



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
County Office Meeting Room
2/12/2020 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Mack, Chairperson; Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Jason Collier, Member; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.

MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Leah Paladino, Member

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

The closed session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

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

Ms. Sharon Mack moved to reconvene in an open session at 7:00 p.m. in the county meeting room.

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

Mr. Jason Tooley made a motion to approve the presented consent agenda, motion was seconded by Mr. Todd Sansom. All ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Sharon Mack and Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the Ruckersville Elementary School Robotics Club.

Ms. Mack also recognized Ms. Rachel Freid for successfully completing her National Board Certification in teaching.

Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Bryan Huber was recognized for being selected to receive the “IMPACT” award for Region 5.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh recognized our school board members during the meeting, in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. Members were presented with certificates from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) and planters made by high school students.

Ms. Mack stated public comments could be made on matters not included on the agenda. There were no sign-ups and no public comments given. Ms. Mack closed public comments.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented action item #11-822, School Calendar (20-21, 21-22). Calendar Option B was presented for approval by the School Board. Mr. Huber outlined how surveys, committee work, and other factors influenced the final decision. Mr. Jason Tooley moved to approve the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year calendars, Mr. Todd Sansom seconded the motion, all ayes from members, motion carried.

Ms. Carol Coffey presented information item # 11-823, which focused on the Thomas Jefferson Adult and Career Education (TJAC) program through Piedmont Virginia Community College. Program organizers, including Ms. Coffey, wish to continue a partnership with Greene County Schools, meaning our board would need to renew a 3 year memorandum of understanding to be voted on during the next meeting, March 11, 2020.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented information item # 11-824, which was an update on Greene County Schools’ strategic plan, Innovate 2021. Mr. Huber presented handouts on the “Lead Innovator” program to school board members.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented information item # 11-825, Superintendent’s Update. Dr. Whitmarsh explained that several GCPS staff, including her, would be participating in a job fair in Harrisonburg February 15, 2020. She also announced school board related materials would soon be created and displayed in “Board Docs.” She announced hosting a meeting with the local YMCA to discuss expanding services to students.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item # 11-826, FY2021 Budget. She explained how the state’s education budget is progressing in Richmond. Dr. Whitmarsh then shared a presentation including our vision, mission, core values and school board priorities. She shared information on student demographics of our school division. Dr. Whitmarsh shared info on the teacher shortage crisis in Virginia. Dr. Whitmarsh proposed a 4% salary increase, showing an overall commitment to providing competitive compensation

to staff members in an effort to foster retention. She outlined a need for adding additional personnel, which includes behavior support positions. She explained those who would be put into these roles would offer much-needed help to teachers.

Ms. Mack opened the floor for the public hearing for the FY2021 budget proposal. Ms. Rachel Peters, the music teacher at Ruckersville Elementary School, expressed appreciation for the proposed 4% salary increase for staff and says efforts to support retention, like this, should continue.

Ms. Gail Daniel, retired teacher from Ruckersville Elementary School, expressed appreciation for the proposed 4% salary increase.

Ms. Mack closed public hearing on the budget after there were no others interested in contributing to public comment.

Mr. Jason Tooley thanked Mr. Bowman, County Board of Supervisors member for coming, also addressed challenges in the classroom how the board should strive to help support teachers and administrators.

Mr. Todd Sansom thanked Ms. Peters and Ms. Daniel for attending and voicing their concerns. He explained his desire to hear from others associated with the school division.

Mr. Jason Collier expressed his appreciation for being able to see the robotics team students, thanked everyone who presented information.

Ms. Sharon Mack thanked those involved in planning school board appreciation items and the overall recognition of School Board Appreciation Month.

Ms. Mack adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.



Chairman



Clerk