

Greene County School Board Meeting Synopsis

January 11, 2017

Attendance: All Board members present

School Board **Annual Organizational Meeting**

Election of Officers: School Board Chair- Leah Paladino; Vice Chair-Harry Daniel; Clerk of the Board-Shana Deane; Deputy Clerk-Ronda Houchens

Committee Appointments: Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School-Sharon Mack; Policy Representative- Rodney Kibler; PREP Board-Jason Collier; PREP alternate- Leah Paladino; Thomas Jefferson Adult Education representative-Harry Daniel

Schedule of Regular Meetings for Calendar Year 2017, unanimously approved

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Conduct Code of VSBA (VA School Board Association) unanimously approved

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Consent Agenda (all items unanimously approved)

December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

December 2, 2016 Expenditures

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

December 7, 2016 Expenditures

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

December 14, 2016 Expenditures

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

December 19, 2016 Expenditures

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Monthly Finance Report

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Field Trips

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Enrollment

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Staff to be Approved List

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Certificates of Recognition were awarded to **Kyle Kruszewski** for being selected to play in the Virginia High School Coaches Association All Star Football Game, And **Michelle Deisbeck** for being selected as a finalist in the 2017 US Presidential Scholar Nomination.

Only one **Action item**, was considered, a **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update** presented at the December Board Meeting as an informational item by Kristie Spencer, Director of Business and Facilities. The CIP Update proposal was unanimously approved at the January meeting. I was not present at the December meeting when the plan was discussed. However, according to an article in the December 22, 2016, Greene County Record, “the plan totals more than \$19 million over the next five years, with the bulk of that coming in fiscal 2019 as the high-priority items approved as part of the facilities project plan are implemented.” The newspaper article also stated, “Projects for fiscal 2017 include \$30,000 for new bleachers at the high school, \$40,000 for excavating and waterproofing at high school gym and business wing, \$35,000 for paving of primary school playground and various parking lots and \$70,000 for track resurfacing, among other items”. Ms Spencer referred to the following documents in her

recommendation to approve Updates to the CIP as proposed but with little commentary since they had already been discussed in December.

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

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Agenda **Information Items** were as follows:

Staff Reports:

Kristie Spencer reported that **Mileage Reimbursement Rates** is 53.5 cents in calendar year 2017, down slightly from 54 cents last year. These rates are based on the IRS rates effective on January first of each calendar year.

Nathanael Greene Elementary School Assistant Principal, Adam Midock, and Community Liaison, Sarah Baran, reported on the **Little Dragon Backpack Program** currently underway at Nathanael Greene Elementary School and Nathanael Greene Primary School. This program is an effort to provide backpacks of food for weekends to help families in need at their schools. Pre-packed backpacks are sent home every Friday with breakfast and lunch items along with a snack. Students return the empty backpacks on Monday. Ms Baran began this program as a grass roots effort by asking personnel at the schools to help identify students who “might be at risk for food insecurity”. Ms Baran reported that over 50% of the student population at Nathanael Greene receive free or reduced lunches. The program is currently providing food for 17 families and 29 students. According to Ms Baran, the first year of this program is turning out to be a “true success”, and there are plans to expand the program to help more families who have recently requested assistance. Ms Baran also sees a need to develop a food assistance program for students and their families over the summer vacation months. The program has been supported with “generous donations” by staff members and community sponsors. The students themselves held a fund raiser which raised more than \$ 700 for the program. Ms Baran said the school website will soon have a posted list of needed food items. She said food donations may be left in the school “front office”. The following is a link to Ms Baran’s power point presentation.

<https://docs.google.com/a/greencountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JlZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Whitmarsh presented an **Outlook for the FY2018 budget**. The calendar of events for the budget process is as follows:

- 1/11 School Board Meeting – discuss needs and identify priorities to move forward
- 1/24 School Board /Board of Supervisors Joint Workshop
- 1/25 School Board Budget Work Session – draft budget proposal
- 2/10 School Board Meeting – public hearing on budget proposal
- 2/24 School Board Budget Adoption

Dr. Whitmarsh discussed the following as some of the **influencing factors** for the budget:

- **Enrollment** projection - flat to the previous year. However, the enrollment population is shifting from elementary to middle and high schools.
- **Virginia Retirement System contribution rates** – increasing 17.08% to 18.86% (10% increase from previous year) Increase is estimated at \$326,000, if salaries remain flat.
- **Health Insurance increase** – estimated at 15% with cost of \$357,000.
- **Operating Expenses**- no planned increases but superintendent pointed out that economic factors may change that, such as increasing cost of utility bills, fuel, etc.
- **Revenues** from State, Federal and Local governments

Dr. Whitmarsh began the budget process in the late fall by meeting with teachers and administrators in each school to receive their **requests for the new budget**. Over \$1.7 million in requests were received and are being evaluated, consolidated and prioritized. Requests for **new personnel positions** total \$1,390,000; **Facilities and supplies** at \$114,000; **Purchase services** at \$38,000, and **technology** at \$144,000. For a detailed look at Dr. Whitmarsh’s power point presentation use the following link.

<https://docs.google.com/a/greenecountyschools.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Z3JJZW5lY291bnR5c2Nob29scy5jb218c2Nob29sLWJvYXJkLWFnZW5kYXN8Z3g>

In the **monthly Superintendent’s update** Dr. Whitmarsh reported a **“Start Time” Survey** was distributed before Christmas to determine community interest in changing to a later start time for high school students. A follow up survey will be distributed soon. The survey results will be shared at a later time.

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