

**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Leah Paladino, Chair; Harry Daniel, Vice-Chair; Rodney Kibler, Member; Sharon Mack, Member; Jason Collier, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Shanna Deane, Clerk

**MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:** N/A

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** N/A

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** N/A

The closed session was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Greene County School Board Office conference room.

Dr. Kibler made a motion to reconvene into open session in the County Meeting Room at 7:01 p.m.; Mrs. Mack seconded, motion carried.

Board certified by roll call vote that only such matters identified in the motion were heard or discussed. All certified.

There was no closed meeting action.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Daniel seconded. No discussion. All ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mrs. Paladino presented recognition certificates to the students who made it to All District Chorus and All District Band.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mrs. Paladino presented a recognition certificate to Sarah Frazier for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Mannequin Challenge during the Skills USA competition held at the Greene County Technical Center on February 17, 2017.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mrs. Paladino presented a recognition certificate to Bryce Bowman for being in the March edition of the "FFA New Horizons" magazine.

Dr. Whitmarsh and Mrs. Paladino presented a recognition certificate to Austin Rath for being the first ever VHSL 3A State Wrestling Heavyweight champion and first ever Region 3A East Heavyweight Champion.

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

Mrs. Paladino closed public comments.

Dr. Whitmarsh introduced Mr. Mike Alley who oversees the Youth Development Council to present information item #11-280, Youth Development Council. Mr. Alley explained students are hand selected by guidance counselors, principals, teachers, and Region 10 counselors. Mr. Alley described a typical day of the afterschool program to the school board. Mr. Alley also presented a video to the school board regarding the afterschool program and the summer program. Mr. Alley stated what makes the program so

successful is the volunteers and staff. Mr. Alley stated there is a partnership with James Madison University to send students to volunteer and receive college credit.

Mrs. Mack questioned how someone becomes a volunteer. Mr. Alley responded that currently there are 10 to 11 volunteers. Mr. Alley stated student volunteers have to be in tenth grade or higher to volunteer. Mr. Alley stated interested adults or students who want to volunteer meet with him to explain why they wish to volunteer.

Mrs. Mack questioned where is information publicized about volunteers for the after school program. Mr. Alley stated there is information available on Facebook and on the Youth Development Council of Greene County website.

Dr. Whitmarsh and the School Board presented information item #11-281, School Board By-laws. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the school board by-laws need to be reviewed to add language regarding the July meeting. Dr. Whitmarsh explained there has been discussion of not having a July meeting due to the meetings being short and being able to take care of business in another month. Dr. Whitmarsh stated this information could be action for the month of April. Dr. Whitmarsh stated once the school board decides upon the language to update the by-laws, the meeting calendar then could be updated. Mrs. Paladino stated the language in the by-laws should reflect the July meeting as optional instead of being required.

Mr. Huber presented information item #11-282, Later Start Times Survey Update. Mr. Huber conducted a presentation focusing on the survey results from the recently administered "Later Start Times Survey" for parents and community members. Mr. Huber highlighted the survey results and discussed next steps in the process of gathering information about later start times.

Mr. Huber reviewed the time line of the process and reviewed the pros and cons of later start times. Mr. Huber stated a total of 554 surveys represent 993 students and a 31% response rate. Mr. Huber summarized the responses of the questions, which included:

- Hours of sleep during the week
- Homework & after-school activities
- Hours spent on homework & after-school activities
- Childcare considerations
- Non-riders of school buses

Mr. Huber summarized the results of the survey, reviewed student quick facts for middle/high school, and reviewed considerations. Mr. Huber reviewed options by presenting three different start times which included 8:15 am, 8:30 am, and 8:45 am to 9:00 am.

Mr. Huber asked if there was any board discussion.

Mrs. Paladino questioned how will students who travel for sports be handled. Mr. Huber stated for regular season, students would need to leave school early.

Mrs. Mack questioned the length of bus rides. Mr. Huber stated currently we have buses stopping at each driveway. Mr. Huber stated by changing the level of service the buses provide will offer better efficiencies.

