



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Meeting Room
April 12, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Todd Sansom, Chair; Ms. Sharon Mack, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Mr. Brooks Taylor, Member; Ms. Rebecca Roach, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

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

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Ms. Mack made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711(A)(1), (A)(2), and (A)(7) to discuss personnel, student, and legal matters. Ms. Roach seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to reconvene in open session in the County Meeting Room. Ms. Roach seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

Mr. 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 in the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.

Mr. Tooley – certified
Ms. Mack - certified
Mr. Taylor - certified
Ms. Roach - certified
Mr. Sansom - certified

Mr. Sansom requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Tooley seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for closed meeting action.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for religious exemption #23-06. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom requested a motion for the consent agenda:

- 11-1390 March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 11-1391 March 3, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1392 March 10, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1393 March 20, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1394 March 23, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1395 March 28, 2023 Expenditures
- 11-1396 Monthly Finance Report
- 11-1397 Field Trip Requests
- 11-1398 Enrollment
- 11-1399 Staff to be Approved List

Ms. Roach made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Sansom stated it was time for first public comment on matters not listed below on agenda. Mr. Sansom opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Sansom presented recognition certificates to Educator of the Year Nominees and Support Staff Member of the Year Nominees.

They were selected by colleagues, parents, and students for going above and beyond to meet the needs of students. Each school's selection will now be considered for division Educator of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year by a committee of parents. Winners will be announced at the beginning of May.

This award program is made possible thanks to the generous support and contributions of Marianne Shepard – Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. Ms. Shepard has supported the Educator of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year recognitions since 2008. Dr. Whitmarsh thanked Marianne Shepard for supporting our teachers and our staff members. Marianne Shepard was introduced and given a recognition award. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the final winners for the division will each receive a check for \$500 from Ms. Shepard.

Dr. Whitmarsh introduced the building educators of the year and support staff members of the year nominees. Each employee was introduced and given a certificate of recognition:

Tina Shifflett, NGES & NGPS – Support Staff of the Year Nominee
Scott Wills, NGES & NGPS – Educator of the Year Nominee
Jessica Neff, RES – Support Staff of the Year Nominee
Megan Dickson, RES – Educator of the Year Nominee
Pamela Hess, WMMS – Support Staff of the Year Nominee
Rachel Freid, WMMS – Educator of the Year Nominee
Erin Rocha, WMHS – Support Staff of the Year Nominee
Brad Berry, WMHS – Educator of the Year Nominee

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1400, Calendar Change FY2023(B). Dr. Whitmarsh stated last month she presented two calendar changes the first was to change the calendar so that April 10th was a day off and that was so appreciated by staff and families. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we have not had inclement weather closures and to date the only scheduled alterations have been two 2-hour delays. As such, Dr. Whitmarsh requested for the board to alter the calendar to make Wednesday, May 24th the last day of school and a 1:00 PM dismissal. May 25th and May 26th would then be professional development days for staff. Then staff would not have to return after the Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Tooley made a motion to approve Dr. Whitmarsh's recommendation for the 2022-2023 GCPS's calendar change. Mr. Taylor seconded.

Ms. Mack asked about the potential financial impact to staff. Dr. Whitmarsh stated staff will not receive less pay. She stated there is no financial impact with this change to the calendar.

All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Jess Peregoy presented action item #11-1401, Perkins Grant Application. Ms. Peregoy stated there was no changes for the Perkins Grant Application to report. She stated this evening this action item is for approval of The Perkins Grant Application.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve action item #11-1401, Perkins Grant Application as presented. Mr. Tooley seconded. No discussion.

Mr. Sansom requested roll call vote:

Mr. Tooley – Aye
Ms. Mack - Aye
Mr. Taylor - Aye
Ms. Roach - Aye
Mr. Sansom – Aye

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1402, Superintendent Designee. Dr. Whitmarsh stated Dr. Kyle Pursel has been named our new assistant superintendent. Dr. Whitmarsh requested that the board approve Dr. Kyle Pursel to have signature authority as designee in the absence of Dr. Whitmarsh for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Mack made a motion to approve information/action item #11-1402, Superintendent Designee as presented, to approve Dr. Kyle Pursel as the authorized designee to sign in the absence of the Division Superintendent for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Tooley seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Mitchem presented information item #11-1403, Title VIB. Dr. Mitchem shared that this is our annual special education federal funding application. Dr. Mitchem gave an overview of the distribution of funds that includes personnel services, employee benefits, purchased services, other charges (travel expenses) and materials and supplies.

Mr. Tooley asked if all the funds were not used, where did it go to. Dr. Mitchem responded all the funds were used each year.

