



Minutes
School Board Meeting
Greene County Schools
WMHS Performing Arts Center
October 13, 2021

Members Present: Ms. Leah Paladino, Chair; Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Ms. Sharon Mack, Member, Mr. Jason Collier, Member, Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk; Jennifer Walker, Deputy Clerk.

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

Ms. Leah Paladino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the William Monroe High School Digital Media Classroom.

Ms. Mack made a motion to move into closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711 A.2 to legal and personnel matters. Mr. Collier seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Paladino moved to reconvene in an open session at 7:11 p.m. in the WMHS Performing Arts Center.

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 as presented. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

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

Ms. Paladino stated there were no closed meeting actions.

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

September 1 & 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021 Expenditures
Monthly Finance Report
Enrollment
Staff to be Approved List

Mr. Todd Sansom made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented in the packet. Ms. Mack seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificate to students and staff for their success at the Virginia State Fair.

The first two students and organization coach we are recognizing this evening are members of Health Occupations Students of America, or HOSA. Students Paula Nolasco and Opshana Rai earned 3rd place in the state competition for their brochure on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ms. Tabitha Cole is their coach and teaches nursing at the Greene County Tech Center.

The next group of students are members of Virginia's DECA Organization. Greene's DECA students participated in "role play" events where they must quickly prepare and respond to real life business situations.

As a team, Lance Lemon & Jennifer Argueta earned 1st place for their role play submission in one of DECA's competitions.

Riley Mitchelson and his event partner, Will Rawlings, (not attending) also competed in a DECA competition and received 1st place for their role play submission.

Their coach, Ms. Daphne Tynes, was not able to attend this evening.

Next, we will recognize students and coaches who competed in the SkillsUSA competition.

Students Schuyler Nitzsche and Daniel Woodson earned 1st place overall in the SkillsUSA carpentry category with the help of their teacher and coach, Mr. Thomas Mallory.

Students Nathan Bodin and Nick Colvin earned first place overall in the auto tech category under the direction of their coach Mr. Bruce VanDyke.

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.

Nancy Rodland spoke representing Greg Pumphrey. Ms. Rodland shared Mr. Pumphrey's interests and concerns specifically regarding rights of parents.

Steven Kortepeter shared a story regarding his friend who is a teacher and student. Mr. Kortepeter stated his concerns with mask and timeline of events.

Casey Costanzo shared concerns of mask mandates and wants to know when the school board will revisit this mandate.

Sandra Gantt spoke regarding school board positions and standards.

Judy Jones shared concerns regarding mask wearing, quarantine rules, and concerns for unvaccinated students.

Megan Walton shared concerns of quarantine rules.

Brittany Bornstin shared concerns of mask mandates.

Buddy Barre shared COVID information and concerns with mandates.

Michael Gantt shared about his son and issues with mask wearing.

Ms. Paladino asked if there was anyone else wanting to speak.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1128, Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU. Dr. Whitmarsh shared there had been no changes to the MOU since the October meeting. Mr. Sansom made a motion to approve the Greene County Sheriff's Office MOU as presented. Mr. Tooley seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented action item #11-1129, FY2023 Budget Development Calendar. Dr. Whitmarsh gave an overview of the budget development calendar and stated that the calendar is similar to previous years. Mr. Sansom asked about the Governor's budget since there will be a new Governor. Dr. Whitmarsh responded the current Governor will provide a proposed budget in December and that budget will be used to start basing the school's budget preparation on. Mr. Collier made a motion to approve action item #11-1129, FY2023 Budget Development Calendar as presented. Mr. Sansom seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information/action item #11-1130, FY2022 Calendar Modification. The recommended modifications are for November 22 & 23 and April 25 to become Asynchronous and Professional Development Days. Mr. Tooley made a motion to approve the modified 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented. Mr. Collier seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Spencer presented information/action item #11-1131, Substitute Rate Review. Ms. Spencer shared the need for substitutes, time for rate review and keeping compliant with the minimum wage requirements. Ms. Spencer gave an overview of the proposal. Mr. Sansom asked about substitutes and if they are receiving minimum wage. Ms. Spencer responded yes. Mr. Sansom asked about COVID funding if that may be used for substitute pay. Ms. Spencer responded that all the pandemic funding plans indicate funds may be used to offset learning loss.

