

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
April 17, 2023

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

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The Board was led in prayer by Dr. Perry and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Statement of Mission and Statement

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 March. The school with the highest student attendance was Montross Middle School with an average percentage present of 95.33%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of March and the trait of Perseverance. Students recognized this month included Yassary Hernandez-Montes in grade four at Cople Elementary School; Micaela Mendez in grade four at Washington District Elementary School; Jenni Koontz in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School; and Brayon Wilson in grade eight at Montross Middle School.

Bus Driver Recognition

Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, recognized bus drivers who set and achieved goals in regards to discipline on the school bus with minimum assistance from school administration. The drivers recognized were James Page, Cople Elementary School; Harold Dickerson, Washington District Elementary School; and Albert Henry, Montross Middle and Westmoreland High Schools. Mr. Rich shared a picture of the drivers.

Virginia Department of Health Update

Dr. Richard Williams presented an update on the pandemic. He shared that things are much better than they were a year ago. The number of cases per day is decreasing. Approximately 63% to 64% of the residents in Westmoreland County have been vaccinated. Dr. Williams stated that the Emergency Declaration will expire on May 11th. But, he told Board members and administration that if they need him, just call.

Washington District Science Bowl

Mr. Bathgate shared that students at Washington District have been participating in a tournament style science trivia game to help increase their SOL scores. Students were given questions and answers to approximately 500 SOL type questions for eighth graders. The game was interactive and challenging. Students enjoyed the game and were supportive of their classmates.

Cople Second Grade Zoologists

Ms. Steele shared that second graders at Cople Elementary have been working hard on integrating concepts in Science and Social Studies during their literacy block. This project covered several SOLs. Students decided that they wanted to be Zoologists. Students researched the animal they chose, its habitat, diet, adaptations, life cycle and many other interesting facts. Students created a book using information they had researched and pictures they drew.

Open Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Ramsey 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

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. Board Member Mrs. Ramsey made the motion to accept the donations. 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.

Approval of 2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

Ms. Rice recognized all members of the calendar committee and presented the new calendar for approval. A motion was made by Dr. Wallace and seconded by Mrs. Ramsey to approve the 2023-2024 instructional calendar.

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 presented VSBA policy updates for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Lane and seconded by Dr. Wallace to approve the policy updates.

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

Approval of Special Education Annual Plan

Mrs. Washington presented the Special Education Annual Plan for approval. A motion was made by Dr. Wallace and seconded by Ms. Lane to approved the annual plan.

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

Approval of 2023 CTE Perkins Application

Mr. Keckley presented the 2023 CTE Perkins Application for approval. A motion was made by Dr. Wallace and seconded by Ms. Lane to approve the application.

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

Information Items

School Nutrition Program (SNP) Excess Balance Corrective Action Plan Approval

Dr. Perry shared that the excess balance corrective action plan was approved by the Virginia Department of Education Office of School Nutrition Programs.

The Board of Supervisors approved the resolution to move \$200,000 from the fund balance to the current budget. The Board of Supervisors asked if there was a plan for spending the funds. Dr. Perry shared that there is an approved plan from VDOE for the funds. The funds will be used to; 1. purchase equipment and other items for the cafeterias, 2. to bring the nutrition program into compliance and 3. to upgrade our cafeterias.

Virginia Literacy Act

Ms. Rice shared that the General Assembly unanimously approved the Virginia Literacy Act. The VLA is needed to reverse the trends in literacy levels, address learning loss from the pandemic, ensure all children read at benchmark at K-3, provide support for increasing numbers of at-risk readers and to provide resources for the teachers. A power-point was used to share these goals in detail.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared the amount of money currently on hand and the amount of money that will be needed to complete some of the major projects at Westmoreland High School. Updates on items completed during the spring break were also shared.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- April 21, 2023: ARRIS contact between MMS and International Space Station at 1:34-1:45 pm
- April 21, 2023: Employee Recognition Banquet 5:30 pm WHS
- May 27, 2023: Westmoreland High School Graduation 9:00 am WLHS

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Lane thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

A School Board Work Session will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 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.