

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

August 19, 2019

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Vice Chair

Ms. Iris Lane, Member

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member

Absent:

Mrs. Patricia Lewis, Member

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

Mrs. Tina Withers, Clerk of the Board

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

Mrs. Ramsey 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 Ms. Lane seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, 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: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

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

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

A moment of silence was observed and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Ramsey read the Westmoreland County Public Schools' recommended mission statement and vision statement to the public.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

Public Comments

Mr. Harry Scott from the Westmoreland Branch NAACP read a letter concerning fairness in the school district.

Consent Agenda

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

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

- A. Approval of Personnel Appointments (Appendix I)
- B. Minutes – July 15, 2019 Regular Meeting and July 9, 2019 Work Session.
- C. Finance Report (Appendix II)

Delegations/Presentations

None

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$778,638.40 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$11,408.12 as presented. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion. (Appendix III)

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

Crisis Plan

Dr. Perry presented crisis management documents with the Board. Dr. Perry reviewed Code of Va. 22.1-279.8 - School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required, Policy EB and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety template for schools. Dr. Perry shared information on Westmoreland County Public School's plan which was reviewed last week at the work session with the Board. Dr. Perry stated that very comprehensive multiple steps are taken each year to development the crisis management plan.

Mr. Fallin noted that at the last work session the Board had the opportunity to discuss and review a very comprehensive crisis management plan.

Dr. Perry recommended that the Board approve the plans that were developed by the administration for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Crisis Management Plan as presented. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

School Gifts

Dr. Perry reviewed policy KH - Public Gifts to the Schools with the Board. Dr. Perry acknowledged individuals that gave donations/gifts to the school division.

A motion was made in accordance with school board policy KH, to accept the gifts/donations as presented.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the donations given to the school division. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

VSBA Media Honor Roll Resolution

Dr. Perry presented a VSBA Media Honor Roll Resolution recognizing the Westmoreland News and the Northern Neck Sentinel to the Board for approval. Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the media honor roll resolution. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion. (Appendix IV)

Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

WHEREAS, in each community, the public schools are shaped by the community to provide the most appropriate and effective education for the schoolchildren who attend those schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools are dependent on the community's support in countless ways, including support in setting goals for the education of our children, in establishing successful volunteer and booster programs at the school, for annual funding of the operations, in the election of qualified school board members; and

WHEREAS, much of the community's knowledge and opinions about the public schools rely on responsible reporting by local media representatives who decide which news to share with the community, how much attention will be focused on various issues, and what the tone of the reporting will be:

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westmoreland County School Board place the names of **Brittlynn Powell**, editor, Westmoreland News; **Richard Burrell**, writer, Westmoreland News; and **John Haynes Jr.**, editor and publisher of the Northern Neck Sentinel, on the statewide VSBA Media Honor Roll, calling attention to the ongoing responsible and exemplary nature of reporting on this community's public schools. We express our appreciation for your balanced and accurate approach to sharing with this community both the challenges facing our schools and the successes achieved by the teachers and students. Your work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for the children who attend them.

Signed this day:

August 19, 2019

Chair

Clerk

VSBA Policy Updates

Ms. Rice presented amended policies GBA/JFHA and JFHA/GBA to the Board for approval. Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the amended policies GBA/JFHA and JFHA/GBA to name the compliance officer and alternate compliance officer. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion. (Appendix V)

Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

Informational Items

Bus Fleet Update & Amended Recognitions

Dr. Perry presented the Board with the updated school bus driver recognition list. Dr. Perry shared an updated school bus fleet list with the Board.

Summer Programs

Ms. Rice reviewed the summer programs with the Board. Ms. Rice shared a video of the summer programs with the Board. Ms. Rice stated the four summer programs were: Matematica, Camp Lucee, Eight Awesome Days of August, and Northern Neck Regional Governor's School. (Appendix VI)

New & Expanded Programs

Ms. Rice highlighted the following programs for the 2019-2020 school year: Project Based Learning, Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, Raptor School Safety System, and Esports. (Appendix VII)

School Accreditation Status for 2019-2020

Ms. Rice discussed school accreditation based on the 2018-2019 data. Ms. Rice provided a powerpoint highlighting school quality indicators and final performance levels for each school. Ms. Rice stated that all four schools are accredited. (Appendix VIII)

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry discussed the new high school project with the Board stating that value engineering resulted in a reduction of \$7,000,000.00. Dr. Perry stated the Notice of Award has been issued to Branch Builds, Inc. for the new high school project. Dr. Perry reviewed the updated timeline for the new high school project stating construction is scheduled to begin early October. Dr. Perry shared that approximately half of the roof project at Washington District Elementary has been completed. He noted that the new roof value is almost \$500,000.00 and that the partnership with Sun Tribe reflects real money as far as savings because the real money is paying for the roof without asking the county for funds. Dr. Perry provided information on why the trees were removed at Cople Elementary School. Dr. Perry stated that most of the new major initiatives per the five year plan have been addressed. He also noted that Jeff Frazier at times will provide updates on the new high school. (Appendix IX)

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry reminded the Board of upcoming events.

School Board Member Comments

The Board expressed their excitement that all four schools in the division are accredited. The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Ms. Lane noted that in light of the comments from the NAACP that the Board look at creating and passing an equity policy for the school district. Ms. Lane stated an equity policy was reviewed last year but the Board did not create a policy. Ms. Lane stated she believes it would be beneficial for the district to have an equity policy and she would like for the Board to explore having an equity policy again. Ms. Lane thanked the Board of Supervisors for providing funding to build the new high school. Mr. Fallin expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for their unanimous approval to build the new high school. Mr. Fallin also expressed appreciation to Grimm & Parker and Branch Builds for cooperatively working together to reduce the bid amount for the new high school.

Dr. Perry invited everyone to come to the convocation on Wednesday.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Mrs. Ramsey, seconded by Ms. Lane and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk

Chairman

