Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
January 14, 2026

Members Present: Ms. Kelly Greer, Chair; Ms. Cara Bickers, Vice-Chair; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Mr. Dave Mastervich, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Member; Lillie Powers, Student Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

Dr. Whitmarsh called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Ms. Roach made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to consider and discuss assignment and appointment of specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Board and pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A) (7) to discuss legal matters where discussing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. 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.

Dr. Whitmarsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Dr. Whitmarsh asked for nominations for School Board Chair for 2026.

Ms. Bickers moved to nominate Kelly Greer as School Board Chair.

Dr. Whitmarsh asked if there were any addition nominations. Dr. Whitmarsh stated hearing none nominations are closed. She asked for a motion for Chair.

Ms. Bickers stated I make a motion to approve Kelly Greer as School Board Chair for 2026. Mr. Mastervich seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Greer nominated Cara Bickers for Vice Chair. Ms. Greer asked for additional nominations. There were none.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve Cara Bickers as Vice Chair for 2026. Mr. Mastervich seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested nominations for Clerk and Vice Clerk.

Ms. Bickers nominated Rhonda Houchens as Clerk and Andrea Whitmarsh as Deputy Clerk.

Ms. Greer asked if there were additional nominations. There were none. Ms. Greer asked for a motion.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve Rhonda Houchens as Clerk and Andrea Whitmarsh as Deputy Clerk. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School Representative.

Ms. Bicker's nominated Kelly Greer as the Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School Representative.

Ms. Greer asked if there were additional nominations. There were none. Ms. Greer asked for a motion.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve Kelly Greer as Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School Representative. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for PREP Representative.

Ms. Bickers nominated Cherish Alberts for PREP Representative.

Ms. Greer asked if there were additional nominations. There were none. Ms. Greer asked for a motion.

Ms. Greer made a motion to approve Cherish Alberts as the PREP Representative. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for PREP Alternate Representative.

Ms. Bickers nominated Dave Mastervich for PREP Alternate Representative for 2026.

Ms. Greer asked if there were additional nominations. There were none. Ms. Greer asked for a motion.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve Dave Mastervich as the PREP Alternate Representative for 2026. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested a motion to approve the Schedule of Regular Meetings for Calendar Year 2026.

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the Schedule of Regular Meetings for Calendar Year 2026. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for the VSBA Code of Conduct for the School Board for 2026.

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the VSBA Code of Conduct for the School Board for 2026 as presented in the packet. Ms. Alberts seconded. Ms. Greer stated the Board will certify by roll call vote: Ms. Bickers, Ms. Alberts, Ms. Roach, Mr. Mastervich and the Chair all vote Aye, motion carried.

Ms. Greer 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. Bickers – certified
Ms. Alberts - certified
Ms. Roach – certified
Mr. Mastervich - certified
Ms. Greer – certified.

Ms. Greer requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Bickers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Greer stated there were no closed meeting actions.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-1927 December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
11-1928 December 1, 2025 Expenditures
11-1929 December 10, 2025 Expenditures
11-1930 December 17, 2025 Expenditures
11-1931 December 30, 2025 Expenditures
11-1932 Monthly Finance Report
11-1933 Field Trip Requests
11-1934 Enrollment
11-1935 Staff to be Approved List
11-1936 Religious Exemption

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 11-1927 to 11-1936 as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer stated it was time for first public comment on matters not listed below on agenda. Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment.

There were no public comments at this time, so Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer stated it was time for Recognitions.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Ms. Greer presented framed certificates of recognition to school principals in honor of Principal Recognition Week.

The following principals were recognized:
Kris Wimmer, Jesse Lamm, Patricia Demitry, Adam Midock, Regina Hissong and Danielle Alicea.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1937, Resolution for School Principals. Dr. Whitmarsh read the following:

WHEREAS, principals play a vital role in the success of Greene County Schools by providing instructional leadership, fostering positive school cultures, and ensuring safe, supportive, and effective learning environments for all students; and

WHEREAS, principals serve as instructional leaders, managers, mentors, and advocates, working collaboratively with teachers, staff, students, families, and the community to promote academic excellence and student well-being; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of school principals continue to grow in complexity, requiring dedication, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to meeting the diverse needs of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, Greene County Schools is served by the following dedicated principals:

- **Kris**tofer **Wimmer**, William Monroe High School
- **Patricia Demitry**, William Monroe Middle School
- **Jesse Lamm**, Greene County Technical Education Center
- **Adam Midock**, Nathanael Greene Elementary School
- **Danielle Alicea**, Nathanael Greene Primary School
- **Regina Hissong**, Ruckersville Elementary School

WHEREAS, Principal Appreciation Week provides an opportunity to formally recognize and celebrate the outstanding leadership, professionalism, and service demonstrated by the principals of Greene County Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greene County School Board hereby recognizes and honors all Greene County School principals during Principal Appreciation Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board expresses its sincere gratitude for their leadership, commitment, and tireless efforts in advancing the mission and vision of Greene County Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board encourages students, staff, families, and community members to join in celebrating and thanking our principals for their invaluable contributions to education and to the success of our schools.

