Minutes
School Board Meeting/FY2026 Budget Proposal Adoption
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
February 26, 2025

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 7:00 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

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.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1757, FY2026 Budget Proposal Adoption. Dr. Whitmarsh stated we are here tonight to hopefully adopt a budget proposal so we can move forward to the supervisor's process. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the FY2026 Revenue Projections and the FY2025 approved budget. The Governor's budget as well as the General Assembly's budget proposals include a 3% raise and that is what we are putting in this proposal. We are looking at contract modification for educational support staff adding 5 additional days and 20 minutes and adding $3,000 to each person's salaries. For secretaries doing basically the same adding $3,000 dollars.

Dr. Whitmarsh then provided General Assembly Updates. We don't have a planning tool. The General Assembly finished on Saturday and they voted to include 3% salary increase for SOQ funded positions, 10 % increase in funding for special education students, raising the support cap to 27.89 per 1,000 students and $1,000 bonus for SOQ-funded positions, effective June 1. The is a new twist. We will have to make decisions about this if it's in the final budget. We can take whatever money they give us for our 280 SOQ funded positions and divide among all our employees or we can try to make that whole. This is not a decision for tonight. At this point the General Assembly budget has gone to the Governor. We are expecting an 8.5% increase in health insurance and in order not to pass that along to our employees that

will cost $365,080 for next years budget. She shared the FY2026 Total Personnel Increase Proposal Chart Totaling $1,571,757.

Dr. Whitmarsh then shared the proposal. She stated it's similar to what you saw last week with the change in health insurance calculated here. The local funding needed to balance our budget is $427,184. Dr. Whitmarsh shared at this point with what we know now assuming the board approves this tonight we will move forward to the Board of Supervisor's process requesting an additional $427,000.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated that her recommendation was to adopt the FY2026 budget in the amount of $50,862,478. She did say this is not the final step. The next step we will present the proposal to the Board of Supervisors in March.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the Superintendent's Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2026. The proposal included our overview of our schools, strategic plan, core values, student demographics, economically disadvantaged students, staff information, budget development process, influencing factors, regional salary data, historic revenue, summary of capital debt, FY2025 budget objectives, FY2026 budget proposal.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for their hard work.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared how she appreciated Michael for stepping up in Kristie Spencer's absence. She shared he's been doing a fantastic job.

Ms. Roach stated: I have a personal interest in the School Board's budget by virtue of my husband's employment by the School Board and the salary scales included in the budget. However, as the spouse of a teacher at GCPS, I am a member of a large group of individuals in the community who are affected by the School Board's budget and I am able to participate in discussions and votes on the budget fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve the proposed FY2026 budget in the amount of $50,862,478. Ms. Bickers seconded.

Ms. Bickers stated I feel they have done a really good job.

Mr. Taylor stated there is a lot of accurate information.

Mr. Taylor requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Roach – Aye
Ms. Alberts – Aye
Ms. Bickers – Aye

Ms. Greer – Aye
Mr. Taylor – Aye

All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone

Mr. Taylor stated they had a little something to present Rhonda Houchens in appreciation for all she does.

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 7:17 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk