Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
August 12, 2026

Members Present: Ms. Kelly Greer, Chair; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Mr. Dave Mastervich, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, 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. 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)(2) to discuss matters involving the application of policy to a student that will involve the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records. 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. Roach moved to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Mr. Mastervich 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.

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

Ms. Greer requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Roach moved 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 followed by a Moment of Silence.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for the consent agenda:

11-2030 June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes
11-2031 July 8, 2026 Retreat Minutes
11-2032 June 5, 2026 Expenditures
11-2033 June 18, 2026 Expenditures
11-2034 June 29, 2026 Expenditures
11-2035 June 30, 2026 Expenditures
11-2036 July 13, 2026 Expenditures
11-2037 July 14, 2026 Expenditures
11-2038 July 15, 2026 Expenditures
11-2039 July 21, 2026 Expenditures
11-2040 July 28, 2026 Expenditures
11-2041 July 31, 2026 Expenditures
11-2042 Monthly Finance Report
11-2043 Enrollment
11-2044 Field Trip Requests
11-2045 Staff to be Approved List
11-2046 Religious Exemptions

Ms. Alberts moved to approve the consent agenda items 11-2030 to 11-2044 & item 11-2046 as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve consent agenda item 11-2045 as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded.

Ms. Roach shared the following statement: As some of you may have noticed, at many of our meetings we have a roll call vote to approve staff. I have been voting no or nah. I want to write clarity and inform the community and most importantly our staff as to why I am voting this way. As a board member, my primary role is to employ the Superintendent and to hold them accountable. When we are asked to vote on staff approvals we are given very little information on the candidates. We do not review applications nor do we have a voice on who receives a school contract. The decision is ultimately made by the Superintendent. That final step in the current process asks board members to essentially rubber stamp our names on these hires without knowing their qualifications or backgrounds. I simply do not feel comfortable signing by name to a process where I have no actual oversight. I apologize if my intentions have been taken out of context. It was never my intent to hurt anyone, nor does it mean that I disagree with every individual hire. In fact, I didn't even approve my own husband's contract. To look at the broader picture, we have recently hired someone who was fired from a previous position. We have also hired several teachers on provisional contracts who do not hold a teaching certificate. Some of whom are placed in classrooms that do not align with their degree of study. The point I'm trying to make is that I will not simply rubber stamp my decision. My position on this matter is firm, and I will not be swayed. Moving forward, I will continue to vote no on staff approvals. I hope this provides the

community and our staff with a clear understanding of my perspective. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email, and I'm happy to discuss this further with you. Thank you.

Ms. Alberts thanked Becky for making the statement.

Ms. Greer shared, I think that was important, just because it was something that was happening. But we all had conversations, but that hasn't been done publicly. As board members, this is a part of the role that we have is to review the staff to be approved list. My perspective is different than Becky's, and that's okay to have two different board members with two different perspectives. I see it as an administrative task of the school system, and we are not in charge of that part.

Mr. Mastervich stated I agree with you on that. It's not our job to do the hiring. We hired a person, we evaluated a person, and I put my trust in her doing her job right.

Ms. Greer stated for the last motion, we had a second. All those in favor say aye and all those opposed nah.

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

Motion carried.

Ms. Greer stated at this time we will hear public comment on any matters not listed below on the agenda. Please state your name and limit your comments to three minutes. If your thoughts go over three minutes, please email the board. Email addresses may be found on our website. Your comments shall address the entire board as opposed to any particular individuals. This is your opportunity to provide input to the board. It is not meant to be a dialog with the board. If you have specific questions that you would like answered, please put them in writing along with your name and phone number and submit them to the school board clerk. The appropriate person will follow-up with you in a timely manner.

Cynthia Ward shared the following. I am a parent and resident here in Greene County, and I just wanted to first off thank all the staff and members of the school who do such a wonderful job of ensuring all our students, regardless of race, background, or immigration status, to feel safe and welcomed at school. Recent Virginia law requires all school boards to pass an immigration and customs enforcement policy by December 31st. The bill protects students and ensures all students feel safe and welcome at school. Concerned parents, teachers and coaches have contacted me with concerns that they are given little direction on what to do if ICE or Customs or Board Control agents show up on school grounds. I strongly encourage Greene County School District to immediately adopt the NEA recommended safe zone policy, as hundreds of school districts across the country have already done. The safe zone policy outlines what educator staff, bus drivers, coaches, and other personnel should do if ICE agents attempt to engage in immigration enforcement at school. The safe zone policies make it clear that our school district is a welcoming place for all students, a place they can learn without fear. Prohibits the collection of student immigration information by ICE agents and direct educators to contact the school superintendent in the

event that ICE or Customs Board Control agents attempt to enter the school with or without a warrant. If they do come with a judicial warrant that needs to be followed, but it's an immigration, I'm sorry, if it's an administrative warrant, the Superintendent should decline to follow it and bring it as evidence in front of a judge to challenge the administrative warrants. I'd ask the board to adopt the safe zoning policy to keep the school learning environment safe for all students. I have emailed you all copies of the resolution and the policy. I have extra copies if you would like them. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Dr. Pursel presented action item #11-2047, May Policy Update. Dr. Pursel shared I'm here tonight for an action item on the May 2026 Policy Updates that were presented to you two months ago in June. Other than the correction that Mr. Mastervich pointed out on page 56 there were no other changes. My recommendation is to approve the policies as presented in June.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for action item #11-2047, May Policy Update.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve action item 11-2047 the May Policy Update as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Peregoy presented action item #11-2048, VPSA Technology Grant. Ms. Peregoy shared there have been no changes since the presentation in June and I would recommend that the board hopefully approve the process for us to continue utilizing this grant.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for action item #11-2048, VPSA Technology Grant.

Mr. Mastervich moved to approve action item 11-2048 VPSA Technology Grant as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer presented information/action item #11-2049, Greene County School Board Priorities.

Ms. Greer read the school board priorities:

Support the implementation of Impact 2027 including our core values of Culture of Excellence; Safe, Supportive, & Caring Schools; Exceptional Workforce; Connections & Partnerships with Our Community; and Resource Stewardship.

Advocate for competitive compensation and benefits for all staff with the Board of Supervisors, the funding body.

Encourage and support recruitment, and retention of the most highly qualified educators, leaders, and support staff.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for Greene County School Board Priorities. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2049, Greene County School Board Priorities.

Mr. Mastervich moved to approve information/action item 11-2049; Greene County School Board Priorities as presented. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Pursel presented information/action item #11-2050, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. Dr. Pursel shared this is a certification that the division completes and also requires school board approval. The certification form shows the board is confirming that the school board has met the standards set by the code and those eight standards are in your packet. Dr. Pursel recommended the board approve the annual certification as presented and that our school division has met the standards of quality set by the Code of Virginia.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for the Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2050, Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve information/action item #11-2050 Annual Compliance with Standards of Quality Report as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-2051, FY27 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared, we have an increase in state funding of $704,000 based on the ADM of 2728 with the same LCI of .3703 so our state funding has gone up. Dr. Whitmarsh shared that the Board of Supervisors kept local revenue the same. Federal revenue is the same and state revenue has gone up and other revenue is the same. The other difference is with the locality and not receiving additional funds, and therefore it's coming out of our capital fund or what was our capital fund. The state approved a 4% compensation increase. The state funding for the compensation supplement has increased by $320,292 for a total of $640,583. GCPS has already budgeted for a 3% compensation increase at a total cost of $914,331. A 4% compensation increase has a total cost of $1,219,108. Her recommendation to approve the FY27 Budget in the amount of $52,860,727 and to approve the additional 1% compensation increase for all GCPS employees. Dr. Whitmarsh shared, have you take action, as soon as it passes, then we will work on creating contract addendums to go out to all employees. They won't go out tomorrow, but within the next couple of weeks, so they'll get a contract addendum stating their new salary. I know it will be appreciated by the staff. I know this board believes in doing everything they can for compensation of our employees.

Ms. Alberts thanked Dr. Whitmarsh and her staff for working so hard to get a little more compensation like we wanted. She also wanted to take a moment to say again in public that she is very disappointed and disheartened that we were forced to take money out of the capital fund for the elementary schools that we really need in the near future. She thanked Dr. Whitmarsh and her staff for doing what they do.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment for FY27 Budget Update. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Roach shared the following statement: I have a personal interest in the School Board's budget by virtue of my husband's employment by the School Board and the salary scales included in the budget. 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 votes on the budget fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for information/action item #11-2051, FY27 Budget Update.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve the FY27 Budget in the amount of $52,860,787 and to approve the additional 1% compensation increase for all GCPS Employees. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion.

Ms. Greer requested a roll call vote:

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

Dr. Whitmarsh shared Superintendent Updates:

Dr. Whitmarsh stated the summer is a very busy time for our 12-month employees and a smooth opening of any school year is a testament to all the work that goes on in the summer to plan for the school year. A huge thank you to all of our staff who worked tirelessly to ensure we were ready to open our doors for the 26-27 school year: - and what a great start it has been.

Maintenance projects - a huge thanks to Katie Brunelle, our maintenance team, and our custodians for getting our facilities ready for the return of school. The following projects happened this summer:

Athletics
- We have painted the handrails, external doors, bathrooms, press box roof, dugouts
- We resurfaced the track (this is buying us time 5yr?) before a complete redo will be necessary
- Gym floors at WMMS and WMHS were refinished
- Fields were treated and in some cases over seeded
- Replaced camera in facility
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NGPS
- Complete roof replacement
- Installed 18 new air handlers (remaining 18 will take place upcoming school year)Company could not install them all this summer
- Replaced ceiling grid and tiles in several rooms and the cafeteria and stage
- Installed fence around playgrounds
- Repaired/resurfaced blacktop
- Painted 13 + classrooms and all bathrooms
- Installed new sink in kindergarten pod

NGES
- Repaired and painted skylights

- Painted some outdoor equipment
- Replaced water tanks and hot water heaters

RES
- Removed large honey bee hive
- Repaired and painted a modular unit
- Painted several rooms
- Installed new gym mats on the walls
- Front door work

WMMS
- Painted several spaces
- Replaced 3/4 of the roof
- Door entry systems at a few doors
- Replaced controller on the cooling tower

WMHS
- Painted several spaces
- Replaced 3/4 of the roof

GCTEC
- Painted several spaces
- Replaced floor tile in classroom

General
- New Asphalt at Maintenance/entering the stadium
- Cabinet work in the academy
- Upgraded our camera operating system/servers/hardware
- Upgraded our controller in maintenance for utility overwatch

All school and division Crisis plans have been updated and shared with staff.

We contracted with Woolpert to study our enrollment and Student yield Analysis from new housing here in Greene. They will be joining us at next month's meeting to share the results with the board. We are also closely monitoring our enrollment at the start of the school year

Dr. Whitmarsh shared - Great things are Happening in Greene Celebrations

NHD Summer Highlight
In June, students from William Monroe Middle School's National History Day Program journeyed to compete at the University of Maryland in College Park for the NHD 2026 National Contest themed "Revolution, Reaction, & Reform in History."

Our Dragon Historians Ben Franssen, Miles Franssen, Mason Greer, Grantley Rawlings, & Olin Shrum's "Willowbrook: The Last Great Disgrace" group performance won First Place at the state level in VA. At the national contest our students competed against students from all over the U.S. and many international schools from abroad.

Summer Residential Governor's School

Virginia's Summer Residential Governor's Schools offer high-achieving high school juniors and seniors an intensive, residential experience in specialized academic and career fields. Through a competitive statewide selection process, students are chosen to spend up to four weeks on a college campus engaging in advanced coursework, research, and collaborative learning with university faculty, industry professionals, and talented peers from across the Commonwealth.

Abigail Shears – Visual & Performing Arts at Radford University
Sarah Steuber – Humanities at Radford University
Ella Updike – Agriculture at Virginia Tech

WMMS Student Artists

Five William Monroe Middle School students who were competitively selected to attend the Summer Regional Governor's School for the Arts – Reflections this June!
Students from across Charlottesville, Albemarle, Greene, and Nelson participated in this prestigious program, where they explored this year's theme, "Dreams & Nightmares," through drawing, sculpture, and other creative artistic experiences while learning alongside some of the region's most talented young artists.

Students from WMMS included:
Ada Fairnholt
Dagny Weber
Lily Robinson
Reagan Elliot
Zaika Faiz

Congratulations to Mr. Jones's Agriculture students!
They recently took home the Lumber Cup in partnership with Farm Bureau and The Turman Lumber Company, earning a $500 prize for their outstanding build!

Back to School Carnival
Our division was happy to welcome families to another successful Back to School Carnival in August prior to the start of the school year. Families had the opportunity to come meet teachers, administrators, learn about their school building, play games, get a free haircut provided by our GCTEC instructor, alumni, and community partner Hair Cuttery, and celebrate the start of another school year.

New Teacher Boot Camp
GCPS was proud to welcome new teachers to our division to our preparatory Boot Camp where they had the opportunity to become more familiar with our school community as well as receive important training and support. We are excited to welcome these teachers to the GCPS family.

Decades Reunion Wall Graphic Unveiling
WMHS opened its doors to members of the Decades community group of GCPS alumni who have rallied together to donate a historical wall graphic proudly displayed in the halls of WMHS. The event welcomed this group of alumni to unveil the donated wall graphic displaying WMHS historical highlights with communion, light refreshments, and a stroll down memory lane.

Convocation
All GCPS staff enjoyed starting the year together at our Convocation event. We welcomed our new hires, garnished excitement for the start of a new year, and even enjoyed prizes for staff thanks to generous community partner donations.

Open House
We welcomed GCPS families to a successful Open House event prior to the first day of school. Families had the opportunity to visit school buildings, meet teachers, receive their schedules, and familiarize themselves with their school and the people who they can rely on for support all year.

Dragons Love Donuts- 6th Grade Transition Event
WMMS opened its doors early to their newest Dragons, welcoming 6th grade students for a transition event the Friday before school officially started. Students had the opportunity to have the building all to themselves, walking their schedules, practicing opening their lockers, and meeting the many new faces they will be spending the year with.

Upcoming Events
Fall activities will be happening throughout the month. Many have already begun, as golf had their first match on Monday. Please check the Activities Page on the website for game dates.

On September 5th all schools and offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Mastervich added an event, it's called the Panorama Cup for the Cross-Country Team on September 2nd. Mr. Mastervich shared some details regarding the 1% sales tax that will be on the November ballot. This is for capital projects. It could generate up to 3.4 million dollars a year for our schools. It does not apply to groceries, essential hygiene products or prescriptions. He shared it's a great thing. If it doesn't pass and we need a school that becomes property taxes and personal property taxes. He encouraged everyone to do whatever they could do.

Ms. Alberts congratulated all the winners and thanked everyone for coming. Ms. Alberts followed up on the statement she made last time about discrimination in our schools and wanted to make a call to action. Her call to action is to end discrimination, unkind behavior in our schools. If students, parents and guardians and all staff strive to encourage a kind and accepting community it would take some pressure off our building leadership then they and our entire community can focus on other positive engaging undertakings. She cannot express how important it is to make every student, teacher, and family feel accepted and supported in our schools. It cannot be just leadership.

Ms. Roach thanked everyone for coming out tonight and hoped we can end this first week of school with a bang. She spoke about the 1% increase and how she was happy to see that. She asked about the student rep for the board.

Dr. Whitmarsh said we are aiming for September for approval.

Ms. Greer thanked all the employees that kept things going over the summer and how it supports us in having a healthy transition back to school. Including all the employees that were wearing smiling faces greeting every kid getting off the bus or every car rider. It makes a huge difference to ensure we are embodying our values of safe and supportive schools. Kudos to all the students that were being students even during our break and achieving things with the various competitions. She thanked those for coming for public comment.

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

Meeting ended at 6:39 pm.

Kelly Greer

Chair

Rhonda M. Houchens

Clerk