

School Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leah Paladino, Chairperson; Harry Daniel, Vice-Chairperson; Rodney Kibler, Member; Sharon Mack, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Denell Clem, Clerk; Jason Collier, Member arrived at 7:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Bill Martin, Vice Chair & Liaison

The closed session was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Central Office conference room.

Mr. Daniel made a motion to move into closed session; Mrs. Mack seconded, motion carried.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to reconvene into open session in the County Meeting Room at 7:05 p.m.; Mr. Kibler seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Board certified by roll call vote that only such matters identified in the motion were heard or discussed. Mrs. Paladino, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Kibler, Mrs. Mack all certified. Mr. Collier abstained; he did not attend closed session.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Daniel seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Mrs. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate to Mrs. Stephanie Hammer, in honor of her nomination for the 2018 James F. Harris Teacher Award. They thanked Mrs. Hammer for her outstanding contribution to the National History Day educational program in Greene County Public Schools.

Mrs. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate to the Standardsville Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our community and partnership with Greene County Public Schools.

Mrs. Paladino stated public comments could be made on matters not below on the agenda.

Mrs. Paladino closed public comments.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-581 FY2020 Budget Calendar. The proposed budget calendar was presented as an information item at the September meeting. Dr. Whitmarsh asked that the budget calendar be approved as presented. Dr. Whitmarsh added that there would be a public hearing at the November 7th meeting covering the FY2020 Budget Priorities.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the FY2020 Budget Calendar as presented. Mr. Kibler seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Huber presented action item #11-582 Bullying Prevention Month and Resolution. Mr. Huber shared the presentation that was presented to the community on Monday, October 8th at WMHS and was posted online. Mr. Huber covered the on-going efforts that the school division is taking to combat bullying in our schools. Mr. Huber went over the new 'Stop It' app that has been implemented. The app allows students to notify, anonymously, a school official, usually the Guidance counselor, if they see or hear of bullying. It also allows students to reach out to an adult if they feel they are being bullied. The app has gotten positive feedback from students. There will be several days of awareness over the month of October and throughout the year. Unity Day – October 24th – Wear Orange. Mr. Huber presented the resolution for action, a copy of which is included in the minutes.

Mr. Kibler made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Mrs. Mack seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Spencer presented information item #11-583 School Activity Fund Audit. Ms. Spencer gave an overview of the annual audit done by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates; the complete audit will be on file for future reference. No deficiencies or non-complaint issues were found. One change is that the school Nutrition audit will be included only in the overall audit and not in both. No difficulties were had with the staffs at the time of the audit. No audit issues were found that needed to be corrected by Administration. Recommendation of segregation of duties was given but due to the small number of staff this was understood to be cost prohibited. Some small bookkeeper issues were discussed for NGPS, NGES, and RES but no notations for GCTEC, WMMS, and WMHS. All notations were discussed, explained and resolved if needed.

Mrs. Mack asked if the checks made to 'cash' were resolved. Ms. Spencer explained that the school was in need of money for change and bookkeeper was new. They discussed the process and reviewed the check would be made out to a person and receipt brought back from the bank.

Mr. Peter Arquette, Assistant Principal at WMMS, presented information item #11-584 WMMS Music Program. Mr. Arquette gave an overview of the new Innovate 2021 project-based assignments and activities taking place in WMMS. One particular new program that was highlighted was the music program headed by Mr. Matthew Gozzard and Mrs. Melissa Hansen. Program is currently only offered at the middle school. Fundraisers have helped in getting equipment but more is needed to expand program into the high school and elementary schools.

Mrs. Hansen spoke about the new electric piano lab and how the 'Flaming Dragons Records' was launched. Former student, Enrique Hernandez-Munoz, spoke to the school board about the positive effects that the music program brought to him and expressed interest in seeing the program offered at the high school.

Mrs. Mack asked what was needed to expand the program. Mrs. Hansen said that in order to truly know what is needed to expand the program they would need to offer the course and see how much interest it would get. Mr. Huber added that they do currently have some equipment to start the program at the high school.

Mrs. Paladino asked if it is better to start expanding at the high school or at the other direction. Mr. Huber answered that the thought is that what a student does after middle school if nothing is offered at the high school. Mr. Huber also expressed interest in working in both directions.

Mrs. Mack asked if there is one piece of equipment that is more needed than others are. Mrs. Hansen said that the DJ turntables are a big hit with students this year. With the rotation in the classroom, the students have opportunities to explore all the instruments. Mrs. Mack expressed her excitement in the program.

Mr. Daniel said that he has visited the piano lab and it is remarkable and nothing traditional about the classroom. He was very impressed and thanked Mr. Gozzard and Mrs. Hansen for all their hard work.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-585 Afterschool Program. Dr. Whitmarsh gave the school board the history of the program that began in 1991, which was created, and run by Greene Transit. The County has asked the school division to take over this valuable program for the community. December is projected date to start the transition. Current employees will have the opportunity to interview for positions. There will be a Director position posted and interviewed for with several staff positions. This will be an action item in an upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Paladino remarked that this has been a topic of discussion for a while but it is a major need for our community. The long-term hope is to have two locations for our families. Dr. Whitmarsh agreed that the end goal would be to have two locations.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-586 Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh went over all the construction completed work and how the project is moving forward even with all the rain. Dr. Whitmarsh discussed meeting with the Executive Director of PREP, Piedmont Regional Program and VDOE Rep. met to discuss regional programs funding and the changes that will likely occur in the upcoming years. Mr. Collier and Dr. Whitmarsh will be working together with others to keep everyone informed of the financial impact for GCPS.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Huber will attend the Teacher Retention Summit later in the month at UVA. Hopefully, the summit will give them some crucial information to help with the teacher

storage that everyone is facing. Professional Day is coming up. Dragon Fest, Homecoming activities, and Get Fit for Greene 5K is all in the next week with lots of great things happening around our schools and communities.

Mr. Collier apologized for being late but work runs late when a hurricane is on the horizon. He spoke about PREP having some changes, some good and some bad; we will tackle whatever we face. He said the music program was amazing and he was impressed. He would like to see it move into the high school curriculum. He thanked everyone for all they do.

Mrs. Mack attended the BRVGS board meeting and shared some highlights from that meeting, including approval for an international trip to Iceland, expanded partnerships with businesses, and program growth. Currently there are 62 students enrolled at WMHS.

Mr. Daniel was very impressed by the 'Stop It' app. Taking on the Afterschool program is a WIN for the community and the students. Music program was great and thanked Enrique Hernandez-Munoz for coming and speaking.

Mr. Kibler said, 'Ditto!'

Mrs. Paladino thanked Mr. Martin for always being available and for coming to school board meetings. Thanked the Boys Scouts that came out for the meeting. Grateful for our community involvement and for showing up to meetings. The music program is fantastic and truly appreciated. Thank you for all you all do.

Mrs. Paladino adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk