Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
April 2, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Brooks Taylor, Chair; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Vice-Chair; Ms. Kelly Greer, Member; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Ms. Cara Bickers, Member; Tyler Crenshaw, Student Board 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. Alberts seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 stated there were no closed meeting actions.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-1777 March 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1778 March 3, 2025 Expenditures
11-1779 March 14, 2025 Expenditures
11-1780 March 19, 2025 Expenditures
11-1781 March 24, 2025 Expenditures
11-1782 March 31, 2025 Expenditures
11-1783 Monthly Finance Report
11-1784 Field Trip Requests
11-1785 Enrollment
11-1786 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1777 to 11-1786 as presented. Ms. Greer seconded.

No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Taylor and Dr. Whitmarsh recognized Educator and Support Staff of the Year Nominees.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared we are excited to announce the Education of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year for each of our buildings. Each candidate was nominated by their fellow staff members and every school building follows a process to get to that conclusion. Building administrators and nominees complete the nomination packet for each person which is then review by the division committee to select the person that will then represent the entire school division, one as Educator of the Year and one as Support Staff Member of the Year.

Educator of the Year Nominees
Mallory Browning - NGPS/NGES
Adeline Smith – RES
Robert Stewart – WMMS
Alex Otey – WMHS

Support Staff Member of the Year Nominees:
Tiffany Shifflett – NGPS/NGES
Jenny Street – RES
Debbie Sacre - WMMS
James Snow - WMHS

Dr. Whitmarsh shared these nominees will be recognized at the inaugural banquet on April 30th. That night we will announce the Division Educator of the Year and Support Staff member of the Year.

Dr. Patricia Demitry, Mr. James Walsh and Mr. Andy Ulrich presented information item #11-1787, William Monroe Middle School Spotlight. Dr. Demitry began the presentation by introducing the Assistant Principals Andy Ulrich and James Walsh. Dr. Demitry shared at WMMS we believe in creating a Culture of Excellence which includes every student to achieve their fullest potential. She shared some highlights: National History Elective, Destination Imagination, Foundation Language Arts Curriculum,

Dragon Math Intervention, One School, One Book, and Academic Pep Rallies. Mr. Ulrich shared some highlights for Exceptional Workforce which included Foundation Language Arts Curriculum, Faulty book study on scaffolding, new teacher monthly cohort meetings and ongoing professional development. Mr. Walsh spoke about Safe and Supportive Schools which included digital citizenship curriculum for 6th graders, Principals cabinet and RESET refresh. Dr. Demitry spoke on Connections & Partnerships in our Community that included Dragon Magic Academic Showcase and PTO meetings.

Ms. Hall shared she was a 6th grade science teacher as well as WMMS Peer Mentorship and Leadership Teacher. She shared a slide show and several students spoke.

Mr. Stewart spoke about National History Day and several students shared their experiences.

The board members thanked the student speakers for their presentations, for taking the time to come out and speak at the board meeting, and sharing what they are learning.

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.

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

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1788, 25-26 Calendar Changes. Dr. Pursel shared there have been no changes since the last time we met and his recommendation was to approve the 2025-2026 Calendar as presented

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve action item #11-1788, 25-26 Calendar Changes as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Peregoy presented action item #11-1789, Perkins FY26 Plan. Ms. Peregoy stated there have been no changes to the plan and her recommendation was to adopt the plan as presented.

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve action item #11-1789, Perkins FY26 Plan as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Mitchem presented action item #11-1790 Title VI Plan. Dr. Mitchem shared there have been no changes since the last time she presented and requested the plan would be approved as presented.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve action item #11-1790 Title VI Plan as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1791, PREP Operating Agreement. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that in the packet is a copy of the operating agreement for the Piedmont Regional Education Program. Greene County Public Schools has participated in PREP since it's incession decades ago. PREP is a consortium of nine school divisions who work together to provide services for students with disabilities. PREP runs Ivy Creek School which provides services for students with emotional disability and employees specialist positions. They also have a PREP resource center for parents of

students with disabilities. The operating agreement needs to be signed by the board and they need it as soon as possible. This agreement goes through June 30, 2027. It goes into place once every school division has signed off on it. It includes for Greene County to purchase three slots at Ivy Creek. Dr. Whitmarsh stated that the recommendation is to approve the operating agreement through June 2027.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time to hear public comment on information/action item #11-1791, PREP Operating Agreement.

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

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1791,PREP Operating Agreement as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Payne presented information item #11-1792, K-8, Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry Textbook Adoption. Dr. Payne shared that the Virginia Department of Education has approved a long list of textbooks and we have quickly narrowed it down to four. Dr. Payne shared the list and the Standards of Learning Alignment. Dr. Payne shared they did a staff and community review, gathered feedback to narrow choices, and other considerations. She shared the recommendation for grades 6-8, Algebra I, II and Geometry was Mathspace and for K-5 was Kiddom. She provided the program strengths for each textbook adoption and the seven year program quote.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1793, Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared there were no significant changes. Most were clarification or formatting edits for consistency. Example was capitalizing School Board. He reviewed a few policies with simple changes. Dr. Pursel stated next month these policies will be presented as an action item.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information items. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Tyler Crenshaw presented Student Board Member Spotlight. Tyler spoke in favor of the schedule changes and getting rid of the 1:00 pm dismissals. He spoke in favor of the professional days between Christmas break and spring break. Tyler spoke about the math textbooks and how important it is to make math more engaging and go beyond the standard curriculum. Tyler said there was a survey that went out before spring break regarding student needs and there will also be an engaging survey going out asking what students want after school or before school. Tyler stated that it was important to think about the next student board member since Olivia will be graduating. He stated he would like to extend his term and also how to provide information to other students about what they have learned. We are discussing how we can share information from the school board meetings.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented item #11-795, FY2026 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that since our last meeting the Governor has made budget amendments to the FY2026 Budget passed by the General Assembly. These amendments include reduction in what the General Assembly was proposing specifically to remove the support staff cap. This was put in place during recession in 2009 and it's never been taken out. They reconvened today to take action on the amendments. The House did not act on

the budget and so it did not go to the Senate so it goes back to the Governor unchanged. He has until May 2nd to accept or veto the entire bill. The state budget is still a work in progress. Locally the Board of Supervisors has advertised their budget. The public hearing is April 22. That's an opportunity for the public to share their comments regarding the budget for FY26 and then they will vote on budget at their first May meeting.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1796, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh congratulated Dr. Demitry that is a change and she thanked her for the WMMS Spotlight. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that with the assistance of Dr. Pursel and Central Office Directors we conducted a thorough review of our regulations. So in your packet before Superintendent Update you will see a list of regulations that have been reviewed and updated. Dr. Whitmarsh gave a Tech Center update with construction is nearing completion moving along quickly it looks really, really nice. Doors being installed on all entry ways, drywall is 75% finished, electrical wiring is pulled through walls, storm drains are being installed this week. The building looks wonderful. Stay tuned for a grand opening celebration on the opening of that building.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared great things happing in Greene. Congratulations to the high school drama department on another great performance Frozen Jr. Production. It was a great success with very talented students. The arts festival took place last Saturday and was once again a highlight. The creativity on display was amazing for students and staff. Very grateful for Ms. Trembly for her work to put that together along with the other art teachers as well. Tech Center held its annual Career Fair last week at the high school. Where students across the district had the opportunity to connect with local businesses, other organizations and colleges as well. It was great day of networking and career exploration thanks to Ms. Peregoy and her team for helping students explore careers before they are even close to graduation.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared as a reminder, GCPS has partnered with The Cook Center to provide families with free access to mental health resources through ParentGuidance.org. This online platform, led by licensed therapists, offers trusted courses, professional support, and a safe community for parents to learn how to support their children's mental health.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared in your packets you will see lots of upcoming events the calendars are in there for April and May. Somethings to note: Spring Break is next week, April 7 -11, WMHS Prom is April 25th, RES Spring Play is April 25 & 26. The banquet to celebrate our Educators and Support Staff of Year is April 30th. We will start end of year celebrations. Early College Scholar celebration is May 5th, PVCC Commencement is at John Paul Johns is May 14th, School Board meeting on May 14th and the culminating event is graduation on May 17th at 9:00 am.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Greer congratulated Educator of the Year and Support Staff of the Year. She thanked Dr. Demitry and her team for the WMMS Spotlight.

Ms. Greer asked Dr. Demitry what was the most effective program she had implemented for students and staff. Dr. Demitry stated One School One Book.

Ms. Greer thanked all the presenters for the information items. She spoke about the arts festival and the musical she attended. She spoke about the video that was taken at the Career Fair.

Ms. Bickers congratulated all the Educators and Support Staff. It was well deserved. She congratulated Dr. Demitry and spoke about the presentation with the kids speaking. It was really amazing. She stated she appreciated all the updates and changes that are put in place. It takes a lot of effort.

Ms. Albert thanked all the central office staff for all they do and for all the hats they wear. She thanked Olivia and Tyler for launching the student representative program. You are amazing. Hopefully this will be long standing tradition. She thanked Mr. Ulrich, Ms. Hall, Mr. Walsh. Ms. Hall is making quiet the different in the building. She congratulated her. She spoke about balanced calendar and shared she has spoken with some educators as well as a parent that was super excited about it. Please go look at the Hopewell City Calendar.

Ms. Roach congratulations to all Support Staff and Educators of the Year. It honestly shows what you are doing in each building each and every day. Just to highlight those individuals. She thanked WMMS staff for their presentations. She loved seeing the kids and showing what they do. She knows on a personal level what that school building does for their teacher's as well and support. It's very much appreciated. She said thank you for the sweatshirt. Ms. Roach stated the play Frozen was amazing. The students did a wonderful job. Career day went off without a hitch obviously. I always appreciate that. She stated she appreciates what Trenton does not only with the videos but the post in general on Facebook. Makes the school known. I think you are doing a wonderful job. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Ms. Alberts stated the art show was amazing as usual.

Ms. Bickers stated she really enjoyed having Olivia and Tyler on the board. We are really excited to have you'll join. The first can be hard sometime. You'll did a nice job and you exceeded our expectations.

Mr. Taylor congratulated Educator and Support Staff of Year Nominees. Shout out to them. The arts festival is amazing. I'm blown away with the amount of creativity. Spring sports are in full effect. A lot of great athletes out there. Try to partake a game or two to show support for our student athletes. Spring break is next week.

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 8:32 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk