Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
November 12, 2025

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

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Ms. Bickers stated I move the board go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(2) to discuss and consider disciplinary matters involving the disclosure of information and scholastic records designated as case number 26-01 and pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss and consider appointment, assignment and resignation of particular employees of the school board. Ms. Greer 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 7:05 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. Roach – certified
Mr. Taylor – certified

Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Alberts will not be here in person tonight but by phone.

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. Greer seconded. All Ayes, motion

carried. Ms. Alberts stated for the record she was missing this meeting due to personal matters in accordance to Policy BDD.

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 requested a motion for closed meeting actions.

Mr. Greer stated I move that the board accept the Superintendent's amended recommendation regarding student case number 26-01. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried. Ms. Alberts abstain since she was absent for closed session.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-1893 October 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1894 October 3, 2025 Expenditures
11-1895 October 7, 2025 Expenditures
11-1896 October 9, 2025 Expenditures
11-1897 October 21, 2025 Expenditures
11-1898 October 23, 2025 Expenditures
11-1899 October 31, 2025 Expenditures
11-1900 Monthly Finance Report
11-1901 Field Trip Requests
11-1902 Enrollment
11-1903 Religious Exemptions
11-1904 Staff to be Approved List
11-1905 Stipend/Supplement Schedule

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1893 to 11-1905 as presented. Ms. Greer seconded. No discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Taylor stated it was time for Recognitions.

Mr. Wimmer, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Whitmarsh recognized the following students:

Tyler Crenshaw – National Merit Scholarship
Samantha Nitzsche – 2025 VHSL Class 3 State Champion

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.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1906, 26-27 & 27-28 Draft Calendars. Dr. Pursel stated as you recall at the October 2025 meeting I presented draft A, B & C as well as parent and staff survey information. He stated since the last meeting we have received minimal additional feedback. We received 39 more staff responses and 9 more parent responses. The changes were less than a percentage point on any of the information presented. Based on the survey results and feedback Dr. Pursel recommended that the board go ahead and approve draft A as presented.

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve draft A for action item #11-1906 26-27 & 27-28 Draft Calendars as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Peregoy presented information item #11-1907, Technology Update & Policy IIBEA/GAB. Ms. Peregoy shared GCPS Technology Team, what we do, 2025-26 Highlights, Network Upgrades, Cybersecurity, Education, and Artificial Intelligence. Ms. Peregoy shared the results of student surveys regarding using AI tools, where you use AI, how often you use AI, can AI be a helpful learning tool, and students should learn how to use AI responsibly. Teacher surveys: do you use AI to enhance instruction in the classroom, have you used AI tools to assist with professional task. Parent surveys: how comfortable are you with your child using AI tools for learning, what benefits do you believe AI could offer students, and how important is it to you that the school provides clear guidance on responsible AI use. Ms. Peregoy stated GCPS is using two school-based AI Platforms and then shared a video on School- Based AI Platforms, GCPS AI Guidelines, GCPS Plan for AI Education, and Proposed GCPS AI policy. Ms. Peregoy shared the details of updating policy GAB//IIBEA for responsible and ethical use of generative AI use.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1908, Transportation Update. Ms. Brunelle shared information regarding our transportation department and how it follows Impact 2027. For Culture of Excellence we hold ourselves to the highest standards. Ms. Brunelle shared details regarding our qualified drivers, daily routes, fleet, after school activities and field trips. She also shared safety details such as stop arm cameras, school zone updates and details about the fleet having air conditions, cameras, Here Comes the Bus App, Synovia Tracking and possibility for scan on scan off. She shared Resource Stewardship that included school bus, SPED bus, car and van numbers. She shared all routes are currently full, details of other transportation needs, and maintenance staff. Ms. Brunelle shared the exception workforce that includes office staff, bus drivers and assistants, car and van drivers and maintenance staff. Ms. Brunelle shared some statistics from 2024-2025 and 2025 -2026, maintenance statistics, and reminders for when do I stop for a school bus.