Mr. Huber presented the next steps with the later start time process. Mr. Huber stated the first step of gathering information has taken place, next is to develop proposals and analyze the impact, followed by communication and implementation.

Dr. Whitmarsh added that a traffic study has been completed and according to the study a recommendation is to stagger start times between the schools to assist with alleviating traffic issues.

Mr. Huber presented information item #11-283, Summer Programs. Mr. Huber's presentation highlighted summer program offerings in the division, which included additional enrichment opportunities and original credit options for high school students. Mr. Huber stated the division's mission statement was the key to discussing the layout and design of summer school.

Mr. Huber introduced the new Enrichment Academies. Mr. Huber stated a brochure was put together. Mr. Huber explained that two weeks were allotted for the programs for students in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Huber stated the courses for the Enrichment Academies will be taught by teachers from the division.

Mr. Huber explained the "revamped" Summer Program. Mr. Huber stated the program will be during the following weeks:

- June 19-29
- July 10-13
- July 17-21
- July 24-28 (high school only)

Mr. Huber stated the summer program will take place on the Stanardsville campus. The design of the program is to be project based and virtual learning at the high school. The class ratios will be 12:1 for elementary and 15:1 for middle school. Mr. Huber stated the target population is for grades K – 8. Mr. Huber explained the format of the summer program is based on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and will be led by Ms. Donna Payne, Assistant Principal at Nathanael Greene Elementary School and Mr. Peter Arquette and Mr. Kris Wimmer at William Monroe Middle School. Mr. Huber presented charts showing the difference between the "old" remedial program and the project based remedial program.

Mr. Huber explained the credit recovery process at William Monroe High School which will be led by Ms. Gina Roth, Assistant Principal and new original credit option led by Mr. John Mitchem, Assistant Principal.

Mr. Huber asked if there was any board discussion.

Mrs. Paladino questioned if non-students, such as home-school students, could participate in the Enrichment Program. Mr. Huber responded that home-school students can participate in the Enrichment Academies.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-284, FY2018 Budget Update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated at the State level the conference budget has the division at \$19,000 more than the Governor's budget. Dr. Whitmarsh stated at the local level the Board of Supervisors is working on their budget process. Dr. Whitmarsh announced the school board will have a joint work session with the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Dr. Whitmarsh stated this is a change in the process from years past.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated the March 22, 2017 school board meeting is not necessary at this time.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated a RFP for health insurance was finalized on March 8, 2017. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the decision has been made to go back out for bid for health insurance. Dr. Whitmarsh explained that all options need to be explored. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the responses to the RFP are due on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-285, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated the facilities study will be back on the agenda soon.

Dr. Whitmarsh stated the school division participated in the Harrisonburg Job Fair which was held on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Whitmarsh stated out of the applicants, five have been hired.

Dr. Whitmarsh announced that she will hold "office hours" in the schools in the next few weeks.

Dr. Whitmarsh announced the following dates:

- Third nine-weeks ends on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Kindergarten registration for Nathanael Greene Primary and Ruckersville Elementary will be on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Arts Festival will be on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Break will be the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Daniel commented that it is great news hearing about the Harrisonburg Job Fair. Mr. Daniel commented that it is great to have a state champion in wrestling. Mr. Daniel commented that Mr. Alley's program is fascinating.

Mr. Collier commented there is always exciting things happening in Greene.

Mrs. Mack commented that she applauds everyone who has a role in the Youth Development Council (YDC) program. Mrs. Mack complimented the "revamped" summer program and Enrichment Academy. Mrs. Mack encouraged everyone to keep up the great work.

Dr. Kibler had no comment.

Mrs. Leah Paladino thanked all the women who came to school today. Mrs. Paladino commented that she is amazed at all of the hard work to innovate and try new things. Mrs. Paladino encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Mrs. Paladino announced that she will run for a second term for the school board.

Mrs. Paladino adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Clerk