

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 9, 2022

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 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 (virtually)

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

Cell Phone Usage in Schools

High School and Middle School principals and teachers met to discuss the use of cell phones in the schools.

Mr. Bowen presented a preview of the discussion. He called upon the following staff members to share their thoughts:

Ms. Eddings, School Counselor, stated that students who receive text messages from parents with bad news and text messages between students that need to be dispused cause disruption during class time.

Katherine Jackson, School Counselor said that suicidal issues are made worse by texting.

Mr. Molinaris, ISS, said students want to continue using their cell phones while in ISS. Some try to challenge the teacher to take it away.

Deputy Molinaris, SRO, shared that last year she had nine cases of situations that required diffusion and/or arrests. A cell phone was involved in all nine cases.

Ms. Lewis, Teacher, said students receive calls from parents and they receive texts, pictures and videos of situations happening in the school.

Mr. Hernandez, Assistant Principal, said he sees both sides of the cell phone usage. Social media is a big distraction. Students know how to use technology in the wrong way.

Ms. Seager, Principal, said the Middle School used ISS and out-of-school suspension for improper use of cell phones. Pictures are being taken of students in compromising and seemingly compromising situations.

Mrs. Ramsey asked for ideas on how to go about setting limitations.

Mr. Bowen shared that he is looking into Yondr pouches.

Executive Closed Session

A motion was made by Member Mrs. Ramsey, to return to Executive Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis, Member.

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

Reconvene

A motion was made by Board member Mrs. Ramsey, and seconded by Ms. Lane to reconvene.

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

Closed Session Verification

A motion was made by Board member Ms. Lane, and seconded by member, Mrs. Lewis to approve the closed session verification.

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

Action Items

Approval of Appointments & Resignations

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

Board Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

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

Dr. Wallace (AB)