



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
September 11, 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. Greer made a motion to convene in closed session:

- pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to consider and discuss assignment and appointment of specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Board and
- pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711 (A)(2) to discuss matters involving the application of policy to a student that will involve the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records and
- pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) for the purpose of receiving a briefing by staff pertaining to probable litigation, where such briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board.

Ms. Alberts seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:08 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. Greer – certified
Ms. Bickers - certified
Ms. Alberts – certified
Ms. Roach – 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:

11-1653 August 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes
11-1654 August 5, 2024 Expenditures
11-1655 August 12, 2024 Expenditures
11-1656 August 14, 2024 Expenditures
11-1657 August 23, 2024 Expenditures
11-1658 August 30, 2024 Expenditures
11-1659 Monthly Finance Report
11-1660 Field Trip Requests
11-1661 Enrollment
11-1662 Staff to be Approved List
11-1663 Religious Exemptions

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1653 through 11-1663 as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Brunelle presented action item #11-1664, Wellness Policy. Ms. Brunelle shared last month she presented information from the triennial assessment of our Wellness Policy and there have been no changes therefore tonight I'm asking the Board to take-action on the Wellness Policy as presented in your packet.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the action item #11-1664, Wellness Policy as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded.

Ms. Alberts and Mr. Taylor thanked Ms. Brunelle for her work on this.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1665, Policy BBBB - Adding Student Representatives to the School Board. Dr. Whitmarsh shared last month she presented a draft policy of BBBB – Adding Student Representatives to the School Board. According to the policy we are looking to add two student representatives that will be junior or seniors. We will go through a selection process and it will be a one-year term and they will not participate in close session but will be expected to attend all board meetings but will not be voting and they will alternate each meeting. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she thought it was a great step forward for Greene County Public Schools.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve action item #11-1665, Policy BBBB – Adding Student Representatives to the School Board as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded.

Mr. Taylor stated he thought it was a great idea and wished we had done it sooner.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Gillette presented information item #11-1666, Safe, Supporting, and Caring Schools. Ms. Gillette stated she would be highlighting the amazing work done by our school teams that exemplifies one of our core values Safe, Supportive, and Caring Schools. Ms. Gillette provided an overview Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and how it applies to students. Her presentation included meeting basic needs, meeting safety needs, supporting connections, and caring for families and school teams.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1667, Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared he would be providing the information update on the August VSBA Policy revisions. He provided a summary that outlines the updates and highlights any significant changes. However, this time the list is very short and the revisions are minimal mainly due to the fact that all these policies were included in the previous May update. Dr. Pursel shared the revisions.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1668, FY2026 Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh provided a review of the calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she was not sure about a joint meeting with the Supervisors at this time. We don't yet have the Supervisor's calendar at this time.

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 #11-1669, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared a football update the Dragon's had a victory over Manassas Park last Friday and there is a home game this Friday against Luray. Volleyball is off to a strong start as well and their next match is tomorrow night against Harrisonburg. Dr. Whitmarsh spoke about the cosmetology video that featured the program with the renovations to the space over the summer with the work of our carpentry students helping. It's great to see classes work together. Our new cosmetology teacher is super excited and the students seem to be as well. September is attendance awareness month and we will be sharing resources on our website and social media to support the efforts in reducing chronic absenteeism and the importance of coming to school. Construction at the Tech Center building is going smoothly. We are moving forward each week. We hope to have the building completed and ready to occupy by the beginning of next school year. Next Friday is a 1:00 pm dismissal. There is a PREP meeting on September 25th and Ms. Roach will be attending that. Dragonfest is coming up on September 27 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Our next board meeting is Wednesday, October 9th.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach thanked all the presenters. She spoke in favor of the Wellness Policy and Student Board Representative that was approved. She said she was excited about football season and her son was playing tonight and she attended the volleyball game last night. She stated she's excited to see the new cosmetology program. The video was enlightened and thorough. She stated she appreciated Mr. Fisher's video. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Ms. Alberts shared she saw colleagues and kids coming back from volleyball game and they were excited and happy. She said it made her proud. She is excited and would like to know more about the morning meetings and the positive energy. She thanked everyone for coming out and she would love to see more public and students.

Ms. Bicker's spoke about the renovations at cosmetology and that it seemed new and exciting. The video made her excited about it. She spoke about adding the student representative to the school board and that it was probably something that needed to be done for a while. Ms. Bicker's spoke about the Safe, Supportive and Caring Schools presentation and how important it is to support the whole student not just their learning environment but their mental health also. She spoke about the policy updates and she knows how much work goes into that.

Ms. Greer congratulated all the speakers and said she was also excited about adding the student representative to the board. She thought the cosmetology video was really neat and excited about that. She's glad the Tech Center building is going smoothly and happy for all the fall sports teams. She shared the BRVGS meeting was brief and not much to share.

Mr. Taylor started off with today is 9/11 and that the words of the Pledge of Allegiance meant a little more this evening when we said them. Keep the families that were affected that day in your prayers tonight and we lost a lot of heroes that day. I believe our county is strong and we are pushing forward. He reminded parents we have a bus tracking app and it's up and functional. He shared there is a football game this weekend Friday and the future Dragons get to run out on the field. He also reminded

early voting begins this month September 20th and I think this is very important to do our civic duty. Greene County residents may vote at the Registrars Office that's beside the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Taylor thanked the presenters, Mrs. Houchens and Mr. Herring. Drive safely going home.

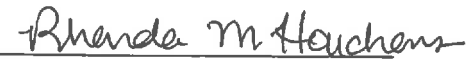
Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 7:42 pm.



Chair



Clerk

