Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
March 11, 2026

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

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

Ms. Bickers 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. Ms. Roach seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Bickers moved to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Mr. Mastervich seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

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 – abstain (she did not attend closed session)
Ms. Roach – certified
Mr. Mastervich - certified
Ms. Greer – certified

Ms. Greer requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Roach 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:

11-1959 February 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes
11-1960 February 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
11-1961 February 25, 2026 Budget Proposal Meeting Minutes
11-1962 February 9, 2026 Expenditures
11-1963 February 19, 2026 Expenditures
11-1964 Monthly Finance Report
11-1965 Field Trip Requests
11-1966 Enrollment
11-1967 Staff to be Approved List
11-1968 Religious Exemptions
11-1969 Approval of Hearing Officers

Ms. Bickers moved to approve the consent agenda items 11-1959 to 11-1969 as presented. Mr. Mastervich 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. Hissong presented information item #11-1970, RES Spotlight. Ms. Hissong shared this year's theme was "Saddle up for Success". Ms. Hissong shared the academic growth for the 2024-2025 school year and goals for students. Ms. Gozzard spoke about Culture of Excellence, shared goals for teachers and staff, and Exceptional Workforce. Ms. Hissong highlighted the Connections with Community and upcoming events at RES. A video was shared featuring Mr. Ussery who was an Innovation Grant Winner. He shared details of STEM on Wheels. Another Innovation Grant Winner Ms. Wu and some of her students shared information on "Artful Minds Club". Kristie Via shared information on the book club. Ms. Hissong shared some additional information about clubs offered at the school.

Ms. Lamm presented information item #11-1971, Perkins FY27 Plan. Ms. Lamm stated she was sharing our local plan under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act for your review and consideration. She shared the purpose of Perkins funding and gave a funding overview. The income for this year was $54,623.10. Ms. Lamm shared CTE Enrollment by Course for 2025-2026, CTE Enrollment by grade for 2025-2026, and monitoring CTE program success. She also shared comprehensive local needs assessment, identified priorities and shared a chart for the Perkins Budget Allocation. Ms. Lamm shared planned investments for 2026-2027 and CTE & Workforce Alignment – Maximizing Perkins Impact.

Ms. Dojack presented information item #11-1972 Title VIB Plan. Ms. Dojack shared this is the annual plan for special education for federal funding. Ms. Dojack shared the distribution of funds. She explained the difference between Section 611 & 619. Ms. Dojack shared the allocation for Section 611 and the roles funded with Section 611 federal dollars. Ms. Dojack shared the allocation for Section 619 and shared a portion pays the Preschool Coordinator Salary. The application was included in the packet.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1973 Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared he was presenting the February 2026 Policy Updates. He noted a brief summary of policies included in the packet and most changes are minimal and formatting adjustments. He also shared VSBA has a new director of legal and policy services many of the changes are a fresh view of the policies. Example changes from shall to will. He highlighted a few of the policies. Dr. Pursel said this presentation is for information this evening and action at the April meeting.

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 some upcoming events for seniors. May 1st is Decision Day. May 4th Early Scholars Night. May 7th Senior Awards and Scholarship Ceremony. May 8th Senior Trip to Hershey Park. May 11th PVCC Graduation. May 12th Capping Ceremony. May 15th Elementary School walk the halls. May 16th is Graduation. Lillie shared her plans after Graduation.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-1975, FY2027 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared our School Board Adopted budget has gone before the Board of Supervisors. The counties budget workshop will continue tomorrow at 5:30 pm. The tax rate advertisement will be decided tomorrow. Dr. Whitmarsh desperately encouraged everyone to attend and support our schools and budget requests. Dr. Whitmarsh shared she has presented to every faculty except for the high school and that's tomorrow. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Mr. Hartung our School Board Liaison to the Board of Supervisors. He's the new member representing Mid-way District. He has done a fantastic job so far as our liaison and has definitely been an activate for the schools. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Mr. Kozuch. He has been around and about with all these numbers since we started this process in January. She stated we appreciate all you have done.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared that with the state level we are supposed to have a state budget by Saturday and it's supposed to be shared 48 hours in advance which would be tomorrow. The House and Senate version are way apart. They are talking about a special session in May.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1976, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated great job on presentations. Dr. Whitmarsh congratulated Samantha Nitzsche for placing 4th in the 1600 meter and 2400 meter State Indoor Track Competition. Last Saturday our Middle School National History Day students competed in NHD Region 4 Competition. There were 11 projects from our middle school. Eights students will go on and participate in the state competition on April 25th. DECA had their State Competition this month. Sebastian Nunez received top score in Principals of Business Management and Administration competition, placing 8th overall in the State and qualifying for Nationals. Natalie Allen and Calais Shrum placed 1st in Travel & Tourism Marketing Team Decision Making. Dr. Daphne Tynes our sponsor was named Outstanding Advisor Award.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared we heard about RES One School One Book Night. Nathanael Greene also hosted Bingo Night which is also a very popular activity in this area. We celebrated National Maintenance Worker Appreciation. Read Across America Week was celebrated across the division and we also celebrated National Foreign Language Week. Lots of events coming up. Tomorrow night is Dragon Magic Showcase starting at 4:30 at the middle school. Stream night and science fair at Nathanael Greene beginning at 5:30. On the 19th of March we have Nathanael Greene cooking night. Kindergarten Registration is coming up. Job Fair on March 25th at the high school. March 26th College Career Expo. Arts Festival on March 28th from 10-4. We have updated regulation GEB-R about Kindergarten Registration. The PREP board meeting is next Wednesday, March 18th and Mr. Mastervich will be joining us as the alternate that day. The next board meeting will take place Wednesday, April 1st that is a change due to the next week being Spring Break. This was voted on in January.

Ms. Greer stated before board member comments she wanted to take a moment to express appreciation and celebration for Ms. Houchens on her retirement. The board showed their appreciation.

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Roach shared that all the presentations were wonderful. She thanked the hospitality class for providing the snacks before the meeting. As always it was delicious. Ms. Roach shared her thoughts on placing a suggestion box/comment box for teachers to write down any comments or thoughts that they might have and place in the box. She shared she was presenting this as a way for teachers to be able to say how they feel. She would like other people thoughts on that. She also stated that if you are listening to this and you are a teacher and you want to reach out to me I believe my phone number is on the website. This was brought to me at the beginning of the school year and I want people to know and your voices are heard. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Mr. Mastervich thanked everyone for being there tonight and he thanked everyone for being there tomorrow night. It's important. Mr. Mastervich shared RES Science Night was great. He said he loved the idea of Kindergarten signing night and after school clubs. He spoke about the Perkins, Title VIB and Policy presentations.

Ms. Bickers spoke about the RES presentation and how she loved it. She thanked everyone for their presentations and hard work. She congratulated everyone who participated in the DECA competitions. She said thank you for the snacks and thanks for everything.

Ms. Alberts shared her thoughts on the RES presentation and thanked them for what they do. She congratulated CTE and athletes that run across finish lines. She congratulated Dr. Tynes, she is extraordinary. Ms. Alberts shared thoughts on comfort levels on sharing thoughts on surveys. It is important for staff to feel like they can express concerns without fear of retribution and that's really hard for some folks. It's also hard to help whatever their concern is without being able to have a conversation. The question is how would you take a concern on paper to actually do something to help with what's on paper if you can't have a conversation with the person. Ms. Alberts congratulated Lillie.

Ms. Greer stated the RES Spotlight was great. She loved the clubs are expanded to younger kids. She really appreciates that there are teachers wanting to stay after. She thanked everyone for their presentations and for keeping us informed. Congrats to the students in the various competitions. She thanked the school staff and Dr. Whitmarsh for continuing to show up for these Board of Supervisor meeting and to have meetings outside of those meetings. She said thank you very much. She shared some information about the budget process.

Ms. Alberts shared her thoughts on balanced calendar and passion projects.

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

Meeting ended at 7:09 pm.

Kelly Greer

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk