

School Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Daniel, Vice-Chairperson; Sharon Mack, Member; Rodney Kibler, Member; Jason Collier, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Jennifer Shepherd, Clerk

MEMBER PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leah Paladino, Chairperson

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Bill Martin, Vice Chair & Liaison

The closed session meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Library at William Monroe Middle School.

Dr. Kibler made a motion to move into closed session; Mr. Daniel seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Daniel announced that we would reconvene into open session in the Cafeteria at William Monroe Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Daniel announced that there were no closed meeting actions.

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

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to Destination Imagination Team "The Gummy Kings". They are a team of six third graders from Ruckersville Elementary. They placed second at the regional tournament and fifth at the state tournament.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate to Dan Sawyer, teacher at Nathanael Greene Elementary School for his published article "Students as Commentators" in the Teaching Children Mathematics Magazine.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the members of the WMHS Swim and Dive Teams. The boys' and girls' teams qualified 15 swimmers and three divers to the State meet.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the 21 National History Day first and second place winners from William Monroe Middle School. The National History Day teachers were also recognized for their contributions.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the WMHS Forensics Team. Three members of the team qualified for states. Their coach, Aaron Hale, accepted the awards on behalf of his team members as they were at rehearsals for "Beauty and the Beast" and could not attend.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the WMHS Scholastic Bowl team for being the Class 3 Region B Runners-up. Coach James Parr was also recognized for his time and effort.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to the WMHS Girls Basketball Team. The Lady Dragons were recognized for an undefeated regular season, Northwestern District Class 3 Champions, Class 3 Region Runners-up, and VHSL State Quarterfinalists. The girls were also recognized for their individual accomplishments. The coaching staff was recognized for their time and effort. Jessica Stafford, Head Coach, was recognized for being selected as Northwestern District Coach of the Year.

Mr. Daniel and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate and trophy to Samantha Brunelle for being selected as the 2017-2018 Gatorade Virginia State Girls Basketball Player of the Year. This award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence but also high standards in academic achievement and exemplary character both on and off of the court.

Dr. Whitmarsh thanked everyone recognized and said that they make the schools and the community proud. Mr. Daniel also extended thanks to the parents for taking their children to all of the events and also thanked the coaches and teachers. He also stated that we had a great representation for Greene County Schools tonight.

Mr. Daniel stated public comments could be made on matters not below on the agenda. There were no sign-ups and no public comments given.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item # 11-483 2017-2018 School Calendar Change. Virginia Code requires 180 days or 990 instructional hours per year. Due to the small number of days missed and the upcoming construction she recommended a change to the 2017-2018 school calendar to make the last day for students Wednesday, May 23rd and professional days for staff on May 24th & May 25th. She stated this would still leave us well beyond the required instructional time. Motion to change the school calendar as recommended was made by Dr. Kibler. Seconded by Mrs. Mack. No Discussion. Motion Carried.

Mr. Bryan Huber presented information item # 11-484 February 2018 VSBA Policy Updates. He advised there were 23 policies with changes but were less eventful than in years past. He highlighted a few of the changes as outlined in his presentation. EBA policy was deleted as it was a duplication of another policy. GCB has a language change regarding professional staff contracts. VA Code section requiring Uniform Hiring Procedures was removed which contained firm deadlines for taking and interviewing teachers already under contract with another division. IGBE removed a clause regarding credit for repeated work in remedial instruction programs. IKF included a change in the policy's focus from SOL learning to now Alternative Assessments which are already in place. No questions were asked.

Dr. Wendy Mitchem presented information item # 11-485 2018-2019 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through. This is an annual application used to access federal funds for students with disabilities. Dr. Mitchem provided an overview for how the funds are distributed. She stated that distribution falls into several categories: Salaries & Wages for employees, Benefits for employees, Purchase Services such as independent educational evaluations, contracted services, or PD for staff, Reimbursement of staff travel expenses for trainings and materials & supplies such as software or equipment for an accommodation. Dr. Mitchem provided a breakdown of those costs showing that 98% of the funding goes toward salary and benefits. Mr. Daniel asked if the materials and supplies were divided amongst the different schools and Dr. Mitchem confirmed they were.

Mrs. Martha Taylor, Mrs. Jen Myers and Mr. Scott Wills presented item #11-486, NGES Shenandoah National Park Project. The final project was presented at the Arts Festival. They explained that they applied for and received grant money to complete this school-wide project. Every grade level participated. Kindergarten made pottery, 1st grade learned to dance the Virginia Reel, 2nd grade made houses, 3rd grade students made quilt squares which Debbie Morris sewed together to make beautiful quilts, 4th graders focused on stories, interviewed people and wrote audio books and 5th graders had to pick a side of the issue, make artifacts and tell a story. They learned a lot about Greene County. They thanked the Greene County Historical Society for lots of information and for letting them borrow items. Mr. Daniel asked how many people were interviewed. Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Myers named a few of the interviewees. They said that some of the quilts will be given to the interviewees as a thank you for their time.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-487, FY2019 Budget Update. She stated that the special session of the general assembly began today so there is no additional information. The state and local process continues to move forward. The public hearing for the local process will be April 24th at 6:30 and the Board of Supervisors will adopt a budget on May 8th.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-488, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh expressed congratulations to all that were recognized and shared that they help make our school system an amazing place. She thanked the Middle School for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. She stated that throughout this year several innovation presentations have been given and was proud to say that 11 of our teachers and staff will be presenting at the 2018 Brainstorm Conference on Friday, April 13th. They will present professional learning to educators throughout Virginia on innovative instructional practices. Dr. Whitmarsh stated that preparation for the construction continues and updates will be provided. Get Fit for Greene 5K is Saturday, April 21st with proceeds to benefit the Greene Education Foundation. Graduation will be held on May 19th. There are many other activities set throughout the month of May and we would provide calendars. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Dr. Kibler thanked everyone.

Mrs. Mack loved that more than half of the meeting was spent recognizing students and staff for their accomplishments. She is very proud. She gave thanks to the students, teachers and coaches for supporting the students. She loved the innovative parks project. She said that she would be reviewing it further and it was a great job.

Mr. Collier expressed that the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff are what make his job worthwhile. He stated he would've loved to have had a swim team back in his day. Everyone is doing amazing things and he is proud of their achievements.

Mr. Daniel said it was inspiring to see the students doing so well and that it is a great reflection of the parents, coaches, teachers and administrators. He thanked Mr. Martin for being in attendance. He jokingly stated that if shortening the school year would be too stressful to let them know and they would see what they could do. He thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Daniel adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm.

Chairman

Clerk