Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
June 11, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Brooks Taylor, Chair; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Vice-Chair; Ms. Kelly Greer, Member; Cara Bickers, Member; Tyler Crenshaw, Student Board Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Mr. Taylor stated that Cherish Alberts is unable to be here tonight so we are going to do an Electronic Participation Motion. In accordance with Greene County Public Schools' Policy BDD: Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations – The Greene County School Board must approve Ms. Alberts's request to participate electronically by a majority vote of members present.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was a motion to allow Ms. Alberts to participate electronically in this evenings meeting. Ms. Roach made a motion to approve Ms. Alberts's request to participate electronically in accordance with Greene County Public Schools' Policy BDD. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried. Ms. Alberts stated for the record she was missing this meeting due to personal reasons in accordance to Policy BDD.

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 7:10 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. Greer 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 it was time for closed meeting actions.

Ms. Greer stated I move that, in recognition of Dr. Whitmarsh's exemplary performance as Division Superintendent and with her concurrence, the Board terminate her current appointment and agreement effective June 30, 2025, and simultaneously reappoint and employ her for a new term of four (4) years as division Superintendent beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029, and direct and authorize the Chair to execute the employment contract on behalf of the Board according to the terms and conditions agreed to by the parties.

Ms. Bickers' seconded.

Mr. Taylor stated this would be a roll call vote.

Ms. Greer – Aye
Ms. Bickers - Aye
Ms. Alberts – Aye
Ms. Roach – Aye
Mr. Taylor – Aye

Mr. Taylor requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-1817 May 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1818 May 7, 2025 Expenditures
11-1819 May 15, 2025 Expenditures
11-1820 May 22, 2025 Expenditures
11-1821 Monthly Finance Report
11-1822 Field Trip Requests
11-1823 Enrollment

11-1824 Staff to be Approved List
11-1825 Reappointment of Support Staff
11-1826 Educational Support Staff Salary Scale & Secretary Salary Scale

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1817 to 11-1826 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.

Mr. Taylor stated we understand you are here because you care deeply about our schools and we appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts. The public period is designed for school boards to listen to community member while we don't typical respond during these parts of the meeting please know that your voices are heard. Also due to legal and privacy requirements we are not able to discuss or respond to any confidential personnel matters.

Ms. Jo Ann Woods shared information on the summer school program.

Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone that shared comments this evening. He stated we recognize these concerns raised come from a place of care from our students, staff and schools. While we are not responding visibly during this meeting please know the board is takes your input serious and will reflect on what you share with us.

Dr. Payne presented action item #11-1827, Federal Applications I, II, III, & IV. Dr. Payne stated she was here for Federal Applications I, II, III, & IV action but before we take action she shared an update. United Christian Academy has opted to take advantage of its proportionate share of federal funds for the 2025-2026 school year. She stated we have been working through what that looks like. GCPS is still required to be the fiscal agent and manage of these funds. We will meet with administration in the next couple of weeks to determine agreement for how the funds are spent and how services are provided. Dr. Payne shared the set aside amounts for each title. These amounts will be adjusted in the budget that was presented at the last board meeting. The rest of the application is the same.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Federal Applications I, II, III, & IV as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1828, Superintendent Designee. Dr. Whitmarsh stated each year the board authorizes a designee to sign in my absence with anything in regards to the VDOE. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the proposal is to allow Dr. Kyle Pursel our Assistant Superintendent to serve as Superintendent Designee for the upcoming year.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1828, Superintendent Designee. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve information/action item 11-1828 Superintendent Designee as presented to approve Dr. Kyle Pursel as the authorized designee to sign in the absence of the Division Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1829, Authorization to Hire. Dr. Whitmarsh shared another practice we have done annual in previous years we are in a time of hiring and lots of personnel actions and to do things quickly during the summer months I would like for the board to allow me to approve hires through September 10th. So we can get people contracts very quickly and on board. There is no July meeting.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1829, Authorization to Hire. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the Authorization for Superintendent to Hire as presented to authorize division Superintendent's ability to hire through September 10, 2025. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Herring presented information/action item #11-1830, VPSA Technology Grant. Mr. Herring shared this is an annual event to approve the resolution for purchasing equipment. The grant is $180,000. It's always part of the annual budget and the grant is used to purchase technology equipment for SOL testing and infrastructure.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1830, VPSA Technology Grant. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1830 VPSA Technology Grant as presented. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information #11-1831, May Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared the annual May 2025 Policy Updates for information and this will be an action item in August. Dr. Pursel shared the red lined policy have been included in the packet as well as a summary sheet. Dr. Pursel reviewed the following policy changes: JC, JHCD, JJAG, EBBC, and DJF.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1832 Update to Use of Facilities. Ms. Brunelle shared information on the Use of Facilities Regulation KG-AP. She shared the current form and the process. She also shared fee comparison with four area school divisions. Ms. Brunelle then shared proposed fee changes. She then shared a chart of how facilities are used and proposed changes to the rules and regulations governing use of GCPS facilities.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared this item does not require a vote it's simply a change to a regulation.

