Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
August 13, 2025

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

Ms. Roach made a motion to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Ms. Greer seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:09 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:

11-1834 June 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1835 June 18, 2025 Retreat Minutes
11-1836 June 2, 2025 Expenditures
11-1837 June 11, 2025 Expenditures
11-1838 June 17, 2025 Expenditures
11-1839 June 27, 2025 Expenditures
11-1840 June 30, 2025 Expenditures
11-1841 July 2, 2025 Expenditures
11-1842 July 10, 2025 Expenditures
11-1843 July 17, 2025 Expenditures
11-1844 July 30, 2025 Expenditures
11-1845 July 31, 2025 Expenditures
11-1846 Monthly Finance Report
11-1847 Field Trip Request
11-1848 Enrollment
11-1849 Staff to be Approved List
11-1850 Religious Exemptions

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1834 to 11-1850 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 closed public comment.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1851, May Policy Update. Dr. Pursel shared that the May policy updates were presented in June. Dr. Pursel stated that the current version of policy DJF and the suggested revised copy are included in the packet. Dr. Pursel reviewed the changes to policy DJF.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve action time #11-1851, May Policy Update as presented. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor presented information/action item #11-1852, Greene County School Board Priorities. Mr. Taylor shared these are the same priorities we had last year. Mr. Taylor stated this document can change from year to year. We decided these priorities are still important. Mr. Taylor read the priorities:

- Support the implementation of Impact 2027 including our core values of Culture of Excellence; Safe, Supportive, & Caring Schools; Exceptional Workforce; Connections & Partnerships with Our Community; and Resource Stewardship

- Provide competitive compensation and benefits for all staff

- Advocate for and encourage support, recruitment, and retention of the most highly qualified educators, leaders, and support staff.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1852, Greene County School Board Priorities. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve information/action item 11-1852, Greene County School Board Priorities as presented.

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

Dr. Pursel presented information/action item #11-1853, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. Dr. Pursel shared that for information and action he was sharing the Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. It's an annual certification that the division completes and also requires School Board approval. The certification from the board confirms that the school division has met the standards of quality set by the Code of Virginia. Dr. Pursel shared some of the standards and topics. Dr. Pursel stated his recommendation was to approve as presented.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1853, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. Mr. Taylor opened the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve information/action item #1853, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Brunelle presented information/action item #11-1854, Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU. Ms. Brunelle shared the MOU is reevaluated every two years. There are no changes to the current MOU we are currently working under.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1854, Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU. 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 #11-1854 Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU as presented. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information #11-1855, Division Accomplishments & Priorities. Dr. Pursel shared a review of 2027 Core Values, 2024-2025 Division Accomplishments and Division Priorities for 2025-2026.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1856, Celebrating 100 years of WMHS. Ms. Brunelle began the presentation by sharing a timeline of events beginning with the first graduating class in 1925-1926. Ms. Brunelle shared some history details of WMHS and also a schedule of events for each month beginning in September 2025 through May 2026.

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.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1857, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared summer is a very busy time for those who are here year around. Huge thank you to all the staff that work tirelessly to ensure we were ready to open our doors for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Whitmarsh shared there were many facility projects led by Ms. Brunelle and the maintenance team. The building at the Tech Center is ready. The new building houses our Ag program, HVAC, welding, Mr. Congdon's classes. We will have an open house on Wednesday, October 8th prior to the board meeting starting at 5:00 pm for the community to come out and see our new building. We completed asphalt at NG we had a donation of pickle ball lines added. The field house is now fully assessible. Dr. Whitmarsh shared other building projects that were completed over the summer. Dr. Whitmarsh shared crisis plans have been updated and now include the addition of cardiac plans required by recent legislation. At July 22nd meeting of the Board of Supervisors they approved a supplemental appropriation of $683,958 in additional state funding. Dr. Whitmarsh shared this year welcome 26 new certified staff and 14 support staff. This is the smallest number of new hires in the last four years. This is based on targeted recruitment efforts, including a recent community job fair where we had 18 attendees and 12 scheduled and sic walk-ins and we got 8 hires from this job fair. It was very well done thanks to Dr. Mitchem and Ms. Peregoy. Three instructional assistants were hired there, two new school nutrition staff, one long-term sub custodian and two new teachers. Our K-5 numbers at Ruckersville are higher than anticipated so we are looking at the possibilities of balancing our numbers there once we have our 10 day enrollment. We still have unfilled positions we will determine how we move forward with that. We wanted to make sure we still have the best people in our classrooms to work with our kids. The process at the high school has begun to select two new student board members. Application deadline is August 24th. We should have representatives for our next meeting.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared had a wonderful start to the school year. I know it's only been two days but the mood is very positive, people are excited to be here. A huge thank you to our exceptional workforce to be ready to open our doors.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated the next Blue Ridge Board meeting is September 10th which is the same day as our next board meeting which will take place that evening.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach shared she had a privilege of attending convocation this year and welcoming the staff. She said Katie as always did a great job. She was the MC and it was very entertaining. She stated she was glad that there was not as many new hires and it has been in previous years. That's a good thing. She would like to hear and know more about priorities, staff recognition and appreciation systems and retention. She would love to know what strategies are in place. She stated that it's very exciting to have the Tech Center open and hopefully we can all attend the opening and have a walk through and see what great things will happen there. She spoke about the 100 years at WMHS is huge. She's looking forward to being apart of that. Ms. Roach stated she's looking forward to a good school year.

Ms. Alberts welcomed back everyone and thanked everyone for working so hard over the summer. She thanked everyone for all they do all the time. Ms. Alberts spoke about the open house and the challenges. She thanked everyone for making that happen. She shared a story about a high school student and attending open house and how much it helped. Ms. Alberts encouraged students to apply for the student member to the school board. She stated she loved the quote "growing our own" and she loves the fact of our graduates coming back to teach and are staying. She shared we had two teacher assistants to become certified teacher is very exciting. She thanked everyone for supporting that.

Ms. Bickers thanked everyone for being there and getting the work done during the summer and all the things that come along with it. She shared it's amazing that all that goes into it. She shared her son stated it was his best first day of school. Ms. Bickers' shared she is excited to be apart of the 100 year celebration. She shared she is proud of the dedication and the accomplishments. She can't wait to see who the new student board members are and she is excited to be here.

Ms. Greer welcomed everyone. She shared she attended open house at the middle school and high school and she agreed that it felt better this year. The teachers did a great job of welcoming everybody and seemed really prepared. She thanked Dr. Pursel and Ms. Brunelle for their presentations. She is curious about periodic updates about how we are doing with the priorities. She asked if the bus app was working.

Ms. Brunelle stated it was system issue not a GCPS issue.

Mr. Taylor welcomed all teachers, support staff, maintenance staff, nutritional staff, bus garage and new teachers. We are a great school division and it's great to have you. He shared there are only 178 more days left of school and 134 days until Christmas. Mr. Taylor shared details about a call he received from his wife regarding traffic. He thanked everyone for their support and all that they do. He thanked everyone for being here tonight.

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 8:08 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M Hawkins

Clerk