

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

September 16, 2019

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair

Ms. Iris Lane, Member

Mrs. Patricia Lewis, Member

Absent:

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Vice Chair (participated via phone)

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. Lewis 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. Lewis, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye.

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board member Ms. Lane, and seconded by Board member Mrs. Lewis.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye.

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

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: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

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

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

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended by moving Item C. School Calendar 2020-2021 from action items to Information Items: Item G.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye.

Public Comments

Laticia Garner expressed her concerns regarding bus issues.

Hope Oaks expressed her concerns regarding bus issues.

Lewis Thompson expressed his opinion regarding the name of the new high school.

George Tate expressed his opinion regarding the name of the new high school.

Mr. Fallin stated the School Boards main concerns to date have been to first get the new high school built, expanding the academic choices for all students, and closing the achievement gap.

Daisy Howard Douglas expressed her opinion regarding the name of the new high school.

Cathy Scott expressed her opinion regarding the name of the new high school and possible uses for the current high school building once the new high school is built.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye.

- A. Approval of Personnel Appointments (Appendix I)
- B. Minutes – August 13, 2019 Work Session, August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting and August 29, 2019 Special Board Meeting.
- C. Finance Report (Appendix II)

Delegations/Presentations

VSBA Media Honor Roll Resolution

Dr. Perry presented the Virginia School Board Association Media Honor Roll certificates to John Haynes, editor and publisher of the Northern Neck Sentinel, Richard Burrell, writer, Westmoreland News, and Brittlynn Powell, editor, Westmoreland News.

Recognition of Jarvis Bailey

Dr. Perry recognized Jarvis Bailey, Assistant Principal of Washington and Lee High School, for being selected by Governor Ralph Northam to serve on the Commission on African American History Education. Mr. Bailey also serves as an At-Large Member on the Fredericksburg School Board.

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$415,951.07 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$12,525.93 as presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion. (Appendix III)

Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

Mission/Vision Statement

Dr. Perry presented the revised mission and vision statement to the Board.

Dr. Perry recommended that the Board approve the following revised mission/vision statement:

Vision: To provide an exemplary learning environment that empowers ALL students to find their voices and make meaningful contributions to the world.

Mission: Working together, we provide ALL students authentic learning experiences, knowledge, and skills to become successful global citizens.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the revised mission/vision statement as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

School Gifts

Dr. Perry acknowledged individuals that gave donations/gifts to the school division. Dr. Perry and the Board acknowledged the importance of partnerships with the community, businesses, and families to ensure students have what they need and the Board graciously accepts donations/gifts.

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

Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the donations given to the school division. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

Informational Items

Community Use of School Facilities (Policy KG)

Dr. Perry presented the Board with a list of agencies that have requested the use of school facilities. Dr. Perry stated that an application and process is in place for the requested use of school facilities.

Student Enrollment

Ms. Rice provided a powerpoint presentation on school enrollment data. Ms. Rice provided student enrollment comparison numbers for the last three years of each school. (Appendix IV)

Special Education

Ms. Kelley provided a powerpoint presentation on special education. Ms. Kelley reviewed the Virginia Department of Education requirements, compliance indicators, and results for the school division. (Appendix V)

Superintendent Goals 2020

Dr. Perry shared a list of superintendent goals for the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Perry reviewed the following goals with the Board: division accreditation, administrative transition plan, academic achievements gaps, minimize change orders on new high school, two year fund raiser for school construction, school safety, truancy concerns, external audit of transportation department, division scholarships, and division website improvements. (Appendix VI)

Strategic Plan

Dr. Perry reviewed the strategic plan with the Board. Dr. Perry highlighted the division mission and vision, beliefs and values, superintendent message, contributor input for a strategic plan, focus group concerns and objectives and strategies to use in the three areas of focus which include teaching and learning, safe and supportive schools and talent management. (Appendix VII)

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry discussed the new high school project, Sun Tribe Solar projects at Washington District Elementary and Cople Elementary, and the utilization of staff to maintain the grass cutting at each school. (Appendix VIII)

School Calendar 2020-2021

Ms. Rice shared three school calendars with the Board. Ms. Rice stated the first calendar is the School Board approved calendar for the 2020-2021 school year with

a pre-labor day opening. Ms. Rice stated the Board voted well in advance to adopt the 2020-2021 calendar and at the time the Board adopted the calendar the school division met legislative requirements to apply for and receive a waiver for opening prior to labor day. Ms. Rice stated that other divisions in the Northern Neck are all collectively looking at opening prior to labor day. Ms. Rice stated after the Board approved the calendar the challenge came about that legislation changed and limited the division to opening no more than 14 calendar days prior to labor day. Currently there is legislation going before the general assembly for the Northern Neck divisions to have the same flexibility as the other school divisions in the state. In the meantime two calendars have been developed in the event the legislature is not approved by the general assembly. Ms. Rice presented two draft calendars to the Board for information only. (Appendix IX)

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry reminded the Board of upcoming events.

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Lane stated she attended the NAACP candidate forum and the candidates discussed their priorities related to education. The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

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

Clerk

Chairman