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2026, by the Greene County School Board.

Signed: Attested:

Greene County School Board Chair Division Superintendent

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment on Resolution for School Principals. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-1937 Resolution for School Principals.

Ms. Alberts made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1937, Resolution for School Principals as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel, Mr. Alley and Dr. Tynes presented information item #11-1938, Jobs for Virginia Graduates. Dr. Pursel stated they were excited to share how Jobs for Virginia Graduates is continuing to grow and made a real difference for our students in Greene County. Dr. Pursel shared that we are also fortunate to have Antonio Rice President and CEO of Jobs for Virginia Graduates with us tonight. Antonio Rice shared information on JVG mission and the impact this work is having across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Pursel shared that JVG is grant funded. We apply for the grant every spring. He shared we started at the high school then we added the middle school two years ago. The grant amount is $30,000. He shared some information on how the grant is used. Mr. Mike Alley shared information on the JVG program at WMMS also know as Dragon Connections. The presentation included details on daily growth, proven impact, beyond the classroom and refined for experience. Two students spoke about their experiences with Dragon Connections: Izayah Hensley and Khloe Rogers. Mr. Alley shared details on the future for Dragon Connections. Dr. Tynes spoke about the JVG Program at WMHS. The presentation included Career Exploration, Internship Opportunities, Community Service, attending Leadership Conference and Competitions and follow-up. The student's shared how they have been impacted by JVG: Keyry Rodriguez Arias – Alumni; Gloria Danga and Leah Grier. Dr. Tynes shared the end of year outcomes.

The board members thanked the students for speaking and for doing such a fantastic job.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1939, FY2027 Budget Presentation. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she was going to share information on the FY2027 budget. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the Strategic Plan Empowering our Communities Children for Life-Long Success. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the division's vision and core values. The presentation included the VA code mandates that it is the duty of the Superintendent to prepare a budget with an estimate of the amount of money deemed to be needed to support the school division. Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of FY2027 Influencing Factors – Enrollment – our current ADM is 2634.15 students and FY2027 budget planning was ADM of 2728. This is the first year of the new biennium and expected VRS rate 14.14%. The Local Composite Index - this is the first year of the biennium. In FY2027 our LCI will increase to .3703 from .3411. The Composite Index

determines a school division's ability to pay education costs fundamental to the commonwealth's Standards of Quality. It is calculated using: true value of real property 50%, adjusted gross income 40% and taxable retail sales 10%.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared details on the state funding for the FY2026 Caboose Budget. Which is likely to change. 2026 approved budget $28,605,735. Our enrollment went up from 2,634.15 to 2725.90. We are anticipating on receiving $29,808,241. We are expecting to receive more money this year under our current LCI based on additional students. Also included is a 2% bonus payable in June. Things could change. The total cost would be $531,033 the state contribution $301,240 local contribution $229,793.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared details on the state funding for the FY2026 budget based on ADM of 2728 is $27,790.012. It's an increase in student but a decrease in funding. A decrease in funding of $815,723. The Governor's Budget does include a 2% salary increase effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated federal funding runs on a different fiscal year than the state government. We are expecting steady federal funding just over $3 million.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the local funds are the balancing factor. She shared other funds are from sources as rent, regional programs and if we would take in any additional funds like miscellaneous revenue that goes into that number. We are planning on $230,750. Local County Funds is the funds that the board of supervisors is contributing to us. We have had steady funding the last two years.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a breakdown of the VRS rates for FY27.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the projected health insurance increase for FY27. We won't have final numbers until the beginning of February.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared raise percentages for 2%, 3% and 4% raises. Dr. Whitmarsh shared a chart of expenses.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the results of the FY2027 Community Budget Survey. She also shared important areas for supporting students.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the internal process for preparing the budget proposal. FY27 requests submitted are approximately $860,000.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared a FY27 Budget summery and next steps and timeline.

Ms. Greer stated it was time for public comment on information items. Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment. There were none so Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Lillie Powers presented Student Board Member Spotlight. Lillie shared that she and Mukund sent a student budget survey. This survey was very similar to the one that the school sent out. Lillie shared they had 119 students respond. She shared the top three priorities from the survey.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1941, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated she appreciate all the work from JVG and she thanked Dr. Pursel for applying for the grant initially and getting it off the ground to where we are today. Dr. Whitmarsh welcomed Ms. Roach to her second term and she welcomed the new School Board Member Mr. Mastervich. She shared she is looking forward to working them both during the upcoming term. Dr. Whitmarsh also welcomed Matthew Hartung who is now the Board of Supervisor's Liaison to the School Board. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that we have engaged with Wolpert to study with our enrollment. It will be completed later in the spring. Dr. Whitmarsh shared our intent survey has gone out to all staff to indicate whether they intent to return, retire or resign or explore other options. We use this as a starting point in advertising vacancies for the upcoming school. Dr. Whitmarsh shared William Monroe Middle School Band students earned District Band Honors last weekend with Julianna Janson for flute, Asa Swain for bass clarinet, Carlos Acosta-Maldonado for tenor saxophone. High School Band students that earned District Band Honors were Iris Kang for flute, Emma Allen for clarinet and Harmony Layne for bass clarinet. The NG Robotics Team competed at the State Competition last week. The high school scholastic bowl team defeated are undefeated so far this year. Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Nathanael Greene PTO is hosting a magic show on January 24th at the high school. Our first home Medford Basketball game will take place on January 27th at 10:00 am at the high school. On Thursday, January 22nd is the high winter band concert. Ruckersville has a family fun night on January 16th with a soup and chili cookoff and then annual student led science night on February 5th and a family Valentines dance on February 13th. The School Board will hold their budget workshop on January 28th and our next regular school board meeting is Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00 pm where I will share FY27 Budget and there will be a public hearing. I do also want to express my appreciation to the board for your willingness to move the time of the meetings. She thanked them. Dr. Whitmarsh shared our hearts go out to the Marino Family. Rebecca Marino was an educational support staff member at RES and she passed away in December during winter break so please keep her family in your thoughts.

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach stated prayers go out to that family in that difficult time and prayers for our staff. She thanked JVG for coming and speaking and all the students that spoke that was wonderful. Ms. Roach stated that as a board member she has been big part of different pay increases for the school. Stipends for our coaching staff increased, our transportation department all saw increases, our secretarial and support staff saw increases and this year I really want to focus on our teachers. They are more than deserving. They go above and beyond everyday and we would not be here without them. I'm going to push for as much as I can for them because I find they deserve every bit of it. That's a goal of mine for

this year. She thanked everyone for coming tonight. Hopefully we can meet on the 28th and have more discussion about that.

Ms. Alberts said she was super excited about JAG and JVG programs. She congratulated the district band honors, robotics and scholastic bowl team. She asked for prayers for the Marino Family. She shared a loss from over the holiday. She shared a former teacher Leonard Leta had passed away in December. Prayers and thoughts to his family as well.

Mr. Mastervich thanked anyone that might have voted for him. He shared he is really excited to serve on this distinguished board. He shared he had the opportunity to tour each school yesterday. It was impressive. These people are doing tough work and they are doing a lot. Every principal knew every kids name. He shared the presentations were great. He shared some thoughts on the budget. He told Lillie she was a tremendous connection. He thanked her and Mukund. He congratulated the robotics team. He stated he looks forward to being in this job a bit longer and how he can help.

Ms. Bickers congratulated all the students and the robotics team. Having the student here tonight was her favorite part. Ms. Bickers stated she wants to send her condolences to the Marino Family and to Cherish as well. Ms. Bickers shared Dr. Whitmarsh is doing a fantastic job. Ms. Bickers stated she appreciates Dr. Tynes and all the work she is doing and Mr. Alley as well. These students are having some excellent opportunities. Ms. Bickers shared the budget season is upon us and seems a little more challenging. She looks forward to working with everybody and trying to help anyway we can. She thanked all the presenters. She stated I think we are all in agreement that our staff is the most important part and we can't do it without them so we will work really hard to do the increases that we can.

Ms. Greer gave her condolences to the losses in our school community. She thanked the principals for the work that you do and hopefully you felt a little recognized this evening. The JVG program is a cool thing. Looks like it's hitting a lot of marks for that long-lasting success for these students and our 3 E's. She thanked Lillie and Mukund for the student survey. She congratulated the band and robotics team. We have amazing students talented students in our community. We have great teachers to support them in their goals. Ms. Greer shared thank you for me being in this new roll and I hope I do it justice.

Ms. Greer requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting ended at 7:34 pm.

Kelly Greer

Chair

Rhonda Houchens

Clerk