

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 9, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5:00 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 (via phone)

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent
Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fallin, Chair.

Dr. Perry shared that Dr. Wallace, Board Member, has requested to participate remotely for the meeting. Mrs. Ramsey, Board Member made a motion to approve Dr. Wallace participating remotely. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair, Ms. Lane.
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Fallin, Chair asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Board Member Mrs. Ramsey requested going into Closed Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel and student issues. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

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

New Business

Student Discipline and Chronic Absenteeism

Ms. Carole Alexander shared that the State is requiring a new way of reporting student discipline. She does not believe the changes have given them the data that they are hoping to get. For her presentation to the Board, Ms. Alexander presented data for the

year. It included the number of incidents, number of students involved in incidents, and the ethnicity of the students.

Students who are suspended out-of-school are required to receive instruction. Many suspended secondary students attend the Northern Neck Alternative Program during short-term and long-term suspensions.

Ms. Alexander shared that as of 04/28/2023, 12% of the student population in K-12 have missed 15 or more days. This is a drastic improvement from the pandemic years.

Strategic Plan Update (Goal 3)

Mr. Fallin shared that the board should periodically review the goals to track progress. All Board members were given a few minutes to review goal 3 and make suggestions for changes.

Board Member Mrs. Ramsey led a discussion on why one of the schools was not put on lockdown during a recent fugitive hunt that occurred close to the school. A result of that discussion was a recommendation for better communication from the law enforcement side to the schools during these situations.

Board Member Ms. Lane shared that we need an action measure for each statement. This will assist in reflecting and updating progress.

Board Member Dr. Wallace asked if opaque blinds had been installed in all schools. These blinds make it so that a person can see what's outside but nothing can be seen by looking in from the outside. Dr. Perry responded that all schools are now equipped with these blinds.

Mrs. Ramsey asked if the thorough cleaning is still being done at all schools. This needs to be done often to reduce the risk of spreading germs. Dr. Perry responded that thorough cleaning is still being done.

Mr. Fallin shared that all schools have new HVAC systems.

The Board suggested that the lighting outside of each school is something to continue to monitor and improve.

Legislative Proposals

Mr. Fallin shared information from VSBA regarding 2023 Legislative Priorities. No Board Members suggested any legislative changes to be submitted. Ms. Rice suggested that since school begins earlier than it has in the past, the Board may want to propose that the final date teachers may be released from contracts be changed from June 15th to

May. This would allow more time to find a replacement. The Board asked Ms. Rice to draft this proposal.

Employee Social Event

Mr. Fallin led a discussion on whether Board Members were interested in hosting an employee picnic again this year. All Board Members agreed they wanted to do another picnic. They also wanted the event to include all new hires for next school year. It was decided to have a Back To School event prior to school opening. Dr. Wallace and Ms. Lane volunteered to be Co-Coordinator, with Ms. Rice. Ms. Lane also suggested an event for all employees be held around the December holidays.

Action Items

Calendar Request

Ms. Rice shared that there are two days built into each semester to be used in case of inclement weather. She presented a request to convert May 22 and 23, 2023 from Instructional Days to Teacher Workdays and cancel the May 24, 2023 Teacher Workday. This would make Friday, May 19, 2023 the last day for students and Tuesday, May 23, 2023 the last day for ten-month employees.

Dr. Wallace, Board Member made a motion to convert May 22 & 23, 2023 from Instructional Days to Teacher Workdays. 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

Dr. Wallace, Board Member had to leave the meeting.

Budget Resolution

Finance Director, Mrs. Chatham, presented a budget resolution asking the Board of Supervisors to appropriate federal funds to the correct budget lines. Ms. Rice shared an Excel handout detailing increases to 2022 awards, as well as carryover funds from 2021 and 2020 awards. Board Vice-Chair, Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the budget resolution. Board Member Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

Board Comments

There were no comments from Board Members. Dr. Perry shared that he is working on getting the concession stand and classroom completed for no more than \$1.5 million. The funds would come from federal and our fund balance. There is a zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 11am to discuss options. This meeting is crucial for completing this project in the upcoming year.

Executive Closed Session

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 Vice-Chair Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

Reconvene

The meeting was reconvened into open session on the motion by Board Vice-Chair Ms. Lane and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

Certification

The motion for the approval of the following certification was made by Board Vice-Chair Ms. Lane and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

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: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye

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.