



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
WMHS Performing Arts Center
January 12, 2022

Members Present: Mr. Todd Sansom; Vice Chair; Ms. Sharon Mack, Member, Mr. Jason Collier, Member, Mr. Brooks Taylor, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk; Ms. Jennifer Walker, Deputy Clerk.

Mr. Jason Tooley, Member - absent

Member(s) of The Greene County Board of Supervisors Present: Mr. Steve Bowman, Liaison

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the William Monroe High School Digital Media Classroom.

Ms. Mack made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711(A)(1), (A)(7) to discuss personnel and legal matters. Mr. Collier seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Collier made a motion to reconvene in an open session in the WMHS Performing Arts Center. Ms. Mack seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Sansom called for nominations for School Board Chair.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Sansom as School Board Chair. Mr. Taylor seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Jason Collier as School Board Vice Chair. Mr. Taylor seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Collier made a motion to approve the nomination for the following:

Rhonda Houchens – School Board Clerk

Jennifer Walker – School Board Deputy Clerk

Sharon Mack - Blue Ridge Governor's School Representative
Jason Tooley – Blue Ridge Governor's School Alternative Representative
Jason Collier - PREP Representative
Brooks Taylor - PREP Representative 1st Alternate
Jason Tooley - PREP Representative 2nd Alternate
Todd Sansom - Greene Education Foundation

Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the schedule of Regular Meetings for Calendar Year 2022 as presented in the packet. Mr. Collier seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Collier made a motion to approve the VSBA Code of Conduct for the School Board for 2022. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. Mr. Sansom stated the Board will certify by roll call vote: Mr. Taylor, Ms. Mack, Mr. Collier and Mr. Sansom all Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Todd Sansom 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 the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. Mr. Taylor, Ms. Mack, Mr. Collier and Mr. Sansom all certified.

Mr. Collier made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded. Ms. Mack stated item 11-1165 December 8, 2021 minutes would need approval separate from the other items on the consent agenda. Mr. Collier made a motion to approve item 11-1165 December 8, 2021 minutes separately from the rest of the consent agenda. Mr. Taylor seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sansom stated no closed meeting action.

Mr. Collier made a motion a to approve 11-1165 December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. Mr. Todd Sansom stated: The Board will certify by roll call vote:

Mr. Taylor – Abstain
Ms. Mack – Aye
Mr. Collier – Aye
Mr. Sansom Aye

Mr. Collier made a motion to accept remaining consent agenda as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Items were:

December 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 2021 Expenditures
Monthly Finance Report
Field Trip Requests
Enrollment Report
Staff to be Approved List
Mileage Reimbursement Rate Calendar Year 2022

Mr. Sansom stated it was time for public comment on items not listed below on the agenda. He also shared that there would be a time for public comment at the end of information items. Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Joey Bornstein shared concerns regarding child abuse in school systems.

Steve Kortepeter shared concerns regarding FOIA requests.

Buddy Barre shared concerns regarding upcoming possible changes to mask protocols.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Ms. Spencer presented action item #11-1176, Capital Improvements Projects Update. Ms. Spencer stated the Capital Improvements Projects Update was presented at the December meeting and there were no changes made from the last meeting. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the Capital Improvements Projects Update as presented in the packet. Mr. Collier seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1177, Budget Presentation. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the School Priorities, gave an update on the budget calendar schedule and FY2023 Influencing Factors. She shared that the current Governor's budget is recommending maintaining and not lowering VRS Rates and the local composite index is increasing from .3446 to .3505, fuel rates are contracted rates and remain stable, the projected state budget for FY2023 is \$24,995.396, the estimated federal budget for FY2023 is \$2,080,000 and local funding remains flat, and healthcare trends project 8.5%-9.5% cost increases. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the budget survey results and comments from the survey. She also shared salary increase projections.

Dr. Pursel and Dr. Mitchem presented information item #11-1178, Student Supports. Dr. Pursel and Dr. Mitchem shared the areas of student supports and gave a detailed role of each: Behavior Coaches, School Psychologists, Success Coaches, EL Liaison, Special Education, School Counselors.

Mr. Sansom stated it was time for public comment on information items listed on the agenda. Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Buddy Barre spoke regarding budget discussion and process. He offered his assistance and support to the schools.

Gigi Taft stated the presentation was great. She shared concerns regarding seniors getting assistance with college essays, applications and preparations. She also shared concerns regarding use of cafeteria.

Steve Kortepeter stated he appreciated the presentation. He requested the board to continue to educate everyone.

Joe Anderson requested making the staff a priority for budget process, smaller classes and increasing staff.

Mr. Sansom closed public comments.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1179, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh welcomed Mr. Taylor. She shared concerns regarding student and staff absences. She thanked staff for being flexible and repurposing staff to have positions covered. Dr. Whitmarsh shared there has been a focus group meeting for the strategic plan development and meetings will be ongoing. She shared the first week of January were snow days that will not be made up. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the importance of our staff and what they do for the division. She stated that Mr. Steven Bowman was appointed as the School Board Liaison at last night's Board of Supervisors meeting. Dr. Whitmarsh shared this week is Virginia School Principal Appreciation Week. She expressed her appreciation for them all. She shared that schools and offices will be closed Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. She also shared the budget workshop is scheduled for January 26th and board development and training February 4th at VSBA.

Mr. Collier shared thoughts regarding smaller classrooms and its importance. He shared that the cafeterias may not currently be used for meals but they were being used for classroom space. Mr. Collier stated he was looking forward to working with Mr. Taylor and he hopes Mr. Tooley will be feeling better. He thanked the principals for all they do. Mr. Collier made comments regarding the upcoming budget. He thanked everyone.

Ms. Mack spoke regarding the possible mandate changes due to the state leadership change. She thanked Mr. Bowman for being the school board liaison again. Ms. Mack thanked Mr. Sansom for being chairman and wished him good luck. She welcomed Mr. Taylor to the board. Ms. Mack spoke regarding the 12% of absenteeism for students and how frustrating and challenging it is for staff. She thanked all the staff. She stated she appreciated Mr. Anderson's comments. Ms. Mack stated she would like to have a better way to share budget information and the decision-making process for the budget with the public.

Mr. Taylor stated it was an honor to serve as a board member. He congratulated Mr. Sansom Chairman and Jason Collier Vice Chairman. Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Anderson had some great comments. Mr.

Taylor thanked principals, teachers and staff. He stated he would look into the cafeteria use. Mr. Taylor commented on the new administration in Virginia.

Mr. Sansom stated it was an honor to serve as Chair of the School Board. He stated he was attending new chair VSBA training. He congratulated Kathleen Borrelli on her editorship position at the Greene County Record. Mr. Sansom shared for those wanting to help to reach out to the Greene Education Foundation. He shared that the school system does not set the rates for FOI requests. Mr. Sansom stated he is very appreciative of the Principals.

Mr. Sansom requested motion to adjourn meeting. Mr. Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Chair



Clerk

