

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
October 17, 2022

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 17, 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 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.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Delegations/Presentations

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for September. The school with the highest student attendance was Montross Middle School with an average percentage present of 94.18%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of September and the trait of Fairness. Students recognized this month included Journee Griffin in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Javier Valencia-Ramos in grade three at Washington District Elementary School; Janaya Moore in grade ten at Westmoreland High School; and Sonny Filkoski in grade seven at Montross Middle School.

Bus Driver Recognition

Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, shared that National School Bus Safety Week was October 16th through October 22nd, 2022. Mr. Rich recognized all Bus Drivers for their important role of safely transporting students to and from school. Mr. Rich emphasized that all drivers observe their surroundings in an effort to reduce hazards, follow safety protocols, and actively avoid incidents.

National Principals' Month

Board Chair, Mr. Fallin, expressed the Board's appreciation to all principals in honor of National Principals' Month. Board members presented each principal with a plaque.

Bullying Prevention Month

Mrs. England, School Social Worker, shared that October is Bully Prevention Month. Mrs. England stated that the Olweus Bully Prevention Program and the Anonymous Alerts reporting system is being used by the school division. Mrs. England shared Spirit Week activities that will be going on in each school during the week of October 24th through October 28th, 2022.

Open Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

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.

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

Mrs. Chatham, Finance Director, shared with the Board that Positive Pay for vendor payments has now been implemented.

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 Ms. Lane.

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

Cell Phone Policy

Ms. Rice presented policy JFC-R2 Cell Phones in School to the board for approval. A motion was made by Board Member Ms. Lane and seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace to approve policy JFC-R2 Cell Phones in School. The policy will go into effect for the second semester beginning January 5th. Dr. Wallace requested feedback from all principals on how the policy is working in their school. Feedback will be shared at the February or March School Board meeting.

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

Information Items

VSBA Academy Awards

Dr. Perry presented the VSBA Academy Awards to all board members. Each member received a certificate and a pin. Dr. Perry stated that he believes Westmoreland County definitely has one of the Best School Board's in Virginia.

VSBA Legislative Positions

Ms. Rice shared information about VSBA Legislative Positions. She explained the development, process and standard Legislative positions. Ms. Rice discussed proposed amendments and new positions that will be voted on at the Annual Convention. Ms. Lane will represent our school board at the Annual Convention.

Ms. Lane asked board members if they had any questions or wanted to discuss any of the amendments. Mr. Fallin shared a concern about No. 4 School Bus Purchases. He shared that there was no mention of propane buses. Mr. Fallin asked Ms. Lane to suggest an amendment to include buses with propane.

School Continuous Improvement Plans

Principals shared their Continuous Improvement Plans for the 2022-2023 school year.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared the following information:

- Project Statistics
- Security Updates – Metal Detectors are assembled at Westmoreland High School and are operational. Metal Detectors will be assembled at the other schools.
- Keyless Entry

- Westmoreland High School Flags
- Change Order 22
- Track and Football Field
- To Do List

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- October 20, 2022: Employee Recognition Banquet – Westmoreland HS
- November 16-18, 2022: VSBA Annual Convention - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Mrs. Lewis mentioned that the next work session is scheduled during the Annual Conference. This meeting was cancelled.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, November 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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