Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
April 1, 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. Greer 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. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Ms. Greer called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 – certified
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. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence.

Ms. Greer stated there were no closed meeting actions.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-1977 March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes
11-1978 March 3, 2026 Expenditures
11-1979 March 12, 2026 Expenditures
11-1980 March 23, 2026 Expenditures
11-1981 Monthly Finance Report
11-1982 Field Trip Requests
11-1983 Enrollment
11-1984 Staff to be Approved List
11-1985 Religious Exemption

Ms. Bickers moved to approve the consent agenda items 11-1977 to 11-1985 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.

Dr. Demitry presented information item #11-1986, WMMS Spotlight. Dr. Demitry and Mr. Ulrich shared the work at WMMS is aligned with the Strategic Plan. Dr. Demitry shared that in building a culture of excellence they are focused on setting high expectations and while creating meaningful opportunities to celebrate learning. This year they continued their one book one school initiative. They also hosted their 2nd Annual Dragon Magic Academic Showcase. Mr. Ulrich shared information on professional growth for staff with in the school. Mr. Ulrich shared programs available for families and students. Dr. Demitry shared new electives that were available for students this year. Dr. Demitry shared that safe and supportive schools remains the center of their work. Dr. Demitry shared details of social and emotional learning in the classroom. She stated they are focused on building a positive and connected school culture and gave examples of experiences that take place at the school. Dr. Demitry shared a video with two students showing the middle school in action. Dr. Demitry introduced Ms. Keyser and some of her students that spoke about the agriculture program at WMMS. Mr. Waters and two students highlighted the guitar program by playing two songs. Ms. Beasley and a student shared details of the STEM program.

Ms. Lamm presented action item #11-1987, Perkins FY27 Plan. Ms. Lamm shared there has not been any changes since the last board meeting. Ms. Lamm offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve action item #11-1987 Perkins FY27 Plan as presented. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Dojack presented action item #11-1988 Title VIB Plan. Ms. Dojack offered to answer any questions and shared that the plan was shared with the advisory committee and there were no changes.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve action item #11-1988 Title VIB Plan as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-1989 Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel asked if there were any questions regarding the policy updates. There has been no changes and he recommended the board approve the policies as presented.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve action item #11-1989 Policy Updates as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Mitchem presented information item #11-1990 Exceptional Workforce. Dr. Mitchem shared forces that propel the exceptional workforce. She shared the details of recruitment through social media, and relying on community for recruitment. Dr. Mitchem spoke about Proud to be Educators and addressing the root cause. She shared the process of staffing a school division, Educator & Support Staff of the Year, National Techer Appreciation Week, The 3 Languages of Appreciation, and Word of Mouth Travels Fast. Dr. Mitchem shared a video.

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.

Mukund Marri presented Student Board Member Spotlight. Mukund shared details of a meeting he had with Ms. Brunelle and Mr. Wimmer regarding the athletic director position opening. They talked about all sports and all ages Freshman to Senior. He felt the discussion went well. Things that did come up were practice space, scheduling and making sure different programs across the school are supported in a fair way. Also, wanting someone that was approachable and wanting to listen when they come. Mukund said with teacher appreciation coming up he wanted to share how a teacher that has had a big impact on him. He spoke about the support he has from the current athletic director. Mukund thanked Dr. Whitmarsh and the board for giving him the opportunity to be a part of this and he thanked Mr. Wimmer.

Dr. Whitmarsh said she hoped Mukund would consider applying again next year. She said his gifts have been very evident in this role and she said she appreciates him.

The board members shared their thoughts on having Mukund and Lillie as student board members.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-1992, FY2027 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the General Assembly ended their session without agreeing on a budget. As such, there will be a special session beginning April 23. We hope to have a state budget soon after that time.

The Board of Supervisors advertised a 3-cent tax increase in order to increase revenue. However, we are not expected to be the recipient of those funds. They have stated that we will have funds to cover a 3% salary increase (aligned with cost of living) as well as coverage of the health insurance increase.

Those additional costs are expected to come from our capital fund. The capital fund is our unspent budgetary funds each year since 2014 have gone into a capital fund to pay for future projects.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated great presentations with evening. The middle school kids did a great job.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared along with waiting on the state budget, we are also waiting to hear about new legislation when the General Assembly reconvenes. Of particular interest are bills on collective bargaining, paid medical leave, diabetes management, SOL assessments, and sales tax for school facilities.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the following celebrations:

- Congratulations to our WMHS Debate students for an outstanding performance at Debate Super Regionals.
  Joseph Sjordal earned an impressive 4th place finish in Lincoln-Douglas, while the team of Kingston Roach and Mukund Marri took home 1st place in Public Forum!
  All three will advance to the State Debate Tournament next month—an incredible achievement!
  Congratulations as well to James Rawlings, who was named 1st alternate for Student Congress.

- Congratulations to our WMMS Destination Imagination students for their successful showing at this year's competition.
  - 4th place in Fine Arts: Jayda Johnson, Hailey Fiduk, Molly Venard, Majdia Farhat, and Kali Smith.
  - 3rd Place (Medaled) in Technical Challenge: Brennan Singer, Olin Shrum, Mason Greer, Grey Venard, Asa Swain, Adam Schiller.
  - 1st Place (Globals Qualified) in Engineering: Zaika Faiz, Chiarra Sevilles, Cooper Cellon, Abdullah Abdulkareem, John Giegerich

Dr. Whitmarsh shared some upcoming events:

- April 2 - RES Welcome for New Families Breakfast 8:30-9:15 am
- April 2 - The Pathways to Prosperity Personal Finance Fair and Seminar for seniors will take place on April 2 at WMHS.
- April 3 - Kindergarten is hosting a "Meet your community Helpers" day and many emergency vehicles will be present at RES for our students to learn from and explore.
- April 16 - Nathanael Greene Rock the Test at 5:30pm as a kick off to SOL testing season.
- April 23 - Educator of the Year/Support Staff Member of the Year Banquet
- April 24 from 5:30-7 pm and April 25 from 1:30-3:00 pm Public Performances of the RES school play - 101 Dalmatians
- April 27 from 4-7 pm Kindergarten Registration
- April 30 - PTA sponsored Walk-A-Thon for all students during specials
- May 1st - Decision Day & 3E Signing Day at WMHS.
- Next week is spring break. All schools will be closed April 6-10.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared our next board meeting will take place Wednesday, May 13. Each building shared their Educator and Support Staff Member of the Year and she congratulated those folks.

High School
Thomas Mallory & Heidi Kozuch

Middle School
Anne Beasley & Cole Arbogast

NGS
Nicole Haugh & Melinda Morton

RES
George Parker & Lisa Morris

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Bickers shared the spotlights are some of her favorite things of the year. The kids are the most important part. She shared appreciates all the campaigns that are going on and everything everyone is doing. She shared thoughts on the social media presence and ways to meet the most people. Ms. Bickers said the Mukund was doing an excellent job and she encouraged him to do it again.

Mr. Mastervich spoke about the middle school presentation and how well the kids spoke. They did a tremendous job. He spoke about the Exception Workforce presentation and social media. Great job on that. He spoke about the policy updates. He told Mukund he was doing a great job and spoke about track. Good job to the community and kids.

Ms. Alberts shared she enjoyed watching the middle school presentation and passion projects. She shared her thoughts on SOL's and testing anxiety. Ms. Alberts thank all our people for everything they do.

Ms. Roach thanked the middle school for their presentation. The highlights with the Ag class and guitar class were amazing. She said the Exceptional Workforce was a great presentation. She shared her thoughts on compensating teachers for their hard work. We will do what we can. Ms. Roach mentioned in months moving forward moving the meeting to Mondays instead of Wednesdays. It would be nice to get some input about that and discuss that. She thanked Mukund for what he had done and the feedback he has brought back to the board. Ms. Roach share she appreciates everything he has done.

Ms. Greer thanked Becky for sharing about the day change. She asked Dr. Whitmarsh to check with the staff to see if it's a workable day and have the conversation with the board. She thanked Dr. Demitry for the middle school spotlight. It's exciting and great to see about other programs. She thanked Dr. Mitchem for her presentation as well and spoke about the social media campaigns. Keep up the good

work. She told Mukund he does a great job and him and Lillie worked well together. Ms. Greer shared that the budget public hearing coming up at the end of this month. It's the last chance for your voice to be heard and or email the Board of Supervisors. She shared she got to attend a Destination Imagination this past Saturday and it was awesome to see what those kids are doing and how rich education can be. Ms. Greer spoke about watching BRVGS cap stone this week. They did an amazing job. She spoke about spring sports and congratulated those participating in those. She congratulated Educators and Support Staff Members of the Year. Ms. Greer spoke about teacher appreciation and how the board appreciates them.

Ms. Alberts shared she is really disappointed with what is happening with the budget. She shared not only are they not willing to give us a penny from what has been cut from the state but the increase in our health insurance which we as a board are always been committed to not passing that along to our employees and then also trying to pay folks better and stretch out our scale. Not only are they not willing to support any of that the amount negativity that I am hearing from Board of Supervisors and or the community members they are talking to I am disheartened and makes me sick to my stomach and when I think about our Board of Supervisors not supporting our school systems and not seeing the value of what is happening in our building. It's really frustrating.

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

Meeting ended at 7:28 pm.

Kelly Greer
Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens
Clerk