Dr. Pursel presented information item #11-1404, February Policy Updates. Dr. Pursel stated that a summary for each policy update has been provided. Dr. Pursel shared there are minimal changes with this update and the changes themselves are minor with legal references and cross references. Dr. Pursel highlighted a few policies: GCBEB, Military Leave & Benefits, increases paid military leave from 15 to 21 days and GAB/IIBEA, Acceptable Computer System Use, policy and cross references updated and changes added more technology to running list of possible acceptable use items within schools. Dr. Pursel stated that the February Policy Updates will be an action item at the May board meeting.

Ms. Brunelle presented information item #11-1405, WMHS Spotlight. Ms. Brunelle introduced the team that would be assisting with the presentation: Kristopher Wimmer, Gina Shipman, Kevin Anderson, Jess Peregoy, Leah Talbert, Alexa Battani, Jennifer Jones, Jesse Lamm and Office Cooper. The following topics were shared in the presentation: where we started academically, what were our concerns, coaching teach instruction and behavioral, WMHS Library, school resource officer, additional student resources, how are we addressing our struggles with attendance and discipline, WMHS culture, clubs, learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom, the academy, what's coming up and class of 2023. The following students spoke:

Jeremiah Taylor
Riley Mitchelson
Jennifer Argueta
Elliot Inzana

Ms. Mack asked about historical discipline data. Ms. Brunelle said yes and explained how they are using the data.

Mr. Tooley thanked Ms. Brunelle for the presentation specifically sharing details regarding attendance and discipline issues. Mr. Tooley asked about the process of attendance/truancy. Ms. Brunelle explained the process.

Mr. Tooley asked about the Alt Ed building expansion. Dr. Pursel responded they are working on getting contractual bids for subcontractors. Dr. Pursel stating he is waiting on a start date.

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

Mr. Sansom closed public comment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report #11-406, FY2024 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared we are still waiting on information regarding the state budget. There have been no real updates since the last board meeting and we may not have a state budget until the summer. The local process is on-going and the budget has been advertised allocating \$19,272,767 in local funding which is an increase of \$1,234,501 more than last year, almost all exclusively for salaries and benefits including medical insurance increases. April 25th will be a public hearing on the budget and tax rates. Also, that night the tax rate will also be adopted. The county budget will be voted on May 9th so we will have a revised budget adoption on May 10th.

Ms. Mack asked if we will still be able to do that without a state budget. Dr. Whitmarsh responded yes, we will adopt a budget and issue contracts with language included based on funding.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent's Report item #11-1407, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh shared high school student Avery Shifflett was recognized in the Daily Progress Athlete Spotlight Story, high school student Akhil Marri won science champion award and earned 1st place in the INCOSE System Engineering at the VA Piedmont Science Fair and he also won second place in plant sciences. The career fair in March was a tremendous success. The culinary program held a banquet for all students who are completers in that program. Several middle school students and one high school student won first, second and third place at the National History Day District Competition. Today and yesterday were AG Days in CTE. RES has their school play "Aladdin" April 20th and 21st at 6:30 pm. The committee is currently working through the architectural proposals for the tech center addition. The school board retreat will take place April 28th beginning at 8:00 am. There is a Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School board meeting May 3rd. The arts festival is April 29. May 10th prior to the school board meeting we will do a recognition ceremony to recognize staff and students.

Mr. Sansom welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Tooley thanked Ms. Brunelle and her staff for their presentations. Mr. Tooley asked parents to step up and help the educators trying to teach kids. He congratulated Dr. Pursel on his new position. He

thanked Mr. Bowman for coming and the job you do. He thanked the WMHS for the gift bag. He wished everyone a safe ride home. He thanked everyone.

Ms. Mack stated that there was so much to be proud of with all the things we have seen tonight from educators and support staff nominees and the passion everyone has. She thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work. She thanked Marianne Shepard for her support and providing awards. She recognized all the students that spoke during the high school presentation. She thanked everyone for the great information tonight and she looks forward to more great things.

Mr. Taylor congratulated Dr. Pursel. He congratulated the award winners this evening. Mr. Taylor stated the presentations were great tonight and he appreciated them. He said be safe going home.

Ms. Roach thanked the WMHS for the gift. She congratulated educators and support staff of the year nominees. She congratulated Dr. Pursel. She shared how much she enjoyed the WMHS presentation. She shared how she hoped the two school resource officer positions will be filled soon. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Mr. Sansom congratulated educators and support staff of the year nominees. Mr. Sansom spoke about colleges and some of the majors that are being offered and how those majors relate to which jobs. He stated he is on the architectural review board that's meeting tomorrow. He stated there are four finalists. He shared how everyone is playing a crucial role in student lives. He thanked everyone.

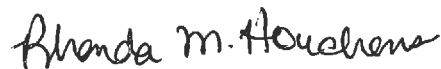
Mr. Sansom requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tooley seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:44 pm.



Chair



Clerk