



**Minutes School Board Meeting
Greene County Public Schools
November 11, 2020
William Monroe High School Performing Arts Center**

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 PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR(S) PRESENT: Mr. Steve Bowman, Liaison

Closed session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the William Monroe High School Media Lab.

Ms. Leah Paladino made a motion to move into closed session; Mr. Jason Collier seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board certified by roll call vote that only such matters identified in the motion were heard or discussed. Ms. Mack, Mr. Tooley, Ms. Paladino, Mr. Sansom, and Mr. Collier all certified.

Ms. Sharon Mack moved to reconvene in an open session at 7:00 p.m. in the WMHS Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Sharon Mack stated that there were no closed meeting actions.

Ms. Paladino moved to accept the consent agenda as presented, Mr. Tooley seconded. All ayes from members, motion carried.

Dr. Bryan Huber and Dr. Kyle Pursel presented information item #11-961, the Return to Learn Update. Dr. Huber started the presentation with an update on the enrollment numbers. He explained that the following day, November 12th would be the first day of school for students who requested an enrollment change. The division was able to accommodate 100% of requests that were requested by the deadline, however, the elementary schools are at or close to capacity, meaning additional requests would be made on a case by case basis. He said the virtual enrollment for kindergarten through 5th grade dropped to 28% and the middle and high school virtual enrollment has stayed fairly consistent at around 40% each. He updated the board on professional development and supports that are being offered to teachers and the efforts to make materials and procedures standard throughout the division. He explained new efforts division leaders are exploring that will help reduce the number of unsuccessful students under the new learning models. He provided more details on technology distribution, including 50 additional hotspots. Dr. Pursel provided an update on some of the operation-related efforts underway in the division. He said a representative from the Virginia Department of Health visited the school buildings and expressed satisfaction with mitigation strategies in place. Dr. Pursel also outlined some new CDC guidelines regarding close contacts and new staff training for relaying that information. He also discussed a recent VHSL update that would now allow participation in sports. He said all teams will play on a 60% schedule. For spectators, the maximum capacity is 50%.

Ms. Kristie Spencer presented information item #11-962, The School Activity Funds Audit. She explained that the audit is conducted by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates annually. No deficiencies or non-compliant issues were found. She said the auditors found all the relevant information clear and consistent and had no difficulties conducting the audit. For deposit the auditors did recommend not using generic description and to document delays accurately. They recommend issuing receipts to students and also recommend two signatures on all checks, if possible. One expenditure lacked proper pre-approval documentation. One school did not close out all its accounts at the end of the year, adjustments needed to be made. Ms. Spencer stated that these items aren't oversights, but the auditors did recommend avoiding these things in the future.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-963, FY21 Compensation Review. She outlined budget-related decisions that have been made leading up to the meeting and the current financial situation of the division. She said state funding, including CARES Act funds, ESSR and GEER funds, and CRF funds have helped offset costs associated with COVID-19. Additionally, division leaders have made a conscious effort to conservatively spend prior due to financial uncertainty. Additionally, she said enrollment numbers and lottery sales did not fall as short as division leaders were once concerned about. Taking that into consideration, Dr. Whitmarsh proposed an end of the calendar year bonus for all staff, as well as a 2% salary increase January 2021. The proposal includes school nutrition staff. She added, this proposal will not require any additional funding, but rather

would rely strictly on current budget allocations. Her recommendation was to give employees a \$1,500 bonus.

Ms. Paladino asked for clarification on the proposal. Ms. Paladino moved that the board consider this agenda item an action item, following discussion. Mr. Todd Sansom seconded the motion. After a brief discussion which focused on clarifying the next steps, Ms. Mack asked for a roll call vote for the Compensation Review, all ayes from the board, the motion carried unanimously. This motion indicates that the board accepted Dr. Whitmarsh's proposal to give all school employees a \$1,500 bonus at the end of the calendar year and a 2% raise at the beginning of the calendar year.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-964, the Superintendent's Update. She thanked all the Veterans for their service, in recognition of Veteran's Day. She congratulated Dr. Huber on successfully defending his dissertation. She thanked everyone who helped make the school board meeting possible. She implored members of the board to reach out if they want something specifically addressed in the Return to Learn updates.

Mr. Collier thanked all the staff members for their continuous hard work. He specifically thanked those who helped organize the Veteran's Day drive through event at NGES.

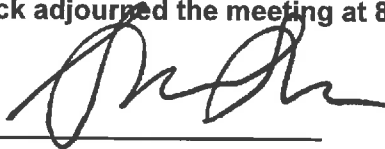
Mr. Sansom said his heart goes out to all the student athletes, since it is anticipated that the sports season will be condensed significantly. He also encouraged community members to consider being a substitute teacher.

Ms. Paladino said she was thrilled to learn that all the enrollment change requests were able to be accommodated. She also said she was happy to hear about and see some of the Veteran's Day activities students were able to do.

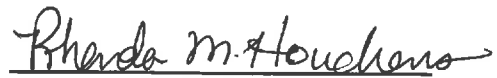
Mr. Tooley expressed his appreciation for the compensation review going through. He said he could not be more grateful for all the school staff.

Ms. Mack thanked all the veterans in the community. She also thanked all the staff who helped make the enrollment changes possible.

Ms. Mack adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.



Chairman



Clerk