



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

November 7, 2023

4:32 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

### Council Members

**Mr. Dan Tripp**, *Chairman, District 28*

**Mrs. Liz Seman**, *Vice-Chairwoman, District 24*

**Mr. Butch Kirven**, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 27*

**Mr. Joey Russo**, *District 17*

**Mr. Mike Barnes**, *District 18*

**Mr. Benton Blount**, *District 19*

**Mr. Stephen Shaw**, *District 20*

**Mr. Chris Harrison**, *District 21*

**Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas**, *District 22*

**Mr. Alan Mitchell**, *District 23*

**Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr.**, *District 25*

**Mr. Rick Bradley**, *District 26*

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Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

### **Council Members Absent**

None

### **Staff Present**

**Joe Kernell**, County Administrator

**Mark Tollison**, County Attorney

**Chris Antley**, Assistant County Attorney

**Regina McCaskill**, Clerk to Council

**Jessica Stone**, Deputy Clerk to Council

**Pam Gilliam**, Administrative Assistant Clerk to Council

**Terrence Galloway**, Information Systems

**Bob Mihalic**, Governmental Affairs Officer

**Tee Coker**, Assistant County Administrator

**Hesha Gamble**, Assistant County Administrator

**Nicole Wood**, Assistant County Administrator

**Rashida Jeffers- Campbell**, Planning Director

### **Others Present**

**Steve Cole**, Director, Greater Greenville Sanitation

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Dan Tripp

### **Invocation**

Councilor Butch Kirven

**Item (3)      Approval of Minutes**

- a.      September 5, 2023 – Regular Committee Meeting**
- b.      October 23, 2023 – Special Called Committee Meeting**
- c.      October 30, 2023 – Special Called Committee Meeting**

**Action:** Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting; the October 23, 2023, Special Called Committee Meeting; the October 30, 2023, Special Called Committee Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (4)      Board and Commission Policy – Suspension of Section 4 / Bullet 6: Meeting Requirement for Applicants**

**Action:** Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to suspend Section 4, Item 6 in the Board of Commission Policy regarding board meeting attendance by applicants.

Chairman Pro Tem stated the County’s current Board and Commission policy was amended and adopted by Council in June of 2023. The new policy required that at the time of application, all applicants must have attended at least one meeting of the board or commission on which they wished to serve. Mr. Kirven stated he would like to suggest the requirement be phased in, given the fact that many applicants may not have been aware of it. Phasing in the requirement would give applicants the opportunity to be better informed and avoid disqualifying anyone, especially during the current cycle. He stated if the requirement was enforced during the current cycle, a large number of applicants would be disqualified and some boards would be unable to fill positions.

Chairman Tripp stated approval of Mr. Kirven’s motion would be a one-time occurrence. There were approximately 30-35 applicants who would be disqualified under the new policy; the proposed item was an attempt to be fair to all applicants.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated she was in support of Mr. Kirven’s motion and waiving the requirement. She stated some of the boards had not met recently; therefore, some applicants would have been unable to attend a meeting.

Councilor Shaw stated it was his understanding that two applicants attended meeting after applying. He asked if those individuals were in violation of the requirement.

Ms. McCaskill stated the County’s Board and Commission Policy indicated at the time of application, applicants must have attended at least one meeting of the board or commission on which they wished to serve. Both of the individuals referenced by Mr. Shaw had attended a meeting after submitting their application and requested that information be forwarded to Council.

Councilor Shaw stated the application period was for one month. He inquired if an application would be considered “amended” if the applicant attended a meeting during the application period.

Ms. McCaskill stated the policy indicated an individual must have already attended a meeting at the time of application.

Councilor Shaw asked Ms. McCaskill if that was her interpretation or if someone had asked her to change it.

Chairman Tripp stated the policy clearly indicated an applicant must have attended a meeting, prior to submission of their application.

Councilor Shaw stated he was under the impression an individual had a “good application” if they attended a meeting during the application period, which may be after their application was submitted. He stated he was trying to determine if the meeting requirement was an interpretation by the Clerk or if someone had asked her to change the interpretation.

Chairman Tripp stated Mr. Kirven’s motion was an attempt to be fair to all applicants. If there was an attempt to disqualify certain applicants, the motion would not have been made.

Councilor Shaw asked if Council was part of the process of interpreting the requirement.

Chairman Tripp stated he would take responsibility for interpreting the policy requirements.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

**Item (5) Board and Commission Appointments**

Chairman Tripp stated a number of boards had the same number of applicants as vacancies, or in some cases, fewer applicants than vacancies. Those appointments could be done by acclamation.

**Action:** Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation the following:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (5 vacancies)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Penny Cooper</li><li>• Joyce McCarrell</li><li>• Christine Zolli</li></ul>                      |
| <i>Airport Environs Planning Commission (2 vacancies)</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brad Medcalf</li><li>• Van Swafford</li></ul>   |
| <i>Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (1 vacancy)</i>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheryl Schosky</li></ul>  |
| <i>Board of Tax Assessment and Appeals (5 vacancies)</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Carnell</li><li>• Richard Christie</li><li>• Steve Hudson</li><li>• Terri Wicker</li></ul> |
| <i>Chanticleer Community Commission (3 vacancies)</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John Pazdan</li><li>• Jay Pruitt</li><li>• Peter Schwartz</li></ul>                             |
| <i>Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District (3 vacancies)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aaron Dix</li><li>• Keven Holtzclaw</li><li>• Tim Scott</li></ul>                               |
| <i>Historic Preservation Commission (5 vacancies)</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elsie Bickmann</li><li>• Anne Peden</li><li>• James Scott</li><li>• Jason Smit</li></ul>        |

Linkside Special Tax District (2 vacancies)

• Richard Matthews

Museum Commission (2 vacancies)

• Julie Garrett  
• Mary Johnston

Old Mill Estates Special Tax District (1 vacancy)

• David Dalby

Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District (1 vacancy)

• James Hollis

Zoning Board of Appeals (2 vacancies)

• Laura Godfrey

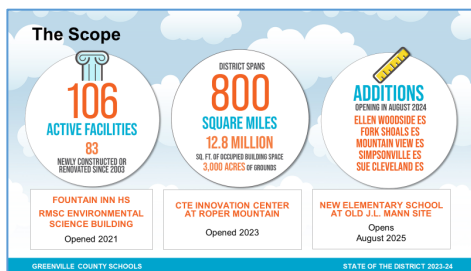
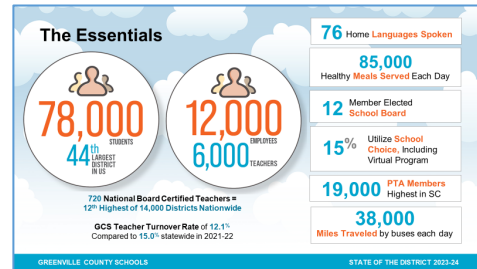
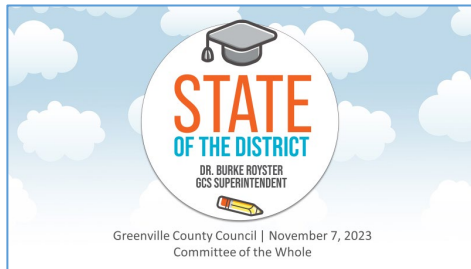
Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman requested the Clerk submit a report, by the next meeting, regarding any quorum issues for those boards or commissions with fewer applicants than vacancies.

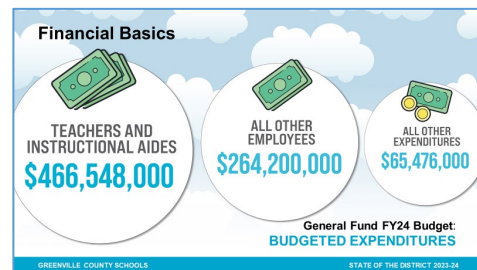
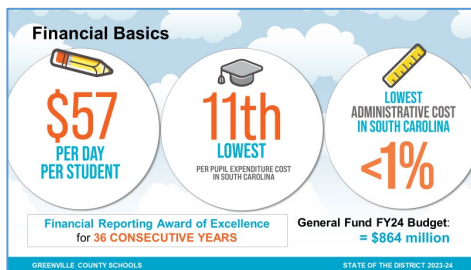
Ballot voting for the remaining boards and commissions was completed. The results were announced after the presentation by the Greenville County School District.

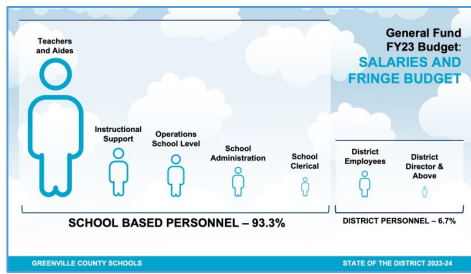
**Item (6) Presentation – Greenville County School District**

Presented by: Superintendent Dr. Burke Royster  
Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Carolyn Styles  
Trustee/Advocacy Chair Chuck Saylor



Occupancy Date	Add'd Capacity
2021	Summit Drive ES Addition 230 Seats (complete)
2022	Robert E. Cashion ES Addition 236 Seats (complete)
2024	Ellen Woodside ES Addition 153 Seats Fork Shoals ES 253 Seats
	Mountain View ES Addition 90 Seats Simpsonville ES Addition 201 Seats Sue Cleveland ES Addition 114 Seats New ES at Old J.L. Mann Site 750 Seats Woodland ES Addition 300 Seats
2026	Tanglewood MS Addition 250 Seats
2027	Fountain Inn HS Addition 1,000 Seats
2028	Grove ES Addition 130 Seats
2029	Northwest MS New Building/New Site 130 Seats
2032	Ralph Chandler MS Addition 250 Seats
2033	Bryson MS New Building/New Site 500 Seats Fountain Inn ES Addition of Grades 6-8 500 Seats





### Academics

#### PANDEMIC RECOVERY

GCS elementary and middle schools **outperformed the state** in every grade level in **ELA, Math and Science** for the 2022-23 school year.

84% of GCS elementary schools, 100% of middle schools, and 93% of high schools **met or exceeded pre-pandemic (2018-19) scores in ELA, Math and/or Science.**

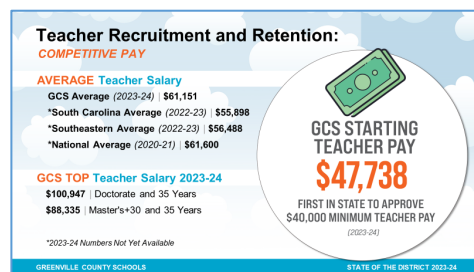
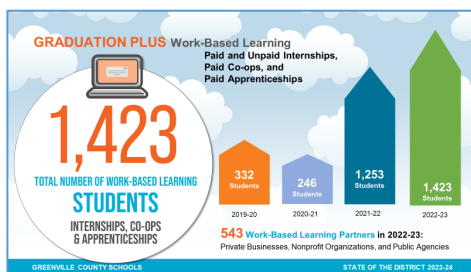
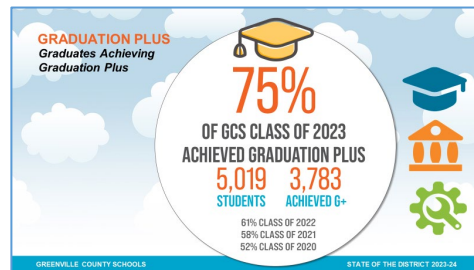
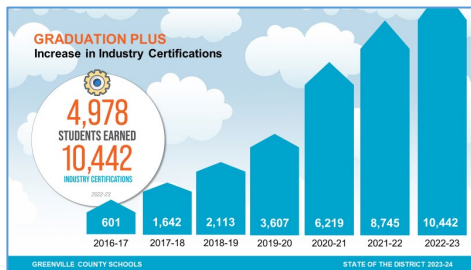
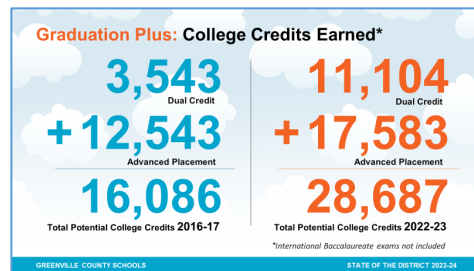
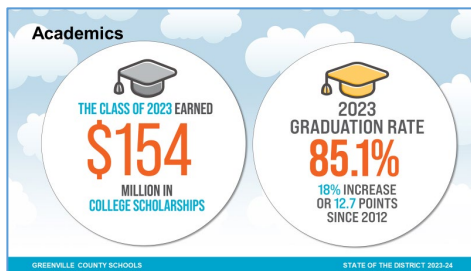
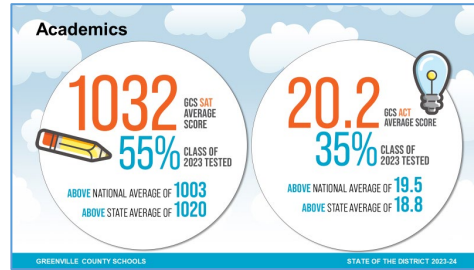
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS | STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

