Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
February 18, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Brooks Taylor, Chair; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Vice-Chair; Ms. Kelly Greer, Member; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Ms. Cara Biker, 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 consider and discuss assignment and appointment 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. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:02 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:

11-1740 January 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1741 January 22, 2025 Budget Workshop Minutes
11-1742 January 3, 2025 Expenditures
11-1743 January 9, 2025 Expenditures
11-1744 January 14, 2025 Expenditures
11-1745 January 17, 2025 Expenditures
11-1746 January 27, 2025 Expenditures
11-1747 January 31, 2025 Expenditures
11-1748 Monthly Finance Report
11-1749 Field Trip Requests
11-1750 Enrollment
11-1751 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1740 to 11-1751 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. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Taylor shared the following: Please state your name and limit your comments to 3 minutes. Your comments shall address the entire board, as opposed to any particular individuals. This is your opportunity to provide input to the board; it is not meant to be a dialogue with the board. If you have specific questions that you would like answered, please put them in writing, along with your name and phone number and submit them to the school board clerk. The appropriate person will follow up with you in a timely manner.

Gregg Stang is a grandparent of a student attending Greene County Public Schools. Mr. Stang shared his concerns with a middle school teacher.

Marty Silman shared concerns regarding asynchronous days, chrome books, and learning issues.

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

Ms. Regina Hissong presented information item #11-1752, RES Spotlight. Ms. Hissong and Ms. Graham shared the following: RES these Dream Big, Work Hard, Academic Celebrations, Professional Learning Communities, Academic Excellence, Highlights at RES, Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Enriching Activities Beyond the Classroom, and Winter and Spring Events. Students from RES shared their Robotics Team Projects and Microbits Team Projects.

Dr. Donna Payne presented information item #11-1753, Grades 6-12 Literacy Curriculum. Dr. Payne shared a chart comparing high quality instructional materials, staff and community review, feedback that was used to narrow to two choices, considerations, program strengths, supplemental and intervention, and seven year program quotes for StudySync by McGraw Hill and my Perspectives by Savvas Learning. Dr. Payne shared teacher's like McGraw Hill the best and she shared their input.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1754, FY2026 Budget Proposal. Dr. Whitmarsh stated tonight was our official budget proposal. Dr. Whitmarsh shared a budget should reflect our priorities and should be guided by our strategic plan. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the division's vision and core values. The purpose of tonight's meeting is for me to share my budget proposal and for the board to vote on next week. Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of our enrollment, economically disadvantaged students, English Learner Total by Year, English Learners Historically by Building, and Students with Disabilities.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared staff information regarding retention, recruitment and the State of the Profession. She also shared changing and increasing demands. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the VRS Critical Shortage areas for the last three years.

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

Dr. Whitmarsh shared FY2026 Influencing Factors – Enrollment - current ADM is 2702.10 and FY2026 budget planning was ADM of 2634.15. This is the second year of the new biennium and our VRS rate are expected to remain the same at 16.6%. The Local Composite Index does not change this year it will remain at .3505.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared some information regarding state revenues. The house and senate have released versions of their budgets but we don't have calculation or planning tools at this time. What we do know when I look at planning factors in the house and senate budgets they are more favorable for us than the Governor's budget so we are waiting to find out where it will land. These numbers are based on the Governor's budget. When the budget is released in December they also release a budget for the year we are in. We are expecting a decrease in funding for this year. Looking at next year the budget does include a 3% salary increase effective July 1. We do have All in Per Pupil Funds.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared for the federal funds we are expecting our budget to be the same in that category just over $3 million dollars. This is the first budget in several years without any ESSER or COVID related funds.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local funding amounts for the past three years as well as local funding from other funds like rent payments for building use and retirement insurance payments.

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

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the results of the FY2026 Community Budget Survey. She also shared top budget priorities were recruiting and retaining staff, enhancing student achievement and improving facilities and safety.

Dr. Whitmarsh began sharing her proposal with 75% of our budget is our people. Our proposal is completely focused on our people. The proposal includes 3% raise for all staff $879,205, covering the 8.5% increase in health insurance approximately $365,080, contract adjustment for educational support staff $123,472 and salary adjustments for education support staff $177,000, and salary adjustment for secretary staff $27,000. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the summary of Capital Debt retirement and noted the amount for FY2026 $57,638. Dr. Whitmarsh shared revenue projections for the FY25 Approved Budget and FY26 Projection amounts. She shared the FY26 Total Personnel Increase Proposal in total $1,571,757. The additional amount request to balance our budget $491,610. That number will ultimately change. Next Wednesday the board will vote on this budget and then present it to the Board of Supervisors on March 11th.

