Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
October 8, 2025

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Bickers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Roach 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:

11-1875 September 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1876 September 3, 2025 Expenditures
11-1877 September 9, 2025 Expenditures
11-1878 September 18, 2025 Expenditures
11-1879 September 26, 2025 Expenditures
11-1880 September 30, 2025 Expenditures
11-1881 Monthly Finance Report
11-1882 Field Trip Requests
11-1883 Enrollment
11-1884 Religious Exemptions
11-1885 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1875 to 11-1885 as presented. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor stated: according to policy BBBB, the board appoints two student representatives each year. This year we are pleased to have Mukund Marri (junior) and Lillie Powers (senior) joining us today. Welcome Mukund and Lillie! Mukund and Lillie will be rotating each month and will be sharing the perspective of our high school students.

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. Mr. Taylor closed public comment.

Ms. Brunelle presented action item #11-1886, Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Brunelle stated she was there to answer any questions they may have about the information item that was presented at the last meeting about the Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Roach asked if there was any idea when the athletic fields space renovations and the gym facility renovations might be. Ms. Brunelle shared she believed there was going to be a meeting with Parks and Rec, and county members and school members to discuss the athletic field situation. As far as the gym goes, I don't' believe there is a timeline for that but it could be part of that conversation.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared those items are wish list items for where we see the need. We have talked about it quite a bit at our retreats. We don't have a specific date on it we do want to keep it on our CIP that goes to the county so the county knows what our capital priorities are. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have the elementary school on there. We don't need one now but we want to keep mindful of at some point an additional elementary school will be needed.

Mr. Taylor shared as everyone knows we have a huge need for field space. Our athletic programs, parks and rec and schools explode right. We have some middle school sports programs and we want to have more but we run out of space. So, this is a call for any of those that might have some land that they would like to donate for these purposes.

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve action item #11-1886 Capital Improvement plan as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1887, FY2027 Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh stated as she shared last month we have prepared a budget development calendar for the FY27 budget process. The calendar follows the same process that we traditionally followed. Where our process ends at one point at the end of the February when the board votes on a budget and then it moves to the county at the same time parallel with the state process. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she would recommend that the board adopt this calendar.

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve action item #11-1887 FY2027 Budget Development Calendar as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1888, 26-27 & 27-28 Draft Calendars. Dr. Pursel shared key calendar points for consideration: instructional days, professional days, first day of school for students, length of breaks, last day of school for students, last day for staff and parent/teacher conferences. Dr. Pursel shared three draft calendars. He shared all the drafts for two years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. He shared a slide that breaks down the difference with each calendar option. Dr. Pursel shared survey data information that included staff responses and parent responses regarding how satisfied they have been with calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, how satisfied have you been with the calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, which of the presented calendar drafts do you prefer.

The board members had some discussion regarding the draft calendars.

Ms. Lamm presented information item #11-1889, CTE Update. Ms. Lamm shared she is very honored to be here and she feels like she has been given a gift and she thanked the people before her that set the Tech Center up the way they did so she could come in and keep moving forward. Mr. Lamb joined her for the presentation. She thanked everyone for attending the ribbon cutting ceremony. Ms. Lamm shared the 2025-2026 Goals. Mr. Lamb thanked the board for the opportunity of being able to come and share something very dear to his heart. Mr. Lamb shared details regarding the work-based learning program which including enrollment, partnerships with businesses, hours earned and hours worked. He shard information on in-house internships that included number of students in program, rotations and expansion for 2nd semester. Ms. Lamm shared details of the many student experiences field trips and competitions they have taken. Ms. Lamm shared details regarding meeting industry demands that included program & course offerings, advisory committees, college and career expo and regular engagement with industry partners. Ms. Lamm shared information regarding our commitment to our seniors included consistent 3E conversations, senior boot camp, financial fair and celebrate accomplishments.

Ms. Gillette presented information item #11-1890 Promoting Kindness & Addressing Bullying in our Schools. Ms. Gillette shared October is National Bulling Prevention Month. She shared what is bullying

and the definition. She shared a chart showing social conflicts and bullying. Ms. Gillette shared a video of Ms. Zepp who shared the difference between peer conflict and bullying. Ms. Gillette stated that Ms. Zepp mentioned the Stop -It App. By far the middle school students are using the Stop-It App. We are getting reports from other schools. Ms. Gillette provided and reviewed the decision tree for suspected bullying and also regulation JFCJ-R Bullying. Ms. Gillette shared information regarding celebrating kindness, anti-bulling vs bullying prevention. Ms. Gillette included in her presentation information for each school's spirit week.

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.

Mr. Taylor welcome Mukund Marri to share Student Board Member Comments. Mukund thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to be here tonight. Mukund shared details about anti-bullying month and what the high school is doing. He did share that after talking with many students across many grade levels the general feedback is that bullying is not a major issue at our school. One student shared "the counseling department is very reachable; I sent a message and received a response back in the same class period." That really shows how supportive admin is and kind of reaching out to our students. However, some students did mention seeing instances of cyberbullying especially after school hours with winter and summer breaks. The new cellphone policy has limited that in that 8 to 3 range during the school day. From 8 to 3 most students feel that the school environment is positive and respectful especially since students are not able to take out their phones to see what's happening on social media. Mukund shared bullying is not something that isn't as prevalent just because of the support we have in our environment. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to come out here.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1892, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh welcomed Mukund and Lillie. We are very happy to have you here and hearing your perspectives throughout the year. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked everyone that attend the Tech Center Grand Opening Open House earlier tonight. Huge thank you to those that were instrumental in the construction of the building from start to finish. We are excited to see the long-term impact of these new spaces. We are still waiting on final state data for accountability. The state board heard a proposal to increase cut scores on SOL tests which included either four- or five-year options for implementation and they are also listening sessions for Superintendents regions that occurred last week. We suggested a five-year implementation and then for all end course test maintain a 400 cut score until 2030. The difference in the State of Virginia verified credits are required for graduation which means you have to pass the SOL test so we feel like there needs to be sometime and a longer implementation for that. We also want to make sure there is clear communication to parents so that they understand the changes and how their children are preforming on standardized tests. The state board is due to vote in late October and we have been told there will be parent listening sessions.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated great things are happening in Greene. We had several students place at the State Fair this year. This included:

Anthony Clemmons and Faith Geirerich - 3rd place Automotive, Skills USA
Leigha Scheuermann placed third in Creative Media Jewelry.

Allyson Hyldelund placed second in Creative Media Paper Art
Chloe Lanzon placed second in Creative Media Fun Classes
Johnny Marquez placed second in Creative Media Clay
Ellyana Monterrosa-Ramirez placed first in Creative Media - Sewing
Brittany Medina also placed first in Creative Media Clay

Congratulations to all of our State Fair winners!

Then we had Wyatt Morris place 5th in the National Tractor Driving competition which took place in September. Congratulations, Wyatt!

As Ms. Gillette shared, it is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Thank you, Ms. Gillette, for highlighting the processes we have in place as well as highlighting anti-bullying efforts. Unity Day will take place October 22.

It is also Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Members of our Technology team along with myself will be participating in 'CyberCon' later this month where we will learn more about threats to cybersecurity and how we can be better prepared as a school system to respond to cyberthreats.

We have many celebrations this month including:

National Custodian Appreciation Day Oct 2 - we are incredibly thankful to our custodians who prepare our spaces each day so we are prepared for students and staff.

National School Lunch Week is Oct 13 - 17 - Heather Blades and members of the school nutrition team have been getting rave reviews. They have made really good changes this year. We are incredibly grateful for the meals they prepare each day for our students so that they are ready to learn. We celebrate National School Lunch Week next week.

Oct 20-24 - Virginia College Application Week – Where students are provided extra support in applying for college, with certain Virginia colleges waiving application fees for students who reside in the state of Virginia. There are activities and college special guests scheduled for the week at WMHS.

Digital Citizenship Week Oct 20 - 24

School Bus Safety Week Oct 20 - 24

As Ms. Lamm shared Career Day will be October 30th. There will be vehicles outside the high school and students can learn about careers.

On October 30th, huge community event Monster Mash will take place at the primary school and Trunk or Treat will take place at NGPS. Both on the same night. Lots of families can attend.

The next meeting of the PREP Board will take place on Wednesday, October 29 at 9am. Thank you Cherish for serving as our PREP Board Member.

Our next regular School Board meeting is Wednesday, November 12.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Bickers wanted to congratulate our two new student representatives on the board. It's super exciting have that start. She is excited to see what this year's partnership will look like. She really enjoyed hearing the student information on how supportive the guidance department is. The student body does not feel like there is a huge problem with bullying within the school. That's great to hear. Ms. Bickers spoke about the calendar presentation and she thanked Dr. Pursel. Ms. Bickers spoke about the Tech Center and how great it is and it was great to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony this evening. She was really impressed with the students and how excited they were and how much they have learned in the short amount of time school has been in. She congratulated Ms. Lamm and she can see how excited she was. She spoke to Mr. Lamb about the work-based program growing and the effort you are putting into that is amazing as well. The ability to be able to make a commitment to seniors and to be able to reach all of them. She congratulated all the students that Dr. Whitmarsh mentioned. Thanks to everyone that comes out and supports the community.

Ms. Greer welcomed Mukund and Lillie. It's great to have you both here and I'm very much looking forward to the collaboration. I feel honored to be a part of the ribbon cutting for CTE's new building and she thanked Ms. Lamm and Mr. Lamb for their presentations. She spoke about how prepared the students were to share about their various stations they were at. There was a real clear passion. Congrats to the State Fair winners and Wyatt with tractor driving. She thanked Ms. Gillette for her presentation. Ms. Greer said she appreciates not just the focus on not do this but also what do we do instead. She thanked Dr. Pursel for the calendar presentation and she appreciates the surveys and the useful data. It makes it a lot easier for us to be able to vote next month knowing this is something that the community is onboard with.

Ms. Roach shared she did not make the CTE presentation this afternoon. She had a prior commitment. It sounded wonderful. I would love to schedule a time to go over and check it out. I look forward to that. She spoke about the CTE presentation. Ms. Roach spoke about the Bullying presentation and said it was very important. She said she totally support that as well. Unity Day wear orange all the things. Welcome to Mukund and Lillie I look forward to hearing more of the student perspective on some of your daily things and looking forward to what we can do to help you all. Congratulations to Wyatt and the State Fair Winners. She thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Alberts welcomed Mukund and Lillie. She had such a good time talking with them. She looks forward to seeing what they are going to do with this opportunity. She thanked Mr. Wimmer because she knows this is yet another thing on your plate and she said she is so impressed already with what these two are bringing and I suspect that you are your team's leadership to bring that to the board. Congratulations to all the State Fair winners and Wyatt Morris. A National 5th place in the county is amazing. Ms. Alberts congratulated the nutrition changes. That's super exciting. She gave a shout out to the marching band placement.

Mr. Taylor welcomed Mukund and Lillie. Looking very much forward to hearing what you have to share with us and what your peers have to share with us. We are committed to hearing their voices as well. Mr. Taylor said the ribbon cutting and grand opening it was pretty awesome. There is a little plaque up there with our names on it. It's pretty cool. Fantastic and it's very exciting. Mr. Taylor said thank you to Dr. Whitmarsh, Katie Brunelle, and everybody else that helped with the School Board Appreciation and Kimberly Eppard. It was amazing and a beautiful night. We really do appreciate that.

Ms. Bickers said she didn't intend to leave Ms. Gillette out. Thank you for your presentation. There is nothing more important than our students feeling safe. You are genuinely looking out for them. I appreciate your attention to that not just in October but all year long. Ms. Bickers seconded the appreciation for the football game and everything. It was so much fun.

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 8:27 pm.

_____ _____

Chair Clerk