Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
June 10, 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; Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

Ms. Greer called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. Greer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Ms. Roach moved to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, 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
Mr. Mastervich - certified
Ms. Alberts – certified
Ms. Roach – 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 requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-2012 May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
11-2013 May 8, 2026 Expenditures
11-2014 May 14, 2026 Expenditures
11-2015 May 21, 2026 Expenditures
11-2016 May 29, 2026 Expenditures
11-2017 Monthly Finance Report
11-2018 Enrollment
11-2019 Staff to be Approved List
11-2020 Reappointment of Support Staff

Ms. Alberts moved to approve the consent agenda items 11-2012 to 11-2018 & item 11-2020 as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve consent agenda item 11-2019 as presented. Mr. Bickers seconded. No discussion.

Cara Bickers – Aye
David Mastervich – Aye
Cherish Alberts – Aye
Kelly Greer – Aye
Rebecca Roach – Nah

Motion carried.

Ms. Greer & Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognitions to the following students:

Samantha Nitzsche

Ms. Greer shared:

Tonight, we are proud to recognize an extraordinary student-athlete whose accomplishments have brought tremendous pride to William Monroe High School and our entire community.

Junior Samantha Nitzsche recently delivered a remarkable performance at the VHSL Class 3 State Championships, capturing two State Championships and setting two new state records in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter events.

These achievements alone would be exceptional, but what makes Samantha's accomplishment even more impressive is that they add to an already outstanding collection of state titles earned throughout her high school career. Her success is a testament to countless hours of training, unwavering determination, and a commitment to excellence that inspires those around her.

Please join me in congratulating Samantha Nitzsche on her two newest State Championships, two new state records, and her continued legacy as one of the most accomplished runners in William Monroe High School history.

Congratulations, Samantha! We are incredibly proud of you.

Mukund Marri - Junior WMHS

Ms. Greer shared Mukund is an exceptional student leader who has served as the Lead Junior Volunteer Representative at UVA Health and as a Student Leadership Council (SLC) leader within the Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School (BRVGS) program. He is committed to strengthening student voice and engagement and hopes to continue serving as a student board member during the 2026–2027 school year, working to improve two-way communication.

This year, Mukund was a State Debate Champion, demonstrating outstanding critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills. Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, at competitive events, or in his many service and leadership roles, Mukund consistently demonstrates excellence, integrity, and a dedication to helping those around him grow and succeed.

Lillie Powers - Senior WMHS

Ms. Greer shared Lillie is a dedicated student leader who exemplifies service and mentorship. As a sports team captain and volunteer mentor for younger students, she leads by example, encouraging teamwork and support. In the classroom, she naturally takes on leadership roles during group projects, helping peers collaborate and succeed.

Known for her positive attitude, welcoming personality, and ability to connect with anyone, Lillie has built strong relationships across the WMHS and Greene County community. Her ever-present smile and genuine care for others make those around her feel valued and included.

Now as a graduate of William Monroe, Lillie plans to attend James Madison University and participate in the ROTC program, continuing her commitment to leadership and service. Her long-term goal is to provide therapy and counseling to veterans and military service members through her leadership, compassion, and dedication to helping others.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Sizemore stated he wanted to propose to the board to consider to review adopting adding black as third offical color for the school. Mr. Sizemore shared his rational. He shared the results of his informal poll.

Dr. Payne presented information item #11-2021, Federal Applications. Dr. Payne stated she was there to answer any qustions they may have after reviewing the title application. There have been no changes to the application or how the funds will be distributed. She shared she is happy to answer any questions and then ask for your approval of the application.

Mr. Mastervich asked how come Title I has employee benefits and none of the other do?

Dr. Payne responded for each application it's very specific. Title II is all for personal but it's not enough to cover personnel and benefits. In Title I there is a larger amount so there is more to cover some of those like FICA.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2021, Federal Applications I, II, III, & IV.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve action item 11-2021 the 2026-2027 Federal Applications I, II, III, & IV as presented. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-2022, Superintendent Designee. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the proposal is to allow Kyle Pursel, Assistant Superintendent to serve as Superintendent Designee in my absence.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for Superintendent Designee. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2022, Superintendent Designee.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve information/action item 11-2022; Superintendent Designee as presented to approve Dr. Kyle Pursel as the authorized designee to sign in the absence of the Division Superintendent for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-2023, Authorization to Hire. Dr. Whitmarsh shared at this time we still have several positions unfilled and changes that will occur. We are working hard to find and interview candidates so that we have the right people to begin the year. Things move very quickly in the summer. In order to be efficient and quickly get work agreements to new hires, I ask that I be given authorization to hire prior to September 9, 2026.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for Authorization to Hire. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2023, Authorization to Hire.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve information/action item 11-2023; Authorization for Superintendent to Hire as presented to authorize division Superintendent's ability to hire through September 9, 2026. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-2024, Longevity Bonus. Dr. Whitmarsh shared this item will be for information and action and she welcomed all questions, thoughts and perspectives. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the purpose and details of the longevity bonus which included the total cost. She

shared who would be receving the bonus and the amount of the bonuses. Dr. Whitmarsh stated that her recommendation was to approve the longevity bonus for the eligible employees.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for Longevity Bonus. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Roach stated: I have a personal interest in the longevity bonus by virtue of my husband's employment by the School Board. However, as the spouse of a teacher at GCPS, I am a member of a large group of individuals in the community who are affected by the School Board's budget and I am able to participate in discussions and vote on matters fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2024, Longevity Bonus.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve the Longevity Bonus for eligible employees based on contracted years of service with Greene County Public Schools. Ms. Alberts seconded. No discussion. Ms. Greer requested a roll call vote:

Cara Bickers – Aye
David Mastervich – Aye
Cherish Alberts – Aye
Rebecca Roach – Aye
Kelly Greer – Aye

Motion carried.

Dr. Payne presented action item #11-2025, Social Studies Curriculum. Dr. Payne shared she was there to present information and action an approval of a textbook for 7th Grade Civics and 4th Grade Virginia Studies. Dr. Payne shared the jusification and process for the process. She shared more information on the Virginia Studies and Civics and Government textbooks. The cost for the Virginia Studies textbook for each 4th grader would be $9,000.

Ms. Alberts asked if there was a pdf version of the textbooks and Dr. Payne responded no.

Dr. Payne shared the cost for the Civics textbook would be $3,000. Dr. Payne shared that this was an information/action item and it may seem quick but if we are moving forward with it she would like to have them in the hands of teachers when they come back in August.

Ms. Bickers asked about the approved list and when we might receive one? Dr. Payne responded no.

Ms. Greer stated she believes Dr. Payne when she said she's confident that these will be on the future list but what makes you so confident? Dr. Payne responded one because it's on the current list that's currently approved. It's one of the few textbooks that is Virginia specific.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for Social Studies Curriculum . There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2025, Social Studies Curriculum.
Ms. Bickers moved to approve information/action item 11-2025 Social Studies Textbook Adoption as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-2026, May Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel shared he was presenting the May 2026 Updates as an information item then in August as an action item. Dr. Pursel shared some new policies: ILBC, JS, JLB, and KPA. He also provided a revision summary with changes noted.

Ms. Bicker's asked about the college entrance exam time and location. Dr. Pursel said we would provide transportation.

Mr. Mastervich noted on page 30 there is information about nutrition and one of the comments is only allowed 30 fundraising events in a building. He made a suggestion to start a president's club. It was an organization of all the presidents of all the different clubs so we could coordinate fundraising so you weren't stepping on each other toes.

Mr. Mastervich noted that on page 56 there was a typo.

Ms Peregoy presented information item #11-2027, VPSA Technology Grant. Ms. Peregoy shared this was a state grant that we have historically applied for and received every year. We will do the same this upcoming school year. It's intended to support technology infrastructure for learning. She shared what the grant is used for and what eligible purchases may include. This will be up for action in August. The resolution is in the packet.

Ms. Bicker's asked what was the money going to be used for the upcoming school year. Ms. Peregory responded Chromebooks will be a big part of it and some infrastructure.

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 thanked the board for allowing her to have this incredible opportunity for leadership and being able to see what goes on here. She shared some of the good things that happended like bringing the student voices here. She thinks the board listened here. It helped bridge the gap. Lillie stated that for next year she thinks it would be really important to get what happens here back to the high schoolers. She suggested that after each meeting the student representatives could put something together and give to the school news to put on the news the day after the meeting. Everyone would have to listen instead of sending out an email. She really is so thankful for this and the opportunity.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared Superintendent Updates:

Dr. Whitmarsh stated she was very pleased to announce that Jesse Lamm will be the new Principal of William Monroe Middle School starting July 1. We are excited to welcome Jesse to this new role in our division.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the Supplemental Appropriation last night with the BOS for FY26 was approved. In addition, they voted to appropriate the FY27 budget. However, at this time we still do not have a state budget. We will continue to monitor the situation at the state level and are hopeful we will have a budget to begin the FY27 fiscal year on July 1.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated summer school is in full swing and will run until June 26. 128 elementary students are participating in the "Level Up!" Summer School Program to strengthen reading and mathematics skills through engaging instruction and personalized learning using resources such as IXL, Lexia, Benchmark Advance, and Kiddom. Students also enjoy enrichment activities, including participation in the community-wide Beach Read in Day and a miniature golf field trip that promoting teamwork and problem-solving. The program will conclude with a special celebration, including a gaming truck experience made possible through the generosity of local community organizations and donors.

William Monroe Middle School's Dragon Quest Summer Learning Program is serving 47 students, including 30 general education students and 17 adapted special education students. The program combines academic support in reading, writing, and mathematics with engaging STEM experiences through Lego Spike Prime, passion projects, and hands-on learning opportunities. Students are also participating in weekly field trips to local destinations such as Chiles Orchard and Highland Golf, helping connect classroom learning to real-world experiences while building relationships and confidence.

William Monroe High School continues to provide a variety of summer learning opportunities to support both credit recovery and original credit coursework for students. Approximately 12–15 students are participating in summer credit recovery courses in Geometry, Environmental Science, and English 9–11. In addition, roughly 10 students are enrolled in original credit courses through Virtual Virginia. WMHS staff are also leading several in-person summer courses for original credit, including approximately 80 students enrolled in Economics and Personal Finance, about 20 students enrolled in Health/PE 10, and approximately 15 students enrolled in Health/PE 9. Additionally, students are continuing work to complete approximately 30–35 courses from the 2025–2026 school year through Edgenuity.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared the following:

Athletics

- Softball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Track all had student athletes compete in the postseason
    - Softball traveled to Skyline in the Regional Quarter Finals and lost
    - Girls Soccer Won both the Quarter Final and Semi Final (in Penalty Kicks) before losing a close one at Kettle Run in the Regional Final. As Regional Runner-Ups they went to Tabb High School to play in the VHSL State Quarter Final. They won and will travel to Emory and Henry to take on Cave Spring in the State Semi Finals on Friday.
    - Boys Soccer Won the regional quarter finals before losing a close one at Meridian in the Regional Semi Finals

- Last weekend we had several student athletes compete in the State Track Meet. Elizabeth Kelpe, Lianna Jackson, Josef Sjordal finished 6th in the shot put, Mia Waller placed 8th in the high jump, Samantha Nitzsche won both the 1600 and 3200 and set new state records in each.
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Summer Projects

- It has been a busy start to summer around campus and in our buildings.
  - We are in the process of replacing the security cameras in the Athletic Facility and updating all the servers in the division to a new platform
  - We have had and continue to complete painting projects in all buildings in the division
  - We are replacing the hot water heaters and tanks in the kitchen at NGES
  - We will be replacing the entire roof at NGPS, and portions of each roof at WMMS and WMHS
  - On Monday we will begin resurfacing the track and the stadium will be closed for approximately 2 weeks
  - We will begin work on the athletic fields in the coming weeks
  - We are in the process of replacing 18 air conditioning units at NGPS
  - We had the roof top air conditioning units at WMHS replaced last week
  - We will continue to work through the maintenance list from the building for general maintenance projects

Dr. Whitmarsh stated we will hold a board retreat on July 8. We will welcome new teachers on July 27 and the return of the rest of staff on August 3. Our annual back to school carnival will take place Saturday, August 1 from 9-12. Our first day of school will be August 11 and our next board meeting will take place Wednesday, August 12.

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Ms. Bickers congratulated all our student athletes. She thanked Mukund and Lillie for participating in this process. She really appreciates all they have done. Ms. Bicker's congratulated Jesse Lamm. She shared she is very happy for her. She thanked all the other presenters. She thanked her fellow board members. She thanked Dr. Whitmarsh for all her information and leadership as well.

Mr. Mastervich thanked Mukund and Lillie. He stated they were excellent and wish Lillie good luck. He shared his experience at the state track meet and details of Samantha's races. Mr. Masterivch thanked everyone for their presentations. He stated he was 1,000 percent behind the tech grant stuff. He thanked Ms. Lamm for stepping up and saying she wanted to lead the school and we appreciate you doing it.

Ms. Roach shared she thought adding black as a school color would be amazing. Ms. Roach stated she appreciate Mukund and Lillie so much. She is glad and honored they were here. She congratulated Jesse. Ms. Roach spoke about the longevity bonus and stated it's the least we can do and hopefully the teachers feel appreciated. She stated she would like to see salary increases somehow someway. They are the reason why we do what we do and they teach our kids. Ms. Roach spoke about moving the meeting to Mondays and discussing that. She thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Greer shared it has been an honor to serve with Mukund and Lillie. It has been a great experience. She shared our school is full of talented students and educators and coaches that are supporting them. She gave a shout out to the National History Day Students that are participating this weekend. Good luck to them. She spoke about the longevity bonus and how it is directly tied to our board goals were. Ms. Greer shared we are not giving what we wanted because it wasn't provided to us to give. We are able to do something and this is the way we were able to implement that. She spoke about the summer programs.

Ms. Alberts shared everything is amazing. Ms. Alberts shared she wanted to use the board comments this evenving to briefly address cultrial sesitivity, learning differences and racisim in our schools. Everyone of our students deserves to feel safe, respected and valued. Our various backgrounds, cultures and abilities and learning styles strengthen our school community and help prepare students for the world around them. We need to recognize the racism, discrimination and bias can harm students' learning, their wellbeing and their sense of belonging. When any student feels excluded beause of their race, culture, disablity for learning differences it effects our entire community. Cultural sensativity is about treating others with dignity and respect. It means listening, learning, and being mindful of how our actions impact those around us. It also means recognizing that students learn in diffent ways and ensuring each child has the support they need to succeed. As a board we are all committed I'm sure to fostering an environment where every student feels welcomed, included and empowered to reach their full potential. I specifically want to ask all of us to work together to foster an environment where respect is expected and every child knows they belong. I would also like to offer to meet with members of our greater community within the schools and without to help us to move in a positive direction in these areas. Thank you.

Ms. Bickers spoke about the longevity bonus and how important for us to do and we would like to do more. We thank the teachers for all they do.

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

Meeting ended at 7:14 pm.

Kelly Greer
Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens
Clerk