Olivia shared the results from the student budget survey.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public hearing on FY2026 Budget Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment. My Taylor closed the public hearing.

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

Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Olivia Shifflett presented Student Board Member Spotlight. Olivia shared a concern in a decline in extra-curricular activities and she would be reaching out to students regarding suggestions.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1756, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have officially transitioned from School Messenger to Parent Square. At the tech center the roof is being constructed and insulation is being put in place. Masons and electricians are officially in the building and working on wiring and door framing. This month is National School Board Appreciation Month and we are incredibly thankful for each one of you. Unfortunately we had to postpone the celebration because of the weather but we will get that rescheduled for the future. Great things are happing in Greene: Skills USA achievements, congratulations to our talented Tech Center students for their outstanding performance at Skills USA: Cosmetology - 2nd Place – Fantasy Total Look: Olivia Harrop, Lea Castro, & Alyssa Fox; 3rd Place – Gala Total Look: Kyla Schneider, Lydia Morris, & Catie Howell; Carpentry - 3rd Place: Shawn Giegerich ; Automotive - 4th Place: Olivia Shifflett; 5th Place: Faith Giegerich.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared middle school transition night was tonight welcoming 5th graders rising to 6th grade at the middle school and getting prepared for that massive transition.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a huge shout out to our maintenance and custodial staff. You have gone above and beyond this winter to make sure our grounds are cleared, our parking lots and sidewalks.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated as a reminder this year, we have 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. For more information you can visit parentguidance.org and I would encourage everyone to do so. Upcoming events RES Science night is Tuesday, February 25th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, NG is having Bingo night Saturday, March 1st beginning at 4:30 pm. The next school board meeting is our budget adoption meeting with an abbreviated agenda for that item on February 26th. Our next regular meeting is Wednesday, March 12th. March 14th will now be a full school day we need to recapture some of our missed time. School will be closed tomorrow due to the forecast.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach thanked RES for their presentation. Ms. Roach shared she enjoyed the boys and girl's robotics and she thanked them for the book. Ms. Roach mentioned voting on the books at the next meeting. She also shared that she has noticed that being proactive and closing school has been very much appreciated. She thanked Dr. Whitmarsh.

Ms. Alberts thanked the robotics folks for coming out. She loves it when the students come out to present. They all presented so well. Ms. Alberts mentioned the stretch of time is really difficult for students, staff and faculty and for everybody trying to get through to spring break. Snow days help a bit. This is a long stretch. We know that and we are trying to see if there is anyway we can make that better. She spoke about Hopewell County Schools calendar. She urged people to take a look at that.

Ms. Greer shared she loved when the students come and she thanked Ms. Hissong and Dr. Graham. She feels the robotics program in the schools has grown the past five years. It's just lovely seeing how the kids are getting engaged in learning. She thanked Dr. Payne for her presentation and she really appreciates the feedback. These are things that directly impacts the schools. She thanked Dr. Whitmarsh for her budget proposal. Ms. Greer stated she is grateful money is appearing to be able to do things we want to do. Ms. Greer thanked the community members that come for public comment that means a lot.

Ms. Bickers said thank you. We always enjoy seeing the kids. The adults are excited and the kids are excited. Ms. Bickers shared she loved hearing how she is asking for feedback and listening to your staff. That changes the environment and the relationship you have with them. She spoke about the robotics team and microbits it was awesome. She thanked everyone for the budget and all the work that goes into it. She encouraged for feedback. She agreed with the school closings happening early. She really appreciates it. She thanked Olivia and for everything she was doing.

Mr. Taylor spoke about school closings and shared we are always going to error on the side of caution. Safety first, enjoy your day, stay off the roads so VDOT can do their jobs. Mr. Taylor shared Brady Lam broke the all-time WMHS boy's basketball scoring record in the last week or two. It was a big

accomplishment for him and he is going on to play basketball in college. Congratulations to him. The third week in February is School Board Clerk Appreciation Week. He congratulated Rhonda Houchens.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 8:31 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk