Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
September 9, 2026

Members Present: Ms. Kelly Greer, Chair; Ms. Cherish Alberts, Member; Mr. Dave Mastervich, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Member; Ms. Cara Bickers, 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 moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to consider and discuss appointments, salaries, and retirements of specific officers, appointees, and employees, as personnel matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirement and pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(2) to discuss matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning students of GCPS. Ms. Bickers seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Ms. Roach moved to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Mr. 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. 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. Bickers 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:

11-2053 August 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
11-2054 August 3, 2026 Expenditures
11-2055 August 5, 2026 Expenditures
11-2056 August 10, 2026 Expenditures
11-2057 August 12, 2026 Expenditures
11-2058 August 18, 2026 Expenditures
11-2059 August 25, 2026 Expenditures
11-2060 Monthly Finance Report
11-2061 Enrollment
11-2062 Field Trip Requests
11-2063 Staff to be Approved List
11-2064 Stipend/Supplement Schedule
11-2065 Religious Exemptions

Ms. Bickers moved to approve the consent agenda items 11-2053 to 11-2062 & items 11-2064 & 11-2065 as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve consent agenda item 11-2063 as presented. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh & Ms. Kelly Greer recognized Mike Traber & Impact Greene for their continued support of Greene County Public Schools. Under Mike's leadership, Impact Greene recently secured a $6,400 grant from the Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to upgrade technology in the William Monroe High School auditorium. The grant will provide a professional-grade wireless microphone system and stage monitors, with installation and hands-on training for students and staff scheduled for September 22. These improvements will enhance theatre productions, concerts, ceremonies, and community events while giving our students valuable experience with industry-standard technology. We are incredibly grateful to Mike and Impact Greene for their partnership, commitment to our students, and continued investment in the Greene County community.

Ms. Greer stated at this time we will hear public comment on any matters not listed below on the agenda. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-2066 Woolpert Enrollment & Student Yield Study. Dr. Whitmarsh introduced Karen Jackson of Woolpert who was attending viturally to present the results of demographic studies conducted for Greene County Public Schools. The presentation reviewed historical enrollment trends, enrollment projections using cohort-survival methodology, birth data, student-generation rates, and the potential impact of planned and proposed residential development.

The study showed that enrollment declined by 352 students over the previous ten years, while enrollment increased by 40 students from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026. The recommended enrollment projection remains relatively flat when historical trends are extended forward; however, the housing analysis identifies substantial residential development that is not yet fully reflected in current enrollment.

Ms. Jackson explained that student-yield estimates were developed using data from Greene County and comparable developments in nearby localities. She emphasized that the estimates are planning tools rather than exact predictions and should be updated as development is constructed and occupied.

The housing analysis indicated the potential for approximately 1,665 additional students associated with currently planned or proposed development. The Board discussed school utilization, particularly elementary capacity, the need to monitor development timelines and housing types, and the long-term implications for facilities planning.

The Board and administration also discussed the division's prior facility planning, the anticipated future need for additional elementary school capacity, and the increasing cost of school construction. Discussion included the local-option one-percent sales tax referendum and the statutory limitation of those revenues to qualifying school capital projects and debt service. No action was taken on this information item.

Dr. Whitmarsh & Mr. Wimmer presented information/action item #11-2067, Students on the School Board. Dr. Whitmarsh shared according to policy BBBB, the board appoints two student representatives each year. Their terms run from now through the end of the school year. The selection process is run by the high school, and Mr. Wimmer is here to talk a bit about the process and the nominations for student representatives.

Mr. Wimmer reviewed the selection process for the 2026-2027 student representatives and shared approximately 20 students applied. Applicants were evaluated based on academic, behavioral, and attendance standing; a written response; a staff recommendation; and an interview focused on communication, problem solving, and decision making.

Mr. Wimmer stated the nominees presented were Mukund Marri, a returning senior representative from the Class of 2027, and Iris Kang, a junior from the Class of 2028.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment on information/action item #11-2067 Students on the School Board. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer requested a motion for action item #11-2067, Students on the School Board.

Ms. Alberts moved to approve Mukund Marri and Iris Kang as student representatives to the Greene County School Board for the 2026-2027 school year. Ms. Bickers seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-2068, Sub Rates. Dr. Whitmarsh presented proposed increases to substitute pay rates. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the last revision to substitute pay scales occurred in 2024. Substitute expenditures for the prior year totaled approximately $334,629. A five-percent increase was estimated at just under $17,000, while a ten-percent increase was estimated at approximately $33,463. The proposal included substitute teachers, educational support staff, office support, nurses, custodians, administrators, supplemental school, homebound services, planning, and substitute bus-related assignments. Dr. Whitmarsh recommended a ten-percent increase across the substitute salary scales.

Ms. Greer opened the floor for public comment on information/action item #11-2068 Sub Rates. 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 and sub rates by virtue of my husband's employment by the School Board. However, as a spouse of a techer at GCPS, I am a member of a large group of individuals in the community who are effected 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 action item #11-2068, Sub Rates.

Ms. Bickers moved to approve information action item 11-2068, Sub Rates as presented which includes a 10% increase for the Substitute Salary Scales. Mr. Mastervich seconded. No discussion.

Ms. Greer requested a roll call vote:

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

Ms. Katie Brunelle presented information item #11-2069, Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Brunelle shared the proposed Capital Improvement Plan was being presented as an information item. The Board received an update on roofing, heating and cooling systems, air-quality requirements, athletic facilities, paving and concrete work, office and storage needs, and future facility projects.

Ms. Brunelle reported substantial progress on roof replacement and repair projects across the division and described ongoing HVAC replacement work. The Board was also informed of new air-quality monitoring requirements that will require evaluation of HVAC units throughout the division over the next several years. Long-range items discussed included future track replacement, stadium lighting,

elementary school sidewalk and concrete work, and the potential need for a new elementary school. Ms. Brunelle shared the plan will return for action at the next meeting in October.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-2070, Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the draft FY 2028 budget development calendar. She shared the process will include internal identification of school and department needs, review of prior-year unmet needs and priorities, opportunities for public input, a community survey, review of the Governor's proposed budget, School Board budget work sessions, presentation of the Superintendent's proposed budget, School Board adoption, and subsequent presentation to the Greene County Board of Supervisors. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the calendar will return for Board action in October.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-2071, July Policy update. Dr. Pursel presented the July policy update as an information item. The revisions reflect General Assembly actions, the policy review cycle, and updates to legal references. Highlighted policies included IGDA, Student Organizations, which expands participation opportunities for students who are currently enrolled in or have successfully completed a related course; JO, Student Education Records; JOA, Student Transcripts; JOD, Release of Student Data and Records; and DJF, Procurement. The student-record policies primarily contain technical and legal-reference updates related to FERPA and FOIA, while DJF was revised and streamlined to align with Virginia procurement requirements. Dr. Pursel stated the July Policy update will return for action in October.

Ms. Greer stated at this time we will hear public comment on any matters not listed below on the agenda. There were none. Ms. Greer closed public comment.

Ms. Greer welcomed Student Board Member Comments.

Mukund Marri reviewed goals from the previous year, including creating ways for students to provide input to the School Board and improving communication back to the student body about Board-level discussions and outcomes. The student representatives plan to continue both efforts during the 2026-2027 school year.

Ms. Greer welcomed Superintendent updates.

Dr. Whitmarsh shared Superintendent Updates:

Celebrations
On August 28th, the Senior Class of 2027 gathered bright and early for Senior Sunrise - a tradition where students and staff gather at Martin Mooney Field at the beginning of their senior year to enjoy breakfast and time together to kickoff their final year of high school. This year, the event was orchestrated by senior class sponsor Ms. O'Rork and Mr. Kirk.

Upcoming Events
September is School Attendance Awareness Month. Our schools will be providing additional resources and reminders about the importance of attendance all month long.

Friday, September 18 at 6pm Nathanael Greene Primary School will host a Free Movie Night for the community. The feature film is Toy Story 5.

Nathanael Greene will host their Fall Read In on September 30th at 6pm. We hope families will attend and join us in reading with our students.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated after nearly 14 years of serving as Superintendent of Greene County Public Schools, I am announcing my intent to retire effective April 1, 2027.

Serving the students, families, staff, and community of Greene County has been the absolute highlight of my career. When I stepped into this role, I did not simply set out to be a superintendent, I specifically wanted to be the superintendent of my community. My goal has always been to invest in our community's future by uplifting and supporting our students and expanding opportunities for every child we serve.

Over the past 14 years in this role, I have had the profound privilege of working alongside some of the most remarkable educators, leaders, and support staff members I have ever known. As our broader society has faced increasingly complex challenges, so too have our public schools, but the dedication, resilience, and commitment of our team has never wavered.

I have also been incredibly fortunate to collaborate with dedicated School Board members who have stepped forward to serve the students, staff, families, and citizens of Greene County. I have always deeply appreciated those who are willing to give their time and energy in service to our community and, most importantly, in the best interests of our students and their futures.

I am immensely proud of what we have built and accomplished together, but our work is not finished. We have plenty to do between now and April 1, and I remain wholeheartedly committed to the success of this division—both during the months ahead and well into the future. My focus remains where it has always been: on our students, our staff, and ensuring that Greene County Public Schools continues moving forward.

I have tremendous faith in the people of this school division and trust that the School Board will select the right leader to carry this important work forward. I wholeheartedly believe in the educators, leaders, staff members, families, and community partners who will continue this essential mission.

For now, there is work to do, and I look forward to doing it alongside all of you. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your shared dedication to the children of Greene County.

Ms. Alberts move that the board approve the retirement of Dr. Whitmarsh as discussed and direct the board chair to execute an agreement consistent with our discussion. Ms. Roach seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Greer welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Mastervich shared thoughts about Dr. Whitmarsh's retirement and finding a replacement. He stated he loved Katie's presentation. He applauded the work she had done. Mr. Mastervich spoke about the 1% admendment and the upcoming townhall meeting. He shared he is looking forward to working with the student representatives.

Ms. Bickers welcomed the student board members. She shared she was happy for Dr. Whitmarsh and spoke about her dedication to GCPS and she is sad to see her go. She thanked her for everything. Ms. Bickers spoke how important education is regarding the upcoming vote for the admendment.

Ms. Roach welcomed the student board members and looks forward to working with them. Ms. Roach shared Dr. Whitmarsh will be missed and she thanked her for her almost 14 years of dedication. She wishes her the best.

Ms. Alberts spoke about her reationship with Dr. Whitmarsh and her dedication. She thanked her and said she is super excited for her. Ms. Alberts reached out to 18-year-old students about the importance of voting.

Ms. Greer shared BRVGS school met last week and not much to report from that. The STARS Program (Small Town and Rural Students) it's an opportunity for BRVGS Students to have a college advisor that works with them. There is an interest meeting next week for anymore that may be interested. There are virtual meetings coming up for parents interested in BRVGS. Ms. Greer thanked the community members that reached out to the board regarding a safe zone policy. Ms. Greer shared the Virginia School Board Association which provides our policy services is currently developing a model policy language to align with the new VDOE Regulation that are due by the end of December and so to insure our policies remain consistent, full compliant with the state regulations with plan to await the official VSBA guidance for taking any action on a final policy before the December deadline.

Ms. Bickers stated she woud like to extend some extra TLC to those in Waynesboro. She wanted to take a moment to acknowlege them.

Ms. Greer thanked Dr. Whitmarsh. This annoucement is bitter sweet with 24 years in one division and 14 years as Superintendent. It's just a remarkable record of service. Ms. Greer shared you have guided GCPS through facilities expansion, a global pandemic, constent shifts in public education and you always kept your focus on the people. Ms. Greer shared how Dr. Whitmarsh is always available and committed to this district. Ms. Greer stated this will be a huge change for us but your legacy will continue. Ms. Greer stated as we determine the next steps we will keep the community informed about the transition.

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

Meeting ended at 7:26 pm.

Kelly Greer
Chair

Rhonda M. Hoverchan
Clerk