Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
October 9, 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. Bickers 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

Ms. Roach 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. 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:

11-1670 September 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
11-1671 September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes
11-1672 September 6, 2024 Expenditures
11-1673 September 10, 2024 Expenditures
11-1674 September 23, 2024 Expenditures
11-1675 September 27, 2024 Expenditures
11-1676 September 30, 2024 Expenditures
11-1677 Monthly Finance Report
11-16780 Field Trip Requests
11-1679 Enrollment
11-1680 Staff to be Approved List
11-1681 Stipend/Supplement Schedule

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1670 through 11-1681 as presented. Ms. Greer 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.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1682, Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel stated there had been no changes since September and his recommendation was to approve the policies as presented last month.

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve the action item #11-1682, Policy Updates as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1683, FY2026 Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the FY2026 Budget Development Calendar was presented last month. The calendar begins with last months meeting and moves until we get to February 26th at which time the process will move

forward to the locality and we would move to the counties process and paying attention to the state process since we are so heavy state funded. Dr. Whitmarsh stated her recommendation was for the board to approve the FY2026 Budget Development Calendar as presented.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve action item #11-1683, FY2026 Budget Development Calendar as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Spencer presented information item #11-1684, School Activity Funds Audit. Ms. Spencer shared each year the school activity funds are required to be audited by the Code of Virginia. School Activity Funds are funds from school extra-curricular activities and fundraising activities. We engaged with Robinson Farmer Cox to audit the school activity funds on a cash basis and ensure we are in compliance with the county polices and standard practices. In the course of the audit, they found everything was reconciled properly with the appropriate authoritative guidance and consensus they had no difficulties or disagreements with staff or management and they found no mistakes. There were a few notations and recommendations which have been communicated to the bookkeepers and administrators. I am happy to report that the accounts at Nathanael Greene and Ruckersville that were at Bank of Virginia and they were not being recognized as public accounts have been moved to United and Pioneer respectfully and are properly recorded as public accounts. Other things that were noted were timing receipts from staff to bookkeepers when they take in cash. The other thing making sure you have a certificate of exemption for sales tax so you don't get charged on sale tax, paying particular attention to data accuracy and procedures for cash withdrawals. Ms. Spencer stated it was a very positive report.

Mr. Taylor asked about a policy for submitting funds. Ms. Spencer stated the policy states staff should submit the funds within 24 hours.

Mr. Taylor asked about the type of policy. Ms. Spencer stated it was a school board policy.

Ms. Spencer stated we ask staff to turn in funds by the end of each day.

Ms. Roach asked about the Middle School funds being significantly lower than all the other schools. Ms. Spencer stated it was the way they chose to manage and fundraise and some funds were used for athletic expenses this past year.

Ms. Greer asked who the bookkeepers were at each of the schools. Ms. Spencer responded:

RES – Cindy Davis
WMHS/Tech Center – Kimberly Eppard
WMMS – Debbie Sacre
NGPS – Shanna Deane
NGES – Brandi Sullivan

Ms. Greer commended all of them.

Ms. Roach stated she didn't mean anything in a negative way and she hoped no one took it that way.

Ms. Roach asked if gate funds from WMMS events would go to middle school. Ms. Spencer responded yes.

Ms. Roach asked when there is a middle school game and a JV game does the funds get separate. Ms. Spencer responded yes.

Ms. Spencer presented information item #11-1685, Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Spencer stated the CIP is a living breathing document. We work on this every year to make sure we are capturing large capital expenditures usually related to the physical aspects of the school system. Ms. Spencer gave a quick review of what has been removed and/or completed since the last review: the alternative education facilities, the metal roof and gutter repair and hanging at RES, the gym area roof at NGES, the gym area roof at the WMHS and removed an outdoor freezer request at RES for the kitchen which is no longer needed. We modified some requests. The Tech Center roof increased from $140,000 to $174,000, the high school roof from $118,000 to $124,000, the primary school roof from $240,000 to $340,000 and the NGES main building roof from $367,000 to $410,000. We have also shifted some years the waterproofing at the high school from 2024 to 2025, the NGES out to FY2030 and central storage building went out to FY2028 and athletic fielding space renovations from FY2028 to FY2029 and reconfiguration of School Board Office space from FY2026 to FY2027. Unchanged is the HVAC at the WMHS and at NGPS and the Tech Center expansion that is ongoing. We added the water tank at NGES, track resurfacing at the athletic complex, paving in multiple areas including the maintenance shop, NGES playground, Tech Center, and the back loop and access to athletics complex at the high school and small parking lot in front of NG, the performance center at the high school lighting and gym facilities renovation and or replacement for the middle school/high school. Once this is approved at next month's meeting this will be submitted to the county to be included in their over-all capital improvement project.

Mr. Taylor brought up for discussion for artificial turf. He stated it is costly but he can also see the many benefits. He shared some upkeep factors but also cost saving factors.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared that on the CIP report under Athletic Field Space renovations that was the intent there since It was brought up by a previous board but we have not explored really what it would cost. We can explore further if that is something you would like us to do. We might not have it in time for this plan.

Ms. Roach stated she did not disagree with what he was saying but she would assume it was going to be a lot and we have spent a lot of money several years ago building all these complexes for sports. I would like to see the numbers but also be mindful of instead of money into that putting it into our teachers and our staff.

Mr. Taylor said he did not disagree. He stated we have taken care of our employees since he has been on the board. He would like to sit down and talk about it.

Ms. Roach stated she would like to see the numbers and there is a maintenance to turf.

Ms. Greer stated it would be good to have the cost of the current filed vs new.

Ms. Clayton presented information item #11-1686, Multilingual Learners. Ms. Clayton provided an overview of multilingual learner services with the current numbers. She shared the many languages represented and provided information on language proficiency levels and assessment process, and accommodations. Ms. Clayton shared how multilingual learners are being supported in the classroom and professional development opportunities for staff. Ms. Clayton introduced Paula Mercado the EL Family Liaison and provided an overview of her services and being engaged with families.

Mr. Taylor asked about participation. Ms. Clayton stated there has been constant increase for the last 10 years. There are currently 177 students enrolled.

Ms. Greer asked about the tools used for the many languages. Ms. Clayton shared some examples of tools used.

Dr. Payne presented information item #11-1687 Virginia Accountability Changes. Dr. Payne shared the Virginia Accountability key points. Dr. Payne stated the main thing to remember is with this new system all students are required to make progress. Dr. Payne shared the performance levels, and reviewed the points received based on the school's performance on the three primary indicators. It's different for elementary, middle and high school. Dr. Payne shared examples of each. Dr. Payne shared some possible changes for next year and the next steps to raise expectations, support teachers, do the right work, and increased student success and outcomes.

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 #11-1688, Superintendent's Update. Dr Whitmarsh shared GCBB-R Stipends and Supplemental pay to included an additional amount for those coaches that have served more than 10 years. The Tech Center project is about two weeks behind due to the rain but that time can likely be made up. October is antibullying month and there are activities going on across the school division to be kind and to stop bullying from occurring in our schools and community. October 16th is Unity Day we all should wear orange to show unity against bullying. Dragon Fest was rained out so it is now scheduled for October 18th the same night as the homecoming game. Career Day is Friday, October 25th. Our culinary program had several students place at the state fair last

week. Raekwon Fox 1st place in cookies, Gracie Lewis second place in breads, Gabrielle Cole second place in breads and muffins, Eli Mapanoo second place in cakes, Rexford Howell second place in cookies. As a reminder GCPS has partnered with The Cook Center to provide our community with free access to mental health resources through parentguidance.org the online platform led by licensed therapist, offers courses, professional support and a safe community for parents to learn how to support their children and address mental health concerns. No school on Monday, October 14th for students this is a professional day for staff and also no school on Monday, November 4 and Tuesday, November 5. Monday is parent teacher conferences from 12 to 7. Tuesday is professional day for staff. On Monday, November 4th we will be having Grand Opening at the new Academy Building that was constructed through some of our ESSER funds. We hope to have the community come see it that evening. The next PREP meeting is October 30th at 9:00 am. Our next board meeting is Wednesday, November 13th.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Alberts congratulated the culinary students on the state victories. She spoke about the antibullying month and she hoped that conversations are happening. She spoke about EL staff, Ms. Clayton and Ms. Mercado and other staff. Ms. Alberts stated she knows how much they do and what they do means so much to our families and students. She thanked them

Ms. Roach thanked Ms. Spencer for keeping us on budget and up to date with all those things. She knows it takes a lot of time and effort. She thanked Ms. Clayton for speaking and it was very informative. She thanked Donna Payne also. She thanked Andrea for her updates.

Ms. Bicker's congratulated the culinary team. She said the Tech Center is a really amazing place. She thanked Dr. Payne for the amount of work she was putting in. She spoke to the EL staff and said she appreciates all they do. Ms. Bicker's spoke to Ms. Spencer about the huge accomplishment year after year how well they do on the audit. Ms. Bicker's shared her son is now enrolled at GCPS.

Ms. Greer thanked everyone for being here. She spoke about antibullying month. She hopes that it's emphasized for middle school age groups. She said the culinary awards were great. She thanked Ms. Clayton and Ms. Mercado for being here and she appreciates all you do. She thanked Dr. Payne for all the updates. Ms. Greer spoke about her experience with the Career Exploration class.

Mr. Taylor spoke about bullying month. Mr. Taylor shared this is fire prevention week. He spoke the number of lives lost due to fires and homes. He reminded everyone to change smoke detectors batteries twice a year. He thanked the presenters and Ms. Houchens. He thanked Mr. Herring and staff for being here. He reminded everyone to go out and vote. Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for coming out and to be careful 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 8:11 pm.

Chair

Clerk