

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
February 2, 2023

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 2, 2023 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.

Dr. Wallace read the Westmoreland County Public Schools' mission and vision statements to the public.

Organization of the Board

Superintendent Dr. Perry took the gavel and presided over the Board as they prepared to organize for the new year.

Dr. Perry asked if there were any nominations for Board Chair. Board Member Dr. Wallace nominated Mr. Fallin for the position of Board Chair. Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to close the nominations and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey. After the vote Superintendent Perry asked all in favor of Ralph Fallin and the vote was unanimous.

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

Ralph Fallin took over the meeting as the Chair. Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair. Board Member Mrs. Lewis nominated Ms. Lane. Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to close the nominations and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey. After the vote Chairman Fallin asked all in favor of Iris Lane and the vote was unanimous.

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

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked Dr. Perry if he had any recommendations for Clerk of the Board and Deputy Clerk. Dr. Perry recommended Constance Allen for Clerk of the Board and Catherine Rice for Deputy Clerk. Vice Chair Ms. Lane made a motion to appoint Constance Allen as the Clerk and Catherine Rice as the Deputy Clerk. The motion was seconded by a Board Member.

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

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked for nominations for the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School Representative and Alternate. Vice Chair Ms. Lane made a motion to appoint Dr. Wallace as the representative and Mrs. Ramsey as the alternate. The motion was seconded by a Board Member Dr. Wallace.

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

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked for nominations for the Northern Neck Technical Center's Representative and Alternate. Board Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to appoint Ms. Lane as the representative and Mr. Fallin as the alternate. 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.

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked for nominations for the Northern Neck Alternative Education Program's Representative and Alternate. Board Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to appoint

Ms. Lane as the representative and Mr. Fallin as the alternate. 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.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Delegations/Presentations

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for December. The school with the highest student attendance was Montross Middle School with an average percentage present of 94.96%. Cople Elementary had 92.44%, Washington District had 93.06% and Montross Middle had 94.96%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of December. The trait of the month was Kindness. Students recognized this month included Josselyn Rodriguez-Chicas in grade twelve at Westmoreland High School; Wesley Fairfax in grade seven at Montross Middle School; Ky'Lan Newman in grade five at Cople Elementary School; and Mason Ocegura in grade four at Washington District Elementary School.

Bus Driver Recognition

Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, presented three transportation aides with the Positive Attitude Award. This award recognizes transportation employees who create a great work environment between co-workers and administrators. The transportation aides who received this award were Annie Johnson at Washington District Elementary School, Janice Page at Cople Elementary School, and Patricia Henry at Montross Middle School and Westmoreland High School.

Virginia Principals Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Perry shared that the Governor of Virginia designated January 15-21, 2023 as Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week. He then introduced all Principals by inviting them to stand. Deputy Superintendent Ms. Rice read the Certificate of Recognition signed by Governor Glenn Youngkin. Each Principal and Assistant Principal received a gift of appreciation.

Recognition of Board of Supervisor's Member

Board Chair Mr. Fallin thanked the audience for coming and recognized the presence of Board of Supervisor Dorothy Tate.

Open Public Comments

Board Chair Ralph Fallin asked if anyone had signed up to speak at this time. There was one person who asked to speak. Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked School Board Clerk, Constance Allen, to read the Public Comment Statement. Mr. Larry Hinson shared some concerns regarding restrooms being vandalized at Westmoreland High School and dissatisfaction with the name change to the high school.

Consent Agenda

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda. Board Member Mrs. Lewis shared that she had some questions regarding the approval of bills. Board Chair Mr. Fallin moved the approval of bills to the first item under action items.

- A. Approval of Appointments & Resignations
- B. Approval of Board Minutes
- C. Approval of Bills (Moved to Action Items)

Board Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked if there were any questions. Board Member Mrs. Lewis stated she had a few questions. Superintendent Dr. Perry addressed her questions on the source of several bills.

VSBA Code of Conduct

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked Deputy Superintendent Ms. Rice to read the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members. After a brief discussion Board Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the VSBA Code of Conduct with no changes. 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.

Revised Public Comment Statement

Board Chair Mr. Fallin presented a revised Public Comment Statement. He shared the changes that were made. Board Member Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the Revised Public Comment Statement. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace.

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

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.

Budget Resolution

Superintendent Dr. Perry presented a budget resolution for the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Wallace noted that the designation should be included with the resolution. Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve the modified budget resolution. 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.

Information Items

School Board Book Study

Vice Chair Ms. Lane shared that VSBA had a book study during the Annual Conference in November. As a board, it was decided to read the book *Stick Together, A Simple Lesson to Build a Stronger Team*. This book study will be used during the Professional Development to maintain Master Board Certification.

Board Development with VSBA – April 14, 2023

Board Chair Mr. Fallin shared that Westmoreland County School Board was the first school Board in Virginia to receive the Master Board Certification. An annual self-evaluation is required. As a result, April 14, 2023 has been agreed upon to hold this training.

VDOE Calc Tool

Deputy Superintendent Ms. Rice shared information regarding the VA Calc Tool provided by the Virginia Department of Education. For the first time, the tool gave divisions information that derived from a flawed formula. If nothing changes, this will result in overstated Basic Aid funding. Ms. Rice also shared the financial impact this error will have on the Westmoreland County School Board Budget for the current year and fiscal year 2024. The Virginia Department of Education, General Assembly are aware of the error and we are waiting to see what comes from this attention to the error.

Fighting and Threat of Weapons

Superintendent Dr. Perry shared the school's processes for addressing fights and weapons in this division. Dr. Perry gave a presentation that included Board policies, school procedures based upon policy, Crisis Plan Overview, and Communication procedures before, during, and after disruptive events.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared the following information:

- Football Stadium – The goal was to be able to play our games at Westmoreland High School next year. However, due to the supply chain, this may not happen.
- Concession Stand and Weight Room – Still working on this.
- Marque – Concern that it is not straight. It will never be straight because everything else is at an angle.
- Fence – Shared a diagram showing where the fence will be.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- February 14, 2023: VSBA Title IX: Best Practices in Training and Compliance – Charlottesville or Virtual
- February 15, 2023: Communication Forum 2:00 p.m. (Mrs. Ramsey)
- February 28, 2023: VSBA Spring Superintendent Evaluation Workshop – Charlottesville or Virtual
- March 2, 2023: VSBA Regional Spring Network Forum
- March 15, 2023: VSBA March Hot Topic Conference – Wytheville Meeting Center
- April 21, 2023: Employee Recognition Banquet 5:30 p.m. WHS

Board Comments

Vice Chair Ms. Lane shared information from a conference she attended over the weekend. She also wished everyone a Happy Black History Month.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

School Board Budget Work Session: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4 p.m. (Closed Session) and 5 p.m.; School Board Budget Work Session: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6 p.m. (Open Session)

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.