Dr. Pursel, Ms. Brunelle & Ms. Gillette presented information item #11-1909 Core Value Spotlight – Safe, Supportive & Caring Schools. Dr. Pursel stated they were sharing an update on one of the Core Values – Safe Supportive and Caring Schools. Dr. Pursel shared across our schools we have deepened our work in areas such as attendance outreach, emotional wellness, community supports, physical safety and security and cybersecurity. Ms. Gillette shared details on improving student attendance. She shared everyone has a roll to play in increasing attendance parents, students, teachers, counselors and coaches. Ms. Gillette thanked Ms. Woods and Ms. Breeden for piloting our kindergarten home visits. She also shared our preschool program is very strong when it comes to outreach. Stephanie Richards leads the program and she and her staff have had 35 preschool parent meetings and 41 open house visits. Ms. Gillette shared details of the attendance review committee at each school. Ms. Gillette shared the three-prong approach to supporting emotion wellness and that includes prevention, intervention and training. She shared examples of each. Ms. Gillette shared how to increase access to community supports by expanding school-based systems to identify mental health needs, focusing assessment and care team actions to address safety, streamlining bullying reporting and response procedures, establishing Therapeutic day Treatment in every school building, collaborating with National Counseling Group and Readykids for on-site counseling services and partnering with YMCA. Ms. Brunelle shared how we are enhancing physical safety by surveying our current infrastructures, establishing a safety committee, continually revamping our crisis plan and procedures, obtaining and allocating resources, researching new safety equipment, attending and providing professional development opportunities, and actively communicating with community partners. Ms. Brunelle shared all school cameras have been updated, we have had table top exercise with community partners & VDEM, window treatments, new fencing at NGES, vestibule doors at NGPS, upcoming installation of new PA system at GCTEC, plans and professional development and adding Halo devices added to all secondary bathrooms in the division. Ms. Brunelle shared details of what is next: continuing to survey our need and replace current equipment, scan on and scan off for transportation, additional fencing, ECHO Badging for employees, and new improved bus tracking software. Dr. Pursel shared that Ms. Peregoy has already covered the details on the strengthening infrastructure and cybersecurity. Dr. Pursel thanked Dawn and Katie as well as the rest of our staff for everything that they are doing. As we look ahead the commitment for us remains clear we will continue to strength the family partnerships, expand our wellness services and access our physical and digital infrastructure to make sure every kid feels safe, supported and cared for.

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 welcomed Lillie Powers to share Student Board Member Comments. Lillie shared she and Mukund sent out a survey last week and 120 students from the high school filled it out with lots of good information. They were about the bathroom situation and parking at school. Lillie shared the details of the survey. Lillie shared they met with Mr. Wimmer and Dr. Whitmarsh yesterday and they had a really good conversation about everything and trying to come up with possible solutions.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1911, Superintendent's Update. Dr.

Whitmarsh welcomed Lillie. She shared Lillie and Mukund were knocking it out of the park. Dr. Whitmarsh congratulated Ms. Roach on her reelection to the Stanardsville seat. Dr. Whitmarsh also congratulated and welcomed our new Mr. Dave Mastervich. Who is elected to be our Mid-way Representative starting in January. We look forward to working with you over the next four years. Dr. Whitmarsh acknowledge Mukund for the donation of approximately 150 backpacks to our elementary schools. He collected these as part of a National Day of Service working with CWA International the Washington DC Chapter. He collected these all on his own and then reached out and wanted to deliver and we are very appreciative of that. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that in your packet you will see an updated copy of our ERIP Program - Early Retirement Incentive Program which will change as of July 1, 2026. Effective July 1 their will be a set contribution for those who participate and 25 days of service will be required without additional pay. Additionally, those retirees who meet the criteria to participate in that program which is 20 years of service with GCPS will be able to participate for seven years.

Great things are happing in Greene. We recognized Samantha and Tyler and it was great to see Tyler as well. In addition, two middle school students made it into the district choir for 2026 Brooklyn Coleman and Scarlette Lively. The RES Robotics Team is headed to the Regional Robotics Competition on November 26th. The high school girls' volleyball team presented a check for $2100 to the Sentara Breast Center. The funds were raised as part of their Dig Pink Game. We also had three more State Fair Winners DECA Promotional Campaign we had Anna Fortney first place, Betsy Antony third place and Ashley Gonzalez third place. We have had several successful community events such as Dragon Fest, Monster Mash and Trick or Treat with incredibly high turnouts. Rave reviews of the High School Drama Department's production of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. A dozen high school students attended the Girl Power Camp at the VMDEC Training Center. The High School Counselors hosted a FAFSA completion night to provide opportunities for families to receive assistance in filling out their financial aid forms in preparation for applying for colleges and trade schools. Many celebrations across the division on Tuesday to celebrate our Veterans. We had parent conferences last week and we had a steady flow of parents throughout our buildings. The next day was a productive professional development day for staff. Upcoming events we have Winter Activities Tryouts at the high school and next week at the middle school. Tomorrow is the middle school talent show at 5:00 pm. November 19th is National Education Support Professionals Day and November 21st is National Substitute Educators Day. A community announcement the UVA Health Mobile Care will be at the JABA Greene County Community Center every third Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 6:00. It's open to everyone of all ages. They take walk-ins as available. Feeding Greene will be providing break boxes for both Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks this year. These boxes are available to all families with children under 18 and with no income requirements. Thanksgiving Break is coming up November 26-28 no school for students and all schools and offices will be closed. The next BRVGS Board will meet December 10th. The next School Board meeting is December 10th where there will be a hearing on budget priorities.

Mr. Taylor welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Bickers congratulated Lillie for her first board meeting. She said both Lillie and Mukund are already working on so many things and congratulations. She congratulated Tyler and Samantha on their

outstanding achievements. She thanked Ms. Peregoy for all the hard work that she and her team puts in. She is proud to be part of a district that's getting out in front of AI and use it for the good instead of coming in from behind and trying to pick up the pieces. She thanked Ms. Brunelle for all her hard work for transportation, time and their safety and for staff every day. It takes a lot to make all those pieces run. She also thanked Ms. Brunelle, Ms. Gillette and Dr. Pursel it was really great to see ways in which emotional wellness is taking on a forefront. I feel it's growing and being amplified. There was a lot in that presentation. She thanked everyone for all they do.

Ms. Alberts thanked everyone for their presentations and she thanked the board for allowing her to participate electronically.

Ms. Greer congratulated Tyler and Sam for their amazing Merit Scholarship Achievement and State's Cross Country Meet again. Ms. Greer stated she appreciates Ms. Peregoy's robust comprehensive look at both AI and cybersecurity. She thanked Ms. Brunelle for the Transportation Update. She really didn't know all those things. She appreciates getting that information and having a spotlight to celebrate all the accomplishments in the ways we are taking such care and consideration of both the workforce and the busses and the safety of the students. The Safe, Supportive and Caring Schools presentation was great. I appreciate the emphasis on physical safety because kids are not going to learn if they don't feel safe and supported. She thanked Lillie for her presentation it was really great. She thanked Andrea for her update.

Ms. Roach congratulated Tyler and Sam. All the presentations this evening were great. She thanked Lillie for the information she shared about the school bathroom and parking situation. Ms. Roach thanked everyone that came out and vote and she is looking forward to serving the committee another four years.

Mr. Taylor thanked all the presenters and thanked everyone for all they do. Mr. Taylor spoke about Veterans' Day and shared he went to some great presentations at the Nathanael Greene Elementary Schools. Great turnout. He stated Thanksgiving is coming up and he hopes everyone has a chance to be with their family and loved ones during that time and give thanks to those relations. He thanked both student board members for being there and he appreciate what they are doing. Mr. Taylor said he hoped everyone was safe going home.

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 8:40 pm.

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk