

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA  
BOARD MINUTES  
December 12, 2022**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 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 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 division pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Board Member Dr. Wallace 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 Mrs. Ramsey.

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.

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

Dr. Perry requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Taylor Wood, teacher at Washington District Elementary School.

Dr. Perry stated that he, Ms. Rice and Dr. Wallace had attended the funeral earlier in the day, as well as many staff members from the school. The family was very thankful for the presence of Westmoreland County Public Schools employees.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

### **Delegations/Presentations**

#### **Attendance Recognition**

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for November. The school with the highest student attendance was Westmoreland High School, with an average percentage present of 92.48%.

#### **Character Trait Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of November and the trait of the month, Honesty. The students recognized this month were Nicole Martin in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School; Orchid Kenis in grade seven at Montross Middle School; E'Lajaye Sayles in grade one at Cople Elementary School; and Jaiden Bazan in grade three at Washington District Elementary School.

#### **Bus Driver Recognition**

Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, presented three bus drivers with the *Dedication and Care for Passenger* Award. This award recognizes drivers who go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure their students are transported in a safe and welcoming environment. The drivers who received this award were Lisa Diehl, driver at Washington District Elementary School; Lisa McCoy, driver at Cople Elementary School; and Sarah Thompson, driver at Montross Middle School and Westmoreland High School.

### **Open Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; and Dr. Wallace, Aye.

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

## **Action Items**

### **Donations/School Gifts**

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. After acknowledgements, 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.

### **VSBA Policy Updates**

Ms. Rice stated that there were two policy updates presented at last month's Board meeting for information: Policy IIA Instructional Materials and Policy IIAB Supplemental Materials Selection and Adoption. There were significant changes to Policy IIA based on changes to the Code of Virginia. This policy also needs regulations and procedures to accompany it. Ms. Rice asked the Board to take action to approve the two policies, IIA and IIAB, so they are adopted and replaced prior to the January 2023 deadline. Dr. Perry and Ms. Rice will continue to work on the regulations and procedures for a future meeting.

After discussion, Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the two policies. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lane.

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

### **School Board Meeting Calendar**

Ms. Rice presented a tentative School Board Meeting Calendar for School Board approval. The calendar follows the traditional pattern of meeting on the third Monday of the month with the exception of the months the third Monday is a holiday. The calendar also follows the traditional pattern for work sessions to be held on the Tuesday prior to the regular School Board meeting. After discussion, Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the 2023 proposed calendar. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace.

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

## **Information Items**

### **Christmas Card Art Contest Winners**

Ms. Rice shared that many cards were submitted through the art teachers for the Christmas Card Art Contest. The entire Central Office staff participated in voting for the winning cards. The winners were Matthew Benson in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School; Whittany Reynolds in grade twelve at Westmoreland High School; Maria Rodriquez in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School and Natalie Owen in grade three at Cople Elementary School. The winning artwork was turned into Christmas cards that will be mailed to all school divisions in the state of Virginia. The artwork was shared with the Board and public.

### **ARP ESSER Spending Plan – Stakeholder Input**

Ms. Rice shared information regarding Governor Youngkin's challenge for school divisions to spend their remaining federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) on learning recovery, as well as the state requirement for divisions to reopen their public consultation and update spending plans by December 31, 2022. Ms. Rice provided a detailed overview of Westmoreland's ARP ESSER III Spending Plan, which included information about the amount of the award, funds allocated to address unfinished learning, and funds allocated to

other allowable uses. Ms. Rice requested stakeholder input regarding the use of the remaining funds. Input may be submitted via phone call or email, and/or through completion of a survey posted on the division website. Mr. Fallin, Board Chair, opened the meeting for stakeholder input from School Board members and the public.

### **Local Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services – Stakeholder Input**

Dr. Perry shared that this is fundamentally the same plan that was given in July 2022. It includes information on the general routines within the schools.

### **Facility Report**

Dr. Perry shared the following information:

- Mr. Risavi has resolved the \$18,000 related to the last change order. There will not be a tri-meeting.
- Football Stadium – The picture shown is similar to the current plan for the stadium, with the exception of the press box. The press box is not as big as the current picture. Dr. Perry is working with the vendor for a 815 seat stadium. The vendor will plan for the number of seats requested. There will be a short fence around the whole track. We are also looking at the into comfort level of seats, including handicap seating.
- Marque – An email was received showing the progress of the marque. The marque should be installed by Christmas.
- Concession Stand and Weight Room – The plan is to have the same amount of area as the current weight room. The planned weight room is a little larger than this current plan. The concession stand will be slightly larger than our current concession stand.
- Timeframe for Canopy – The canopy should be ready in about twelve weeks. This would be around the beginning of February 2023.

### **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- December 14, 2022: Communication Forum 2:00 p.m. (Ms. Lane)
- January 30-31, 2023: VSBA Hybrid Capital Conference – Richmond
- February 15, 2023: Communication Forum 2:00 p.m. (Mrs. Ramsey)
- March 15, 2023: VSBA March Hot Topic Conference
- April 21, 2023: Employee Recognition Banquet 5:30 p.m. WHS

### **School Board Member Comments**

Ms. Lane shared that Samantha Dixon would be the new Technical Center Principal.

Ms. Lane shared that the Newport News Shipyard did a presentation at the December Technical Center Board meeting. The Tech Center wants to apply for a grant to fund two of the eight programs that the Shipyard offers. The two programs are Electricity and Welding. Students would be eligible to apply for jobs at the shipyard upon completion of the coursework at the Tech Center.

The shipyard is also looking for a place to house the other six programs.

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

School Board Early Budget Forum/Work Session: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6 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.