

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 14, 2023

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, March 14, 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

Others Present:

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

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

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

How WCPS Addresses the Social Emotional Needs of All Students

Mrs. England shared that Virginia defines social emotional learning as a process of acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes they can use in managing emotions, achieving goals and feeling empathy for others in order to maintain relationships and make responsible and caring decisions.

Teachers are trained to notice changes in a student's behavior. They document the behavior and make recommendations as needed. All guidance counselors schedule group and individual sessions for students who need additional support daily and as needed in a crisis situation. Other activities include a "Sensory Walk", disciplinary team to address discipline issues, morning meetings to discuss important social and emotional topics, spirit weeks, positive bulletin boards, teams and clubs, etc.

How WCPS Addresses the Social Emotional Needs of Students with Disabilities

Mrs. Washington shared that social and emotional needs of students with disabilities is basically the same as other students. Students are taught how to make friends, how to walk away from stressors and how to express thoughts and feelings in and outside of the classroom.

Teachers provide necessary accommodations which allows students to be successful in the classroom setting. This includes rewards for positive behaviors, following school rules and

allowing mini-breaks. Technology assistance is also provided to help with language and motor skills.

Speech Language and Occupational Therapy is provided to assist students with language and communication disorders. Students learn how to take turns in conversations and how to use the appropriate volume, speed and body distance. Occupational therapy addresses the sensory needs of students.

Teachers are taught the necessary skills to detect behavioral concerns and determine the cause of the behavior. Teachers make recommendations for intervention and improvement.

How WCPS Addresses the Social Emotional Needs of Academically Gifted Students

Mrs. Weicht shared that the social and emotional needs of academically gifted students are addressed. Students are grouped together where they learn to interact with like-minded peers and students with varying skill levels. Students are taught critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and how to be flexible with different viewpoints.

VDOE Student Growth Assessments

Ms. Alexander shared information regarding growth assessments for students in grade 3 to grade 8. Last year, students were given one test in the Fall. The content contained questions regarding standards that had been taught the previous year.

Growth assessments were given to students twice this year. The assessments measure on-grade-level skills and content.

The Fall 2022 assessments included tasks that students had not yet been taught. These assessments measure growth and not proficiency.

The Fall 2022 growth assessments were scored on vertical scaled score ranges. These scores were used to compare scores of all students in Virginia.

2023-2024 Budget Update

Ms. Rice presented an update regarding the 2023-2024 budget. This included an overview of the budget amendments adopted by the General Assembly to the 2022-2024 Biennial (Skinny) Budget. Ms. Rice provided up-to-date information regarding the impact these amendments make to the division's projected state and local revenue. This was followed by presenting significant additions and areas of increase in the 2023-2024 budget, as compared to the 2022-2023 budget. Increases include a proposed 7% salary increase for all employees, with a 13% increase for paraprofessionals. Also included is a retention incentive with the division contributing to retiree health insurance for employees retiring with twenty or more years of service to the division. The proposed budget includes twelve new teaching positions, and one new assistant principal position. The budget also includes increased allocations for health insurance (9.9% increase in premiums), as well as several areas of operational expenses, such as heating fuel, water and trash, electrical services, and fuel and repair costs for transportation. There is also an increased allocation for technology site licenses and a technology trailer, as well as an increase in the cost

of salary and benefits for School Resource Officer. Ms. Rice concluded by sharing proposed expenditures by category.

Action Items

VDOT Resolution

Board Chairman, Ralph Fallin shared a Board of Supervisors Resolution he was asked to sign regarding Secondary System of State Highways Route 9000, School Bus Road. The Resolution was adopted on March 13, 2023.

Dr. Wallace, Board Member made a motion to ratify the Resolution signed by Board Chairman Ralph Fallin on 03/13/2023. 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 Comments

None

Adjournment

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