



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
WMHS Performing Arts Center
September 8, 2021

Members Present: Ms. Leah Paladino, Chair; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Ms. Sharon Mack, Member, Mr. Jason Collier, Member, Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk

Members Present Electronically: Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chair

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

Ms. Leah Paladino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the William Monroe High School Digital Media Classroom.

Ms. Paladino requested a motion to allow Mr. Todd Sansom to participate electronically. Ms. Sharon Mack made a motion to allow Mr. Sansom to participate electronically. Mr. Jason Tooley seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Sharon Mack made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711 A.2 to discuss student matters. Mr. Jason Tooley seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack made a motion to move to open session, Mr. Collier seconded the motion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Sharon Mack made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711 A.1 to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Jason Collier seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Ms. Paladino indicated that a motion to allow Mr. Sansom to participate in the board meeting electronically was approved prior to closed session.

Ms. Leah Paladino 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 the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. Mr. Tooley, Ms. Mack, Mr. Sansom, Mr. Collier and Ms. Paladino all certified.

Ms. Paladino requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Paladino invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Paladino requested a motion for closed meeting action 22-03, 22-04, 22-05. Jason Tooley made a motion to accept closed meeting actions, Ms. Mack seconded the motion. All Ayes from the other members of the board, motion carried.

Ms. Leah Paladino shared the consent agenda items and requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes: August 4, 2021 and August 9, 2021

Expenditures: July 27, 28, 2021 and August 3, 4, 11, 12, 18, 25, 2021

Monthly Finance Report

Enrollment

Staff to be Approved List

Stipend/Supplement Schedule

Ms. Mack made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented in the packet. Mr. Collier seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Before moving forward with the remaining items on the agenda, Ms. Paladino asked members of the audience to adhere to Greene County Public School's masking requirements and reminded everyone that the current masking policy aligns with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Education.

Ms. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate to students and staff for outstanding achievements. Recognitions were paused during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 and wanted to ensure the previous school year's accomplishments were highlighted. WMMS student Mukand Marri was recognized for being a finalist at the National History Day Contest for his individual documentary, "Navajo Code: The Unbreakable Code." WMHS students Caroline Bruton and Kayla Shaller were recognized for receiving 1st overall in the Junior Group Documentary category in the National History Day competition. WMMS teacher Stephanie Hammer was recognized for being awarded the

Naval Historical Society's Teacher of Distinction Award for 2021. RES teacher Erica Knights was recognized for being a finalist for Charlottesville Business Innovation Council's Educator of the Year award in 2020. Katherine Thomas was recognized for being named Educator of the Year by Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District's Board in 2020. Linda Haselton, the math intervention specialist for Nathanael Greene Schools, was recognized for being named Elementary Math Educator of the Year for 2021 by the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dawn Hernandez, a Spanish teacher at WMHS, was recognized for releasing her published book on Amazon. Certificates were also presented to student athletes that received District, Region, or State Honors during the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Paladino stated it was time for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. She also shared that there would be a time for public comment after each information item listed on the agenda. Ms. Leah Paladino opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Leah Talbert addressed the board as a staff member and parent and expressed her appreciation for division leaders and other administrators for all they have done during the pandemic.

Mr. Buddy Barre was next to address the board. He expressed his concern with the COVID-19 mitigation strategies in place throughout the school division and requested more autonomy for members of the school community.

Mr. Jonathan Sjoldal addressed the board and explained that he would like to see changes to masking in schools. He expressed his concern about the social implications of masking and used the remainder of his time to demonstrate a 'silent lunch' scenario.

Mr. Greg Pumphrey addressed the board and announced to members of the audience that he is a school board representative candidate in the upcoming election. He also expressed his concern with masking throughout the school day.

Joey Burnstein expressed his concern with masking for students.

Steven Kortpeter expressed his concern with school operations and how it may impact students in the future.

Dr. Bryan Huber introduced Ms. Jesse Lamm and Ms. Mara Zornes, both instructional coaches within the division, to present information item #11-1111. They presented information and details for a training session teachers, specialists, and administrators participated in over the summer in order Orton Gillium, originally designed for students with dyslexia, but the program has been adjusted to accommodate students at various reading levels. They explained that this instructional program and style is sensory-based. They played a video of a teacher using one of the program's techniques with students. Ms. Lamm concluded by providing more details about how this program works well in Greene County Schools. She also explained that as a secondary educator she is excited to implement some of these strategies because some of them are helpful to identify and fill learning gaps.

Dr. Huber presented information item #11-1112 , an overview of the summer programs and “soft start” opportunities that were available to students. He explained that VDOE emphasized continued learning opportunities during the summer, along with social-emotional support. He said GCPS was able to provide a full day elementary school program, a middle school recovery program, opportunities for high school students to recover credits, soft starts for students transitioning back into schools, as well as kindergarten orientation. He explained that staff, parents, and students worked together to back the condensed summer break.

A parent from the audience expressed her appreciation for the summer programs and soft starts and relayed that her son was also grateful for the opportunity.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1113, the MOU between the Greene County School Board and the Greene County Sheriff’s Office. She explained that all proposed changes were related to billing due to a budget transfer. She noted that the board had the draft MOU and a redline version to review. Mr. Jason Tooley inquired about a secure location for the middle school resource officers to utilize while they are working during the day.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1114, the FY2023 Budget Development Calendar. She explained that the calendar will be presented as an action item during the meeting in October. Dr. Whitmarsh outlined the various factors that determine the timeline.

Mr. Sansom disconnected from the meeting briefly but was able to be reached on the conference line quickly before Dr. Whitmarsh presented the Superintendent’s Update.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1115. She said she was excited to see so many members of the school community recognized during the beginning of the meeting. She said that the day of the meeting marked the 20th day of the school year. Additionally, she issued a reminder that there is an ongoing teacher shortage throughout the state that also impacts our division. She also briefly described VDOE’s Fall Growth Assessments, which will serve as an indicator for students’ performance in reading and math.

Ms. Paladino invited members of the board to address members of the audience and community.

Mr. Sansom said he appreciated hearing recognitions of the students and staff and said he looked forward to attending the next meeting in person.

Mr. Tooley congratulated recognition recipients. He also informed community members that he is aware of the temperature concerns on buses.

Ms. Mack explained why public comment was not included on the Special Meeting agenda in August. She encouraged community members to review the VSBA policies on the division website. She congratulated the varsity football team on their recent win.

Mr. Collier said the first PREP meeting will take place at WMHS at the end of the month. He also congratulated students and staff on their recognitions.

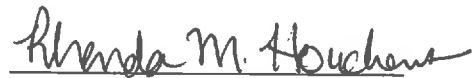
Ms. Paladino thanked Mr. Collier and Dr. Whitmarsh for their leadership on the PREP board. She requested other board members to solidify their plans for attending the VSBA Annual Conference.

Ms. Mack made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Collier seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Ms. Paladino adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



Chair



Clerk

