Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
September 10, 2025

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:15 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. Alberts – certified
Ms. Roach – certified
Mr. Taylor – certified

Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Bickers will not be with us today. She is absent.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Greer 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:

11-1858 August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1859 August 8, 2025 Expenditures
11-1860 August 15, 2025 Expenditures
11-1861 August 19, 2025 Expenditures
11-1862 August 26, 2025 Expenditures
11-1863 August 29, 2025 Expenditures
11-1864 Monthly Finance Report
11-1865 Field Trip Requests
11-1866 Enrollment
11-1867 Staff to be Approved List
11-1868 Religious Exemptions

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1858 to 11-1868 as presented. Ms. Greer 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 welcomed Mr. John Ensor & Mr. Ken Hess. Mr. Hess who is the Athletic Director for American Legion Post 128. Mr. Hess and Mr. Ensor presented awards to members of the staff for supporting the American Legion Baseball Team both senior and junior division. Mr. Hess shared some history dating back to 1925 when the team began. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Ensor shared details on how the team came about. From finding someone to head it up who was Ken then they needed sponsors and they were able to get a lot of sponsors and some major ones. The third thing was finding coaches. For two years we have had two different sets of coaches and did well for us. We had a great team and players. We were looking for a place to play our games so we approached the school. Fortunately, we used the great field here. We hope we can keep the ball rolling and keep the American League Baseball running within the county. He thanked everyone for their support.

Ms. Alberts asked who the sponsors were. Mr. Hess responded:
Fiorano Restaurant, Blue Ridge Restaurant, Crutchfield, Fox Hill Farms and Wilkinson Wealth Management LLC.

Awards were given out to Mr. Brooks Taylor, Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Ms. Katie Brunelle, and Mr. Brian Collier.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone else wanted to speak.

Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Wimmer presented information/action item #11-1869, Students on the School Board. Dr. Whitmarsh stated that according to policy BBBB the board may appoint two student representatives each year. Their terms run from October through the end of the school year. Last year was our first year and our students did a fantastic job. The selection process is run by the high school. Mr. Wimmer shared information regarding the selection process. He then shared the nominees for the 2025-2026 school year: Mukund Marri and Lillie Powers.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for public comment on information/action item #11-1869, Students on the School Board. 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 Mukund Marri and Lillie Powers as student representatives to the Greene County School Board for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1870, Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Brunelle shared the plan was included in the packet. Ms. Brunelle shared they used the maintenance department as well as experts in the field, companies to come in and take a look at what we have and where we need to go. We have been fortunate lately that we have been able to meet needs before they became not working at all so that is a big compliment to the board and the county for allowing us to get some projects taken care of before they became problems. Ms. Brunelle gave an overview of the list.

Mr. Kozuch and Ms. Eppard presented information item #11-1871, School Activity Funds Audit. Mr. Kozuch introduced Kimberly Eppard our Finance Analyst also formally bookkeeper at WMHS so she has a unique few from the central office and being in the school. Mr. Kozuch shared an overview of the audit process and shared the three major tests. Ms. Eppard shared the findings were that GCPS passed all three tests. Ms. Eppard shared some details regarding continuous improvement. Mr. Kozuch shared Kimberly was part of the great team this past year. Mr. Kozuch shared we are happy that we have such great colleagues and once again had a wonderful audit.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1872 FY2027, Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the FY2027 Development Calendar is in the packet and it's very similar to the process you all have been through previously. Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of the calendar. We assume the county process will run very similarly as it has previously and we will flow right into the county process while watching the state process.

Mr. Keith Congdon and Ms. Isabella Gebhart presented information item #11-1873, Vertical Alignment of Computer Science from Middle to High School. Ms. Peregoy introduced Mr. Congdon and Ms.

Gebhart. Their presentation included Importance of Computer Science and Robotics in Middle School, Middle School CS to CTE Vertical Alignment by Standard, Middle School Student Project Showcase, Cybersecurity Operations, IT Fundamentals – Hardware Projects, IT Fundamentals – Software Projects, Manufacturing Engineering – Coding, All Pathways – Arduino Prototyping and Programming, FTC Robotics Competition Team, and Future Plans.

