



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Office Meeting Room
4/15/2020 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom due to state-mandated guidelines enacted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Mack, Chairperson; Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Ms. Leah Paladino, Member; Mr. Jason Collier, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

Ms. Sharon Mack called the Greene County School Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mack read a statement which certified that the board's decision to assemble via Zoom was in alignment with the Greene County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance adopted March 24, 2020. The ordinance addresses continuity of government in Greene County during the state of emergency arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Ms. Leah Paladino made a motion to approve the presented consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Collier. The board approved the consent agenda 5:0 by a roll call vote.

Ms. Mack outlined the virtual option for community members to submit public comment prior to the meeting time. She explained that one person, "Mrs. Smith," used this avenue to reach out to the board about security concerns surrounding using online meeting platforms, like Zoom.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented action item #11-853, which was a resolution that would allow the board to suspend school board policies. She explained the action item would give the board more flexibility when navigating situations associated with COVID-19 without the need to enact new policies. Todd Sansom made a motion to pass the resolution and Leah Paladion seconded the motion. The motion carried by a 4:1 roll call vote. Jason Collier was the opposing board member.

Dr. Micheal Ormsmith presented action item #11-854. Dr. Ormsmith was seeking approval for the 2020-2021 Perkins Plan funding application as presented during the school board meeting March 11, 2020. Todd Sansom made a motion to approve the application as presented and Jason Tooley seconded the motion. The board certified by a roll call vote to approve the application.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented action item #11-855. Mr. Huber was seeking approval of the VSBA School Board Policy updates from February 2020 as presented during the school board meeting March 11, 2020. Jason Collier made a motion to approve the policy updates and Jason Tooley seconded the motion. The board certified by a roll call vote to approve the policy updates.

Dr. Wendy Mitchem presented action item #11-856. Dr. Mitchem was seeking approval of the Title VIB funding application as presented during the school board meeting March 11, 2020. Leah Paladino made a motion to approve the application as presented and Jason Collier seconded the motion. The board certified by a roll call vote to approve the application.

Dr. Whitmarsh and some of the directors in Central Office presented information item #11-857, which was an overview of the division's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. School divisions across the Commonwealth were ordered to close for the remainder of the school year on March 23, 2020 by Governor Ralph Northam. Dr. Whitmarsh began the presentation with a brief introduction, outlining general concerns that are being discussed among other division superintendents and at the state level. Dr. Kyle Pursel was next to present, giving an update on the meal distribution initiative that provides free breakfast and lunch for students in need. He also provided an update on how school facilities operated during the initial onset of the extended school closure and how the division plans to move forward with cleaning and disinfecting. Mr. Huber and Dr. Brenda Walton provided an update on instruction and virtual learning. They included a timeline for how the division has responded and will continue to respond to the extended school closure. Dr. Mitchem spoke on how the Special Services department has been impacted during the pandemic. She outlined the priorities for continuing to address the needs of students who require special services. Mr. Dale Herring provided an update on the technology department's role in the COVID-19 response. He explained the process for Chromebook distribution and various other modes of helping students continue learning at home.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-858, the latest FY2021 budget update. She explained that several details originally outlined in the budget will go through “major changes” due to COVID-19. She outlined how there is more uncertainty surrounding how much money is expected to come from the state and the county. She said a calculation is expected at the end of April.

Jason Tooley expressed interest in learning more information about what the division has planned for high school seniors as their end of the year activities are canceled due to COVID-19 regulations.

Leah Paladino thanked school division staff members for their hard work and dedication during the extended closure.

Todd Sansom acknowledged the public comment from a community member and said he hoped Mr. Herring’s presentation eased their concerns over tech-related security concerns. He echoed Mr. Tooley’s desire to want to know more about the planning process for seniors.

Jason Collier thanked all school-related staff and their work throughout this time.

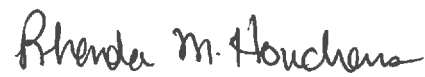
Sharon Mack thanked school staff for their approach to helping students in the division. She said the individual attention Mr. Huber outlined during his portion of the COVID-19 update is appreciated. She says she is also interested to know more about the division’s plans for seniors.

Jason Tooley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Todd Sansom seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.



Chairman



Clerk