### Academics

#### STATE REPORT CARD 2023

On the 2023 State Report Cards, **91%** of Greenville County Schools earned ratings of **Excellent, Good or Average**, with **37%** of our schools awarded the top rating of **Excellent**.

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS | STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24



### Teacher Recruitment and Retention:

#### RECRUITMENT

- Future Teacher Academy for high school students- early focus on teaching as a career
- Expressway to Tiger Town Program partnership with GCS, Greenville Tech and Clemson provides fast track to teaching career for our students
- State approved Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs: GATE, PACE, CATE, American Board, Teachers of Tomorrow
  - Greenville Alternative Teacher Education (GATE) Program for career changers in critical-need subject areas – grown to provide on-the-job training for 100 new educators
- Tuition Reimbursement for GCS employees seeking to become educators
- Internship Programs - 7 Collegiate Partners
- Clemson University Teaching Resident/Master Teacher Model Program
- Furman Teacher to Teacher Program
- SC-CREATE Scholarship Program for future special education teachers
- International Cultural Exchange Programs place qualified foreign teachers in hard-to-fill positions

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS | STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

### Teacher Recruitment and Retention:

#### RETENTION

- Competitive Salaries and Inclusive Benefits Package
- New Teacher Induction and Mentoring
- Community partnerships with Ten at the Top, Public Education Partners, GCS Foundation, and the Greenville Drive
- Employee Relations Specialists
- Employee Assistance Program-ESPYR
- Greenville County Schools Social Media Pages Featuring our Employees
- Professional Development Opportunities
- District Support for Certification and Recertification

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS | STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

**School Safety and Security:**

- District Emergency Response Plan**
  - First Written in 2006, Continually Reviewed and Revised to Incorporate Changes in Best Practices, Industry Standards, and Lessons Learned from Local or National Events
- DEIRT Team** – Continuous Training and Coordination
- Complies with National Incident Management System (NIMS) Framework**
  - Prevention/Mitigation
  - Preparedness
  - Response - Incident Command System Utilized by Every School and District Team
  - Recovery – Includes Offsite Reunification Plans
- Threat and Risk Protocols** – Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) Assessments by Multi-Disciplinary Teams, Including Law Enforcement
  - Specific Indicators to Assess Specific Threats

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

**School Safety and Security:**

- Unique Partnership with Greenville County Sheriff's Office** – School Enforcement Unit – Named GCS Partner of the Year
- Full-Time School Resource Officers (SROs)** at Every Middle and High School and Some Elementary Schools
- Zone Patrol Officers** Visit All Remaining Schools and Centers Multiple Times Daily
- Goal of an SRO at Every Location** – Adding as Personnel Become Available
- Law Enforcement Agencies Conduct **Unannounced and Undercover Security Breach Tests**
- Active Shooter Response Training** at GCS Schools During Summer
- Locked Exterior Doors, Access Control System**
  - Authorized Badges Required to Enter Buildings
- Secure Capture Areas and Remote Locks** at All School Visitor Entrances
- Security Cameras in Buildings and on Buses** – Upgrade Project
  - Higher-Quality Imaging
  - Facial Recognition and Analytics
  - Integration with Access-Control System
- EVOLV Weapon Detection System** – 3 Additional Units Added for 2023-24 for a total of 6

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

**School Safety and Security:**

- Visitor/Volunteer Management System**
- Online Security**
- Continuous Training**
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support**
- OnTrack Greenville Program**
- School Counselors and Mental Health Counselors in Every School**
- Bullying/Threat Reporting**
  - "See Something, Say Something" Protocol
  - Bullying Tip-Line – App, Text, Phone
  - Anti-Bullying Education and Programs

**See Something. Say Something.**  
Greenville County Schools

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA + COLLEGE CREDIT + INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION**

**BUILDING A BETTER GRADUATE!**

**QUESTIONS?**

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2023-24

**STATE OF THE DISTRICT**  
DR. BURKE ROYSTER  
GCS SUPERINTENDENT

Councilor Shaw inquired if the district had any plans to ask developers to pay impact fees.

Dr. Royster stated impact fees had been discussed for a number of years as a means to address growth. A joint meeting with the school district and all the area municipalities had been planned. The goal of the meeting was to discuss how economic growth and economic development were impacting the school district as well as possible solutions.

**Item (5) Board and Commission Appointments (continued)**

Chairman Tripp announced the results of ballot voting for the following boards and commissions:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Airport Commission (1 vacancy)</i>                          | • <i>Jeff Gold</i>       |
| <i>Devenger Pointe Special Tax District (2 vacancies)</i>      | • <i>Angela Ownbey</i>   |
|  | • <i>Bradley Toulson</i> |
| <i>Greater Greenville Sanitation (2 vacancies)</i>             | • <i>Toni Crouch</i>     |
|  | • <i>Michael Porter</i>  |
| <i>Greenville County Redevelopment Authority (5 vacancies)</i> | • <i>Barry Coleman</i>   |
|  | • <i>David Doser</i>     |
|  | • <i>Denise Ernul</i>    |
|  | • <i>Robert Julian</i>   |
|  | • <i>Diana Weir</i>      |

Chairman Tripp stated after the first round of ballot voting, **William Belfour, Melinda Brockman** and **Jamika Nedwards** were elected to fill three of four vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. **Joseph Lyle** and **Keyisha Smith** had received the same number of votes and a run-off was in order.

Chairman Tripp stated after the first round of ballot voting, **Elizabeth Collins, Stephanie Cunningham, Allan Hill, Tommy Hughes** and **Joe Poore** were elected to fill five of six vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees. **Alexandra Gabela, Charity Gonzalez-Coker** and **Marcia Moston** had received the same number of votes and a run-off was in order.

Ballot run-off voting for the Human Relations Commission and the Library Board of Trustees was completed.

The meeting recessed at 5:27 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 5:32 p.m.

Chairman Tripp stated after the second round of voting, **Keyisha Smith** was elected to fill the remaining vacancy on the Human Relations Commission.

Chairman Tripp stated after the second round of ballot voting, **Alexandra Gabela** and **Marcia Moston** received the same number of votes and a second run-off was in order.

The meeting recessed at 5:33 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 5:34 p.m.

Chairman Tripp stated after the third round of ballot voting, **Marcia Moston** was elected to fill the remaining vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees.

Chairman Tripp congratulated those applicants who were elected to serve. He stated there was an inordinate number of applications and thanked everyone for their participation.

**Item (7)**      **Adjournment**

**Action:**      Vice-Chairman Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council