

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD MINUTES**  
**September 19, 2022**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, September 19, 2022 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  
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.

Board Member Dr. Wallace 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 division pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Board Member Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

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 Dr. Wallace and seconded by Board Member Ms. Lane.

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.

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 and vision statements to the public.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

### **Delegations/Presentations**

#### **Attendance Recognition**

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for August. The school with the highest student attendance was Washington District Elementary with an average percentage present of 94.88%.

#### **Character Trait Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of August and the trait of Patience. Students recognized this month included Z'kiyah Perrie in grade three at Cople Elementary School; Ari'ona Kershaw in grade three at Washington District Elementary School; Mashalyn Miles in grade nine at Westmoreland High School; and Courtney Shannon in grade six at Montross Middle School.

#### **Bus Driver Recognition**

Ms. Rice presented a statement on behalf of Terry Rich, Transportation Supervisor, in recognition of those drivers who demonstrated Punctuality during the first week of school. These drivers are being honored for their timeliness in picking up students, arriving at school and delivering the students back home. These drivers reviewed their routes in advance to lessen possible hiccups during the first week of school. They also communicated pick up and drop off times with parents and students. Bus drivers recognized were Harold Dickerson, Washington District Elementary School; Albert Henry, Montross Middle and Westmoreland High School; and Lisa McCoy, Cople Elementary School.

### **Open Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

- A. Approval of Appointments & Resignations
- B. Approval of Religious Exemptions
- C. Approval of Board Minutes
- D. Approval of Bills

### **Action Items**

#### **Donations/School Gifts**

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. Dr. Wallace made the motion to accept the donations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ramsey.

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

### **Fuel Bids**

Dr. Perry presented information regarding fuel bids for 2022-2023. Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, was ready to present the bids to the Board in July, however, it was decided to reconsider the bids based on an increase in fuel prices. NWP Energy Company, who currently provides the division's fuel, offered to continue supplying fuel at the same prices as last year. A motion was made by Board Member Dr. Wallace and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey to award the fuel bid to NWP Energy Company.

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

## **Information Items**

### **Health Plan Update**

The Health Plan has been updated and updates the information regarding quarantines, isolation, and returning to school. These updates are based on recommendations from the CDC.

### **Instructional Plan Update**

The Return to Learning Plan has been updated to update social distancing information, quarantines, and isolation.

### **Accreditation Status 2022-2023**

Ms. Rice presented the official school accreditation status from the Virginia Department of Education. All four schools are accredited.

### **Enforcement of Policy JFCF – Drugs in Schools**

Dr. Perry shared information regarding the enforcement of Policy JFCF – Drugs in Schools. It has been reported that students are vaping substances that include drugs. Dr. Perry outlined strict consequences for students caught with drugs and/or vaping at school.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Ms. Rice presented a draft copy of the cell phone policy. The policy states that cell phones will not be allowed to be used during instructional time. It also lists consequences for violating the policy.

### **Communication Forum**

Ms. Rice shared dates for the upcoming Communication Forum meetings. She also noted that at least one Board Member was needed at each meeting. Board members volunteered for each meeting. The meetings will be held in the Board Room at 2:00 pm on the following dates:

- October 19, 2022 – Ralph Fallin
- December 14, 2022 – Iris Lane
- February 15, 2023 – Sandra Ramsey

## **Capital Improvement Plan Update**

Dr. Perry shared the process and purpose for developing the capital improvement plan. Maintenance needs for all school and division locations were solicited. The list was prioritized according to need. He explained that the division will use federal funds to cover the cost of many of the projects. He also noted that the division will apply for future construction grants as they become available.

## **Facility Report**

Dr. Perry shared the following information:

- There are still a few high cost items that need to be completed at Westmoreland High School.
- The division has a new SRO, Master Deputy Robert Pitts. He will be located at Cople Elementary and Montross Middle Schools.
- The metal detectors have been assembled and should be operational by the next Board meeting. The division is trying to secure wheels for the detectors so they can be easily moved, and is waiting on special adapters also to make them operational.
- The division has contracted with a digital firm to do facility mapping. Once completed, there will be a meeting for critical personnel to be trained.
- The division is moving forward with the walkway canopy and outdoor learning space for the new high school. This project is being funded with federal funds.
- Pictures of the unfinished football field and track were shared.

## **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- September 22, 2022: VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Charlottesville (or virtual)
- October 4, 2022: VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop – Charlottesville
- October 20, 2022: Employee Recognition Banquet – Westmoreland HS
- November 16-18, 2022: VSBA Annual Convention - Williamsburg

## **School Board Member Comments**

None

## **Date & Time of Next Board Meeting**

School Board Work Session: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

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