

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
August 21, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 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

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

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

Mr. Fallin shared that Board Member, Mrs. Ramsey, had requested to participate remotely. Kathy Lewis made the motion for her to participate. Iris Lane seconded.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye;

Mr. Fallin also shared that Board Member, Dr. Wallace was unable to attend due to a family medical issue.

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

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board Member Mrs. Lane and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Lewis.

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

The motion for the approval of the following certification was made by Board Member Ms. Lane and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Lewis.

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.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Perry led the Board in prayer. Immediately following prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Statement of Mission and Statement

Ms. Lane 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

School Opening

Dr. Perry reported that school opening went well. He then relayed several observations:

- There was an increase in cars dropping off students at Cople and Washington District Elementary Schools the first few days that have tailed off.
- There were several vaping incidents at Westmoreland High School. The new vape detection system worked well.
- There were a few transportation incidents. Two buses broke down on the first day of school and parents called the office.
- There were no heat issues reported for schools or buses.
- There were no calls regarding the rising number of COVID cases.
- Attendance was good with an approximate enrollment of 1,505.

Dominion Energy Solar Proposal – Eric Weissbart, Dominion Energy Solutions

Representatives from Dominion Energy Solutions have been selected to place solar panels at WHS. They shared their winning proposal. Information shared included how the solar panels work, their effect on the environment and the potential costs and savings for Westmoreland County Public Schools. In addition, energy education curriculum and training will be provided to students and teachers. Apprenticeship placements will be provided for students in the electrical industry.

Open Public Comments

Larry Hynson asked the board why schools start so early? In the past, schools didn't open until after Labor Day because of the Kings Dominion law.

Tony Porter asked the board what was the protocol to visit Cople Elementary School. He has contacted the school three times asking to visit his grandson's classroom. To date, he has not been able to visit.

Consent Agenda

Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Mrs. Lewis.

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

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Board Member Mrs. Lewis asked for an explanation of several paid invoices. Mrs. Chatham explained what items were paid. The motion to approve the bills was made by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane and seconded by Board Member Mrs. Lewis.

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

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane made the motion to accept the donations. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Lewis.

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

Crisis Plan Updates

Dr. Perry presented the Crisis Plan updates for approval. Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane made the motion to approve the Crisis Plan. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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

VSBA Policy Updates

Ms. Rice presented VSBA Policy BCEA for approval. Board Member Mrs. Lewis made the motion to keep policy BCEA as amended by VSBA. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/1Nays; Mr. Fallin, Nay; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye.

Ms. Rice presented VSBA Policy JGD-JGE for approval. Board Member Mrs. Lewis made the motion to adopt Policy JGD-JGE Option 2. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/1Nay; Mr. Fallin, Nay; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye.

Information Items

Preliminary Accreditation Results

Ms. Rice shared the preliminary Accreditation Results for 2023-2024. Final Accreditation Results were not available at the time of this meeting.

However all schools were accredited. The high school was accredited with conditions based upon criteria that measured CTE completers.

Facility Update

Dr. Perry shared that the bid for the Field House went to Scheibel. A letter to proceed has been sent.

Dr. Perry shared information on the EPA Clean School Bus Program. If approved, Westmoreland County Schools will receive six electric buses.

Dr. Perry shared information regarding the installation of a storm drain at Montross Middle School. The storm drain was necessary due to water freezing and causing hazardous situations for people entering the building.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- September 21, 2023: VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Chesterfield
- September 25, 2023: State of the Schools 2023 – WHS – 5:00 p.m.
- October 3, 2023: VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop – Charlottesville
- November 15-17, 2023: VSBA 2023 Annual Convention - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Board Member Mrs. Ramsey suggested the Board take food to Dr. Wallace and his family. It was decided to get chicken, rolls, etc. from Hall's Market.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

- There will be a Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- A School Board Work Session will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- The regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session).

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.