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 #11-1874, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have had a great start to the school year. Dr. Whitmarsh stated you have probably noticed our enrollment has changed since the last school year. The previous year we ended at about 2735 and our current enrollment is at 2793. Our budget number which is different is 2634 so we are doing fine financially. The greatest increase is at Ruckersville with an additional 37 students. The middle is at 19. Kindergarten is hard to plan for. We have updated a couple regulations EBBC-R and JJAG-R. Both are in your packet. Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of these regulations. Matt Hurt, Executive Director of Comprehensive Instructional Program came to our division this week to meet regarding our achievements last year. CIP is a consortium of more than 70 school divisions in Virginia working to improve student achievement. They provide activities, assessments and they do a lot of data work. They came to talk to us because we were number 4 in the CIP for divisions that improved our pass and percentile rates to the greatest degree. The high school was in the top 10 of schools in CIP that improved pass rates. It was nice for our successes to be recognized. Thanks for all the hard work on behalf of the staff members at GCPS and students and special thanks to Dr. Payne our Director of Teaching and Learning for her leadership in this area. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we are currently collecting feedback by a way of two surveys regarding the opening of our school year one for student families and one for staff. This will guilde our work and assist us in planning for start of next year. If you have not yet completed the family survey, please do so. The deadline is September 12th. Next month we will be putting forth a survey on the balanced calendar. We are still determining the exact timing to gather feedback from our school community. There will be a live communication before we put the survey out but we are shooting to do so next month. Great things are happening in Greene. It was wonderful to see a great crowd at the first home football game. Even though it didn't go quite the way we hoped it was wonderful to see so many people cheering on our students and recognizing our first responders that evening. This week we started swimming lessons for our second graders with RES starting first. All second graders will go through a series of five trips to the Brooks Family YMCA. We feel strongly everyone should know how to swim and this is a great program that they offer and we are thankful to partner with them and NGES will start in October. All 5th graders will go to YMCA for one visit to focus on water safety. Our own Wyatt Morris travels to Nationals and will compete in an FFA Tractor Driving Competition on Friday morning. Good luck to Wyatt. The School Board will recognize the Board at the October 3rd home football game vs Turner Ashley. We will hold an open house on Wednesday, October 8th starting 5:00 right before the board meeting. You will be able to see the learning lab where Mr. Congdon classroom is. We will have a brief ceremony before community members are invite to see the new learning labs at the Tech Center and students will be there to explain what they are learning and how they are using those spaces. Everyone in the community can attend as well.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have lost one of our members of our exceptional workforce at William Monroe last week after 30 years with us. Night Custodian Luther Breeden has passed away. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the next PREP Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 24th and the next board meeting is Wednesday, October 8th.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Greer shared she attended a BRVGS meeting today. She shared information regarding School AI. She thanked the American Legion folks for being there. She hopes the baseball team has many more years of success. She is excited to welcome Mukund and Lillie to the School Board. She congratulated the bookkeepers and principals across the district with the successful audit. Thanks to Mr. Congdon and Ms. Gebhart. She stated she wanted to give her condolences to Mr. Breeden's family.

Ms. Alberts spoke about students on the school board and how exciting it is. She congratulated Mukund Marri and Lillie Powers and she can't wait to meet them. She wished Wyatt Morris good luck at Nationals. That's really exciting. Congratulated all the educators and students and everyone that supports them on the CIP recognitions. Ms. Alberts shared she worked with Luther Breeden at the high and school and she asked for a moment of silence. She stated her thoughts were with his family.

Ms. Roach shared the legion baseball team is a really special program. They are continuing to build it and they are teaching them more than just baseball which I think is great. She said she is looking forward to meeting Mukund and Lillie. It was nice last year to have a student perspective kind of what they are going through and their concerns. Wyatt Morris great kid – good luck to him. Condolences for the Breeden Family. Prayers also for Charlie Kirk's family. That's something that's going to impact a lot of our kids at school. He was an influencer for them.

Mr. Taylor thanked all the employees of our school division for all you do. We appreciate all you do. Hope everyone drives home safely. We will see you at the next board meeting.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 8:11 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk