Minutes
School Board Budget Work Session
Greene County Schools
WMHS Digital Media Classroom
January 22, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Brooks Taylor, Chair; Ms. Becky Roach, Vice-Chair; Ms. Kelly Greer, Member; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Ms. Cara Bickers, Member and Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk; Dr. Kyle Pursel, Assistant Superintendent; and Mr. Michael Kozuch, Finance Analyst.

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the WMHS Digital Media Classroom.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

Dr. Whitmarsh introduced Dr. Pursel and Mr. Kozuch.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented FY2026 Budget Presentation. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she was going to share the budget presentation which is a lot of the same information from the last meeting. The goals for tonight are to determine what the board's priorities are for the FY26 budget and to give some direction for the budget proposal. Dr. Whitmarsh shared an overview of school finance. This overview included general operating fund, school nutrition fund, and school activity fund. Dr. Whitmarsh then provided an overview of state, federal, local and other revenues. She provided information on expenditure descriptions and shared that the majority of expenses are fixed and non-discretionary. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local, state and federal process. For state funds the largest category is Standards of Quality and it's based on our local composite index and average daily membership. She stated receive incentive funds and categorical funds and lottery funds. She shared details of All in Virginia Funds and explained the fluctuations in state revenue.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared information on federal revenues title funds, school nutrition and CTE Perkins Grant. She provided a breakdown by function and expense type. Majority of our expense are fixed. She provided a chart explaining these expenses. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local process we start internally in September when we present the budget calendar and shared the local process. Dr. Whitmarsh provided a chart showing the state process. . On February 12th we will have a public hearing on the proposed budget. On February 26th the School Board will adopt initial budget. Then we will move to the local process. She shared information on the Supervisor's budget process.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a budget should be based on our values, strategic plan and our vision. The presentation included the VA code mandates that it is the duty of the Superintendent to prepare a budget with an estimate of the amount of money deemed to be needed to support the school division.

Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of FY2026 Influencing Factors. Our current ADM is based on 2702.10 and we are basing our ADM of 2634.15. This is the second year of the new biennium and the current VRS rate is 16.6% and will stay the same. Our LCI changed last year from .3505 to .3411. There is no change this year. The Composite Index determines a school division's ability to pay education costs fundamental to the commonwealth's Standards of Quality. It is calculated using: true value of real property 50%, adjusted gross income 40 % and table retail sales 10%.

Operating Expense – we expect utilities electricity and water rates will have small increases. We should be able to offset that within the existing structure. Other economic factors – social security payments increased 1/1/2025 = 2.5% and the current inflation rate is 2.7%.

The state funding for FY2025 $27,730.967 based on budget ADM of 2702.10. For FY2026 state funding $27,921,777 based on budget ADM of 2,634.15. We will have a decrease in the year we are in. The Governor's budget does include a 3% compensation increase effective 7/1/2025. WE will carry over $300,000 for All in VA Funds. We anticipate about the same for federal funds of just over $3 million. Just a reminder we have no more ESSER or COVID Funds. This will be first budget in several years that we will not have those funds.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local funding for the last three years. She shared you will notice the funds are the same for FY24 and FY25 they originally agreed to provide us with $250 thousand but because we received more state money we told them only needed level funding.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated VRS rates for FY26 are the same as FY25. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the employee rates and employer rates. She stated the VRS FY25 Budget was $4,392,830.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a chart for the summary of Capital Dept. She pointed out for FY26 we are retiring about $58,000 in debt.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the results of the FY2026 Community Budget Survey.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared regional salary data for Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated payroll is 54.2% of the budget, health benefits 8.2%, VRS 8.3%, FICA 4.0%. So 75% of our budget is wages and benefits for our personnel. Dr. Whitmarsh shared raise percentages for 3%, 4% and 5% raises. The Governor's budget did include a 3% compensation increase.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the FY25 Budget amount for healthcare is $4,295,058. She stated we don't know the exact renewal yet. She shared some estimates.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared information regarding adding 20 minutes a day to Educational Support Staff Contract and five works days equaling 190 days total. She also shared information on a $1,000 to $3,000 salary increase for both educational support staff and secretaries.

School Board Members had budget discussion.

The board agreed to include the following as budget priorities: projected health increase of 10%, 3% compensation increase, educational support increase (30 mins & 5 days) plus $3,000, and secretary increase of $3,000.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 6:48 pm.

Chair

Clerk