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.

Ms. Jo Anne Woods congratulated Mr. Herring and other retirees. She thanked the School Board Members and stated on behalf of some of her colleagues, some community members and children of Greene County she asked a board member to reconsider being on the school board. We need you, the children need you and if you do the right thing all things work out.

Mr. Taylor said he appreciated the support.

Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Tyler Crenshaw for all of his efforts in the inaugural year and she stated he done a fine job and she hoped he would consider applying for the next year.

Mr. Tyler responded I hope to be a representative next year and he was excited to see who would be the next member. He stated there were a lot of ways they could improve next year. He stated he was looking forward to it and he really enjoyed the opportunity and it was amazing to be a representative.

Mr. Taylor stated we appreciate you and you both have set the bar very high.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1833, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked the board for their continued support and confidence in her. She appreciates that. She thanked Ms. Woods for getting up and sharing the great things of summer school. Dr. Whitmarsh shared Christi Dojack has been named Director of Special Services and will begin her new role on July 1. Dr. Whitmarsh shared as you heard summer school is in full swing. We have 140 students participating with the Market Day Theme. Market Day is June 27th. At the middle school we have eight students attend New Comer Academy. She shared activities they are working on. The high school has 22 students participating in credit recovery at the high school. Summer program runs through Market Day on June 27th.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared information on summer maintenance projects are well under way. You will notice some roof replacement projects. Dr. Whitmarsh gave a Tech Center update. She stated we expect to have a grand opening in September for everyone in the community to come visit.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared in State Track Samantha Nitzsche won 2nd the 1600 and 4th in the 800. Neal Wattier placed 5th in high jump, girls 4x4 hundred relay had an excellent showing and Elizabeth Kelpe represented us in the 2 miler. Girls soccer had an awesome season with a record of 19 and 2 and undefeated in the regular season and won their first two regional games. Baseball Team won all three regional games and they are the Region 3B Champions. They advance to the state semi-finals on Friday, June 13th game time at 10:00 am. We will play Abington at Fluvanna High School. The team will be leaving the high school at 7:00 am and there will be a police escort so we invite anyone to come out and wish them well and send our team off as they leave at 7:00 am Friday. Boys soccer is the Region 3B runner up. They won the state quarter finals at Hopewell yesterday and advance to the state semi-finals also on Friday June 13th with a 3:00 pm game time. They will play Western Albemarle at Fluvanna High School. They will depart the high school at 12:00 pm. They will also have a police escort.

Our next regular school board meeting is Wednesday, August 13th.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Taylor stated Cherish Alberts is with us via telephone and we actually voted on it before closed session. It was a unanimous yes.

Ms. Alberts mentioned the balance calendar. She seconded Ms. Woods nomination of everyone staying on board next year – Mr. Taylor. She thanked everyone for coming out. Ms. Alberts said for the folks that thought about speaking we encourage you to get in touch with us and to let us know how we can support our community and students.

Ms. Roach thanked Ms. Woods for all the goods and for your summer school market class. She appreciates that and everything you do. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight and she looks forward to next school year and what that brings and hopefully we can be here to support everyone, teachers and community. We appreciate everyone.

Ms. Bickers thanked Ms. Woods for her passion. You are always excited and she thanked her for the goodies she provides. Ms. Bickers spoke about student board members and how great it was to have them on board this year. It was better than possibly expected. Ms. Bickers stated she is looking forward to next school year.

Ms. Greer thanked Ms. Woods for the treat and for everything she does. As the NHD representative of the board she shared we had seven students that went to University of Maryland Sunday and there are still two that are there awaiting the award ceremony on Thursday. There were 500,000 students that participated in NHD and only 3,000 go to nationals so we have seven students that attended and they are middle schoolers. It was a very cool experience. Congrates to the baseball, soccer and track students that went to state. That's a great accomplishment. She reminded everyone that we as the school board is a bridge between community and schools so we appreciate information.

Ms. Bickers thanked Dale Herring and stated we appreciate you.

Mr. Taylor thanked Ms. Woods. Said we can't thank you enough and for everything you do and for the goodies. He congratulated baseball and boys' soccer teams as they go forward and best of luck. Mr. Taylor shared that Sam Brunelle who went to school here and has accepted a position with Navy Girls Basketball Team she is the Director of Basketball Operations. We are proud of her. Mr. Taylor spoke about back to school safety that we take very seriously here at GCPS. It's something we are always working on it never stops. He spoke about changes that occurred since he's been on the board. We go above and beyond and it doesn't stop. He thanked everyone that makes that happen. He congratulated Dr. Whitmarsh on her renewed contract. He stated it's well deserved and it's 13 years. He thanked her for her continued service. Please drive safely going home.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated that Wyatt Morris accepted his trophy for winning the State FFA Tractor Driving Competition at VA Tech.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 8:02 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M Honeycutt

Clerk