Ms. Paladino opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Sansom made a motion to approve the information/action item #11-1131 Substitute Rate Review as presented. Mr. Collier seconded. No discussion. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Payne presented information item #11-1132, Ruckersville Elementary School Showcase. Ms. Lawhorne and Ms. Thompson assisted Ms. Payne with the presentation. The presentation included an overview of social emotional learning, addressing learning loss, curriculum highlights, student engagement, and Eagle Ambassadors.

Dr. Huber presented information item #11-1133, FY2023 & FY2024 School Calendars. Dr. Huber provided possible drafts for 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 calendars. Dr. Huber gave a review of the process which consists of calendar committee representation, submit survey to staff and parents, develop drafts, school board input and school board action. Dr. Huber shared key considerations, comparisons and survey results.

Ms. Spencer presented information item #11-1134, CARES/ESSER Funds. Ms. Spencer gave an update of each of the following Federal Pandemic Funds: CARES Act, ESSER Fund (ESSER I), GEER, CRF, CRRSA-ESSERII and ESSERIII. Additional potential allocation such as HVAC and Learning Loss may also be released. Ms. Spencer shared the amount of each allocation, details of requirements and application process. Ms. Mack asked about using funds for COVID testing. Ms. Spencer responded that would be an allowable use of funds. Mr. Tooley asked about total funds and how much has been spent. Ms. Spencer responded with an approximate total of 5.3 million applied for/available with the CFR funds of \$508,000 having been received and the reimbursement of \$357,000 of the ESSER I is in process. Mr. Tooley requested a quote for AC on buses. Mr. Tooley inquired about buses at the maintenance shop. Ms. Spencer responded they have not been paid for by the county and they are not on the school's insurance at this time. Mr. Tooley inquired about parking lot lights at Ruckersville Elementary School.

Ms. Fox presented information item #11-1135, Growth Assessment. Ms. Fox gave an overview of the new required assessments for students. Legislation passed in the 2021 VA General Assembly requires the new assessments to be completed by students in the fall and spring of 2021-2022 in grades 3-8 reading and mathematics to measure growth during the school year. Ms. Fox shared the vertical scaled score reference points that is being used for this assessment.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1136, Superintendent's Update. She shared it was great to see the CTE Students being recognized tonight for all their hard work. Details for Virtual Virginia enrollment will be released soon for enrollment in second semester beginning January 2nd. Dr. Whitmarsh shared the broadband update. Dr. Whitmarsh stated we have been selected to participate in the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network. Dr. Whitmarsh stated staff, students and parents will be surveyed regarding Strategic Planning. There will be an updated on this next month. Schools will be closed for students November 1 and 2 for parent teacher conferences and professional development.

Ms. Paladino welcomed board member comments.

Mr. Tooley thanked the staff for their hard work. He spoke about the tic toc challenge and asked parents to assist. Mr. Tooley spoke about the need for AC on buses, concerns for no zeros as a grade, quarantine procedures, time off for teachers due to extra duties and Ruckersville Elementary School parking lights. Mr. Tooley stated he would vote no on a vaccine mandate for students if it came about. He thanked Dr. Whitmarsh, central office and teachers.

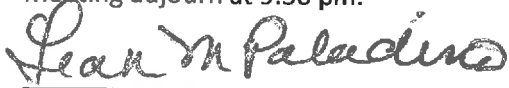
Ms. Mack stated she was interested in hearing more about quarantine practices. Ms. Mack responded to the public comment regarding the board meeting behind closed doors. She explained closed meeting process. Ms. Mack shared concerns for students and mental health awareness.

Mr. Sansom shared his frustration on not being able to make positive comments on social media. He reminded everyone that the School Board Members are not educators and an employee of the school can not run for School Board. Mr. Sansom stated he views his role as a School Board Member is to represent employees as part of a larger body. The Virginia School Board Association put out a letter that School Board Members received regarding the letter that was sent by the National School Board Association to the Attorney General. The VSBA's letter distanced themselves from NSBA's letter and stated this letter did not represent VSBA. Mr. Sansom encouraged the audience to speak with their state level representatives regarding the mask mandates. He thanked everyone for their service.

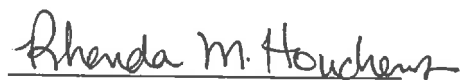
Mr. Collier thanked all the staff for their hard work. Nothing to report from PREP. He referenced the letter Mr. Sansom mentioned and shared his support. Mr. Collier thanked those in attendance. He spoke about the need for subs, federal funding, cost for mask, and stress on our students and staff. He thanked staff and parents.

Ms. Paladino requested motion to adjourn meeting. Ms. Mack made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sansom seconded. All Ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourn at 9:50 pm.



Chair



Clerk

