

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

February 22, 2021

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair

Ms. Iris Lane, Vice Chair

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Member - Participated via Electronic Communication

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member

Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member - Participated via Electronic Communication

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

Mrs. Tina Withers, Clerk of the Board

Mr. Chris Evans, Director of Technology

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fallin, Chair.

Ms. Lane made a motion that the Board convene into closed session as provided in Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters dealing with specific personnel of the

Westmoreland County School system pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Board member Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board member Dr. Wallace, and seconded by Board member Mrs. Ramsey.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

The motion for the approval of the following certification was made by Board member Dr. Wallace, and seconded by Board member Mrs. Ramsey.

WHEREAS, the Westmoreland County School Board convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

The Board was led in prayer by Dr. Perry and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Dr. Wallace read the Westmoreland County Public Schools' mission statement and vision statement to the public.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent after removing Finance Report from the agenda.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

### **Open Public Comments**

Mr. Larry Hinson expressed his opinion regarding names for the new high school.

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye.

- A. Approval of Personnel Appointments & Resignations
- B. Board Minutes - January 11, 2021, January 19, 2021 & January 25, 2021

### **Delegations/Presentations**

### **Attendance Recognition**

Dr. Perry presented the student attendance report for the month of January to the Board. Montross Middle School and Washington and Lee High School tied for the best student attendance for the month of January.

Dr. Perry presented the staff attendance report for the month of January to the Board. Washington District Elementary School had the highest staff attendance for the month of October. (Appendix I)

### **Moments in Black History**

Ms. Rice read a poem written by Mrs. Rita Wagstaff. Ms. Rice also recognized the book "Absalom Hazlett" written by Spencer Sadler.

### **VSBA Art Competition**

Ms. Rice shared artwork created by elementary, middle, and high school students that was submitted to the VSBA art competition.

## **School Board Appreciation**

Dr. Perry stated that February is School Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Perry presented certificates to each Board member.

## **Information Items**

### **Return To Learn Updates**

Dr. Perry shared the Virginia Department of Health data with the Board. Dr. Perry reviewed vaccine updates, new expectations from the Governor and fall athletics.

Dr. Williams joined the meeting and shared the new CDC guidance recommendations. Dr. Williams stated he feels that K-12 school districts can return to the hybrid learning mode with all CDC guidelines and mitigations in place. (Appendix II)

Dr. Perry recommended the return of students to school on a hybrid schedule beginning March 1, 2021.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to return to school on the hybrid model on March 1, 2021.

Dr. Wallace amended the motion to state: to return to school on the hybrid model and to authorize Dr. Perry to return to the hybrid learning at his discretion. Mrs. Lewis withdrew her motion.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to empower Dr. Perry with the authority to return to learn, hybrid learning, or on a date as he deems appropriate. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/1 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Nay.

## **Facility Update**

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry stated the county has requested a meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 with the tri board: The Westmoreland School Board, The Industrial Development Authority, and The Board of Supervisors to approve the change order to complete the auditorium. Dr. Perry shared figures for the completion of the auditorium, cost of furniture for the new high school, and an update on broadband for the county. (Appendix III)

## **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry reviewed upcoming events with the Board.

## **Action Items**

### **Approval of Bills**

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$939,830.10 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$34,163.80 as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. (Appendix IV)

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

### **Approval of Policy Regulation JM-R1**

Ms. Rice provided a policy update to policy JM-R1 to the Board. (Appendix V)

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the policy JM-R1 as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

### **School Board Member Comments**

School Board members comments reflected thanks to everyone for their support during the pandemic and thanks to everyone for virtually joining the meeting.

Ms. Lane shared she was asked to participate in a podcast with Tahi Wiggins, a University of Virginia student, on "Main Street Speaks to Rural America from the Northern Neck."

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion was made by Dr. Wallace, seconded by Sandra Ramsey and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

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**Clerk**

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**Chairman**