked why this can't work. He shared details about football attendance and costs. He said he would do what he could for the kids.

Stephanie Morris, parent of Jack Morris, spoke in favor of the strength and conditioning program. The program could brighten up things so much in the community she stated.

Mr. Taylor stated there were no other signups and asked if anyone else wanted to speak. Mr. Taylor closed the public hearing on the FY2025 Budget.

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

Mr. Taylor stated no one signed up and no one wanted to speak so he closed the floor for the second public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1559, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated we know that regular school attendance allows our students to excel in so many ways. Our school teams are committed to ensuring that all of our students have meaningful learning experiences and opportunities to recover time missed in the classroom. Teachers and administrators are providing supplemental instruction after the regular school day and on Saturdays to support our students and families with reducing the impact of chronic absenteeism. Today is the 100th day of school as well as Global School Play Day. On Feb. 8, WMMS will hold its eighth grade transition night at WMHS PAC at 6:30 p.m. and then on Feb. 15, they will have William Monroe History Night at 6 p.m.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared great things happening in Greene. On January 10, WMHS boys' basketball standout Brady Lam scored his 1,000th career point. On January 12, GCTEC carpentry students delivered their hand-made scent boxes to the Greene County Sheriff's Office. The K-9, Banga, and his handler, Deputy Bonner, gave the students a demonstration of the dog's abilities. On Jan. 24, WMHS recognized businesses and organizations that sponsor WMHS athletics and activities during the girls' basketball game. In late January, the WMHS Scholastic Bowl team were named co-champions for the Valley District. On Feb. 1, WMHS track athlete Samantha Nitzsche was named the district indoor champion for 1600M and 3200M. On March 22, RES will hold its Spring Fling at 6 p.m. On Feb. 13, RES will have its Science Night event at 6:30 p.m. On Feb. 15, Nathanael Greene will hold its annual read-in event at NGPS at 6 p.m. Nathanael Greene will host the annual STREAM Night March 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. at NGES. Ruckersville Elementary will hold their One School, One Book celebration on Monday, February 26 from 5:30-7. WMHS will host a college and career expo on March 28 from 8:15 a.m.-4 p.m. This week is National School Counseling Week (Feb. 5-9), and we are honoring our nine amazing school counselors who provide a wide array of supportive services to our students every day. Throughout the month of February, our schools will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of educational activities and programs highlighting the many contributions of African Americans to our country. We are also celebrating CTE Month in February by highlighting the numerous Career and Technical Education programs offered in Greene County Technical Education Center. Feb. 15 is National SRO Appreciation Day, and we will recognize our five amazing school resources officers who keep our students and schools safe every day. In March, we will celebrate Women's History Month and all the

notable achievements made by women here in Greene and beyond. March 4-8, we will celebrate School Social Worker Week and the impact our division's social workers have had on our students and their academic success. Dr. Whitmarsh shared important dates: all schools and offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, there is no school for students on Tuesday, March 5. That day is a professional day for staff. Monday, April 29 will be a make-up day for students. This day was previously a professional day for staff. The board will meet on February 28 to adopt the budget. Our next regular board meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Greer congratulated the Robotics Club. She thanked everyone that spoke tonight and it's really important that we hear your voices and understand what is really important to the community. She told Mr. Morris he had done a lot for the people that he helped and I want to honor and show respect for what you have done and I hope no matter what happens you will continue to do that. She thanked the Board for the Norms & Protocols Rules. She shared the bus arm stop cameras sound really important. She stated the NGES/PS presentation was great. She loved the space theme. She appreciated the academic update from Donna Payne. She thanked Dr. Whitmarsh for her budget proposal. He thanked everyone for their work.

Ms. Bickers thanked everyone that came out and spoke today. She congratulated the Robotics Team. She shared thoughts about the budget. She thanked Donna Payne for her presentation. She thanked everyone for their support during a difficult time.

Ms. Alberts shared she hoped to come visit Nathanael Greene and she stated she really appreciated the presentation. She shared how important it was for the young speakers to come out and speak this evening. She stated she was really impressed.

Ms. Roach gave a huge shout out to Mr. Congdon and the Robotics Team. She stated she is also excited about the stop arm cameras. She loved the Nathanael Greene Elementary presentation and their theme and gift. She thanked everyone that came out and spoke tonight.

Ms. Bickers spoke about in favor of stop arm cameras.

Ms. Alberts congratulated the Robotics Team also.

Mr. Taylor shared February is School Board appreciation month as well as School Board Clerk appreciation. He thanked Rhonda for all she does. Mr. Taylor shared we were provided an amazing meal. He thanked NG for the goodies. He congratulated the Robotics Team. It's amazing what you'll have accomplished. He spoke in favor of the bus stop arm cameras. He noted that's not costing the community a dime and making our community safer. Again, no tax payer money being used on that. He thanked everyone that came out and spoke. He thanked the athletes and parents. Be safe going home.

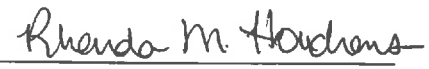
Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 9:35 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BSJ', written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rhenda M. Hordens', written over a horizontal line.

Clerk

