



Minutes  
School Board Meeting  
Greene County Schools  
County Meeting Room  
April 10, 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.

Member(s) of The Greene County Board of Supervisors Present: Mr. Francis McGuigan

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. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Roach – certified  
Ms. Alberts – certified  
Ms. Bickers - certified  
Ms. Greer – 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. Bickers 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:

- 11-1577 March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1578 March 4, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1579 March 8, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1580 March 13, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1581 March 18, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1582 March 25, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1583 March 27, 2024 Expenditures
- 11-1584 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1585 Field Trip Requests
- 11-1586 Enrollment
- 11-1587 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1577 to 11-1587 as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Taylor presented recognition certificates to Educator of the Year Nominees and Support Staff Member of the Year Nominees.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared that tonight we would like to recognize eight exceptional educators who work for GCPS. These educators represent all the best qualities that include creating and fostering the love of learning of students of all abilities and backgrounds, challenging students and colleagues to reach high standards and expectations. These educators were nominated by their peers in their respected buildings.

Tierney O'Neil, RES - Support Staff of the Year Nominee  
Emily Clayton, RES - Educator of the Year Nominee  
Eric Penic, NGES - Support Staff of the Year Nominee  
Jamie Heeks, NGPS - Educator of the Year Nominee  
Christine Alley, WMMS - Support Staff of the Year Nominee  
Danielle Jackson, WMMS - Educator of the Year Nominee  
Frankie Workman, WMHS - Support Staff of the Year Nominee  
Keith Congdon, GCTEC - Educator of the Year Nominee

Dr. Whitmarsh stated we appreciate all of these hard-working educators and support staff members. Each school's selection will now be considered for division Educator of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year. Winners will be announced at the beginning of May.

This award program is made possible thanks to the generous support and contributions of Marianne Shepard – Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Marianne Shepard for supporting our teachers and our staff members.

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.

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

Ms. Peregoy presented action item #11-1588, Perkins FY25 Plan. Ms. Peregoy stated she was there for action item the Perkins Plan for FY2025 and she shared that the official document is included in the packet that will be sent to DOE for approval.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve the action item 11-1588, Perkins FY25 Plan as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Payne presented information/action item #11-1589, Virginia Literacy Act. Dr. Payne provided an overview of the Virginia Literacy Act. Dr. Payne shared information regarding the process of narrowing the curriculum to three choices. The top three choices were Benchmark Advance 64.7%, Open Court 29.4% and the remaining CKLA. Dr. Payne provided a chart for Benchmark Advance that includes materials covered and also included in the packet was the full invoice for Benchmark Advance for seven years. Benchmark Advance was the first choice for teachers. Dr. Payne stated the recommendation is to adopt and purchase Benchmark Advance materials for grades kindergarten through fifth grade in support of the VA Literacy Act. Dr. Payne shared 20% of ALL in VA will be used towards this purchase. \$150,000 would come from ALL in VA money.

Mr. Taylor asked for the publishing company name. Dr. Payne responded Benchmark Advance.

Ms. Greer asked if Benchmark Advance was the most expensive one. Dr. Payne said no it was in the middle range.

Ms. Greer asked if this company was representative for what educators wanted? Dr. Payne responded yes, the majority of feedback wanted Benchmark Advance.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1589, Virginia Literacy Act. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve, adopt and purchase Benchmark Advance materials for grades kindergarten through fifth grade in support for the VA Literacy Act. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1590, Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared that included in the packet is a brief summary of the policies changes. Dr. Pursel shared a large percentage of the changes are policies that needed to be updated by date. All other changes were minor in nature. Dr. Pursel gave some examples of legal reference changes and some were capitalization changes. Dr. Pursel reviewed a few other policy changes. Dr. Pursel stated that next month the Policy Updates will be an action item.

Dr. Mitchem presented information item #11-1591, Title VIB. Dr. Mitchem provided an overview of the Special Education Annual Plan. She shared the distribution of funds and IDEA Part B Sections 611 & 619. Dr. Mitchem provided charts showing object codes and budget amount with percentages. The majority of funds are spent on our people. The application was included in the board packet.

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 #11-1592, FY2025 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the Board of Supervisor's held two townhall budget meetings and advertised their budget which includes \$254,035 in new money above what we are receiving this year. Their public hearing on the budget will take place April 23<sup>rd</sup> and they will vote on the budget May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Governor has introduced a Common Ground Budget which includes 242 amendments. His amendments include a 3% increase for SOQ positions based on LCI based on each year of the biennium. These amendments will be address by the General Assembly on April 17<sup>th</sup>. So hopefully we will know more on the state budget in about a week.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1593, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh provided a PREP update. At the March 20<sup>th</sup> PREP meeting the PREP Board voted on the FY25 budget. We have one more year until we are required to leave the current Ivy Creek Building as Albemarle County has terminated that lease. As such there will be some big decisions coming next year but as of right now the budget has been approved for FY25.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared great things are happening in Greene the high school held their musical March 22-24, NGES had STREAM night on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the agriculture students worked on a beautification project for the Greene County Sherriff's Office Falling Officer Memorial, we held kindergarten registration event and another opportunity is available on April 29<sup>th</sup>, the middle school Destination Imagination students participated in their first competition, PVCC Dual enrollment criminal justice and criminal law students and high school forensics science students held a mock trial at the Stanardsville Court House, more than 50 local business, organizations, and educational institutions came together for our College and Career Expo at the high school, the middle school held a parent night for upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders, tonight the high school had a STEM night, Prom will be this weekend at Guildford Farm, we will have AG Day on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, April is the month of the Military Child and we have 154 military connected students through GCPS, purple up for Military Kids Days is coming up April 17<sup>th</sup>, RES will perform their play

“Wonka” on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Progress Reports are coming up on April 26<sup>th</sup>, Arts Festival is April 27<sup>th</sup>, April 29<sup>th</sup> is a make-up day for students and April 30<sup>th</sup> is the start of SOL Testing and Graduation is May 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning best day of the year and our next board meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Alberts congratulated the educators and support staff members of the year. She thanked every single person in our system.

Ms. Roach also congratulated educators and support staff members of the year. We can’t do it without them. She thanked all the staff for everything they do. Ms. Roach said the Sponge Bob play at the high school was very impressive. It was amazing. Ms. Roach thanked the AG students for revamping the area at the Sheriff’s Department – very impressive. The mock trial and College and Career Day were very impressive. She thanked everyone for coming and she said she appreciated everyone.

Ms. Bickers congratulated all the staff and support staff. She thanked each and every staff member. Ms. Bickers stated she sees all the hard work going into all the presentations. She said she was really excited to hear about the mock trial.

Ms. Greer congratulated everyone that was nominated and received an award and everyone that helps the schools function the way they do. She said we are blessed to have the staff that we do and that they choose Greene to be their home for their jobs. She shared she also saw Sponge Bob – it was so good. The diversity of the activity and opportunities we offer is so cool.

Mr. Taylor congratulated the teachers and support staff member of the year. It’s so hard to pick just one. Mr. Taylor urged everyone to attend the open houses the Board of Supervisors are having regarding the budget, let your voice be heard. Mr. Taylor spoke about the mock trial and thanked everyone for coming out and be safe going home.

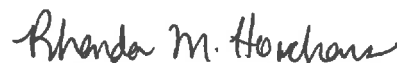
Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 7:54 pm.



Chair



Clerk

