

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET MINUTES**  
**February 21, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair  
Ms. Iris Lane, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member  
Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member  
Dr. Daniel Wallace, Member

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent  
Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

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

A motion was made by Board Member Dr. Wallace 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 division pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey.

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

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

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Wallace, Board Member, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lane, Vice Chair.

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

### **New Business**

#### **2023-2024 Budget Considerations**

Ms. Rice, Deputy Superintendent, presented an overview of budget considerations for 2023-2024. She began with a discussion of projected state and local revenue based on a comparison of the recently released proposed amendments by the Senate and the House of Delegates to the Governor's Amended 2022-2024 Biennial Budget. Ms. Rice highlighted revenue lines on which the Governor, House, and Senate do not currently agree. There are considerable differences in the House and Senate proposals, with the Senate proposing a more favorable budget for schools.

Ms. Rice reviewed the budget goals for 2023-2024.

Ms. Rice then shared an update to the proposed employee compensation. All salary scales have been revised. Employee compensation includes a proposed 7% increase for all employees except for the paraprofessionals. The proposed increase for paraprofessionals is 13% based upon the implementation of a delayed revised salary scale.

Ms. Rice shared that the health insurance renewal for 2023-2024 had been received. The renewal has an increase of 9.9% in premiums.

Ms. Rice presented the costs associated with a proposed retention incentive. The incentive includes payment (in whole or in part) of the employer share of employee only health insurance premiums for individuals who retire with at least twenty years of service in Westmoreland County Public Schools. The proposed payment is 100% for those with 30+ years of service; 7% for 25-29 years; and 50% for those with 20-24 years.

Ms. Rice shared a list of positions the division would like to add for the 2023-2024 school year. This includes fourteen new teaching positions, one additional assistant principal, one additional school psychologist, and one new paraprofessional. The division also plans to add additional mental health and behavioral support services for students.

The current draft budget is based on the Governor's Proposal, which is the lowest of the three scenarios, and includes the increases and additions described throughout the presentation.

### **Board Comments**

None

**Executive Closed Session**

Chairman Fallin stated that this concluded the open meeting's agenda items. The Board will now convene again into Executive Closed Session.

**Reconvene**

Board Member, Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to reconvene into Open Session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace, Board Member.

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

**Closed Session Verification**

Ms. Lane, Board Vice Chair made a motion to verify the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis, Board Member.

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

**Adjournment**

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