

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
December 11, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair
Ms. Iris Lane, Vice Chair
Mrs. Kathy Lewis, Member
Mrs. Sandy 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 5:00 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 Mrs. Ramsey and seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace.

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

Board Vice Chair 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

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for November. The school with the highest student attendance was Washington District Elementary School with an average percentage present of 93.69%.

Dr. Perry shared the team attendance recognition for November. The school with the highest staff attendance was Westmoreland High School with an average percentage present of 94.06%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of November and the trait of Honesty. Students recognized this month included Azriel Abenoja in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Deion Smith in grade five at Washington District Elementary School; Michael Walter in grade six at Montross Middle School and Shayla Blackwell in grade ten at Westmoreland High School.

Open Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked for approval of the items in the Consent Agenda. This included revised minutes from the July 17, 2023 and August 15, 2023 Board meetings, as well as minutes from the September 12, 2023

and November 20, 2023 Board meetings. Also included were appointments and resignations, as well as bills for Westmoreland County Schools and School Food Service. Board Member Mrs. Lewis made a motion to remove from the Consent Agenda the minutes of the July 17th and August 15th meetings, stating these minutes had been previously approved. Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked for a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Board Member Dr. Wallace and seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane.

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

Action Items

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. Ramsey.

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

School Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Rice presented a proposed School Board Meeting Calendar for 2024. Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the School Board Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Dr. Wallace.

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

Information Items

Christmas Card Art Contest Winners

Ms. Rice presented artwork that was submitted by students from Westmoreland High School, Cople Elementary School and Washington District Elementary School. One featured artist was selected from each school, and their artwork was published on the division Christmas cards. Winning student artists include Kaliyah Washington in grade five at Washington District Elementary; Abigail Valencia in grade three at Cople Elementary, and Natiya Brown in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School.

VDOT Snowplow Painting

Dr. Perry shared photos of the VDOT snowplow painting by students from Westmoreland High School.

Employee Retention Bonus

Ms. Rice shared that all contracted employees who will be returning for the second semester will be receiving a \$1,000 Employee Retention Bonus. A total of 280 employees will receive the bonus using Federal funds and the remaining 46 employees will receive the bonus using State and Local funds.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- December 13, 2023: Communications Forum at 2:00 pm; Mrs. Lewis will be the Board Representative.
- January 9, 2024: Local Board Orientation at 5:00 pm
- January 15, 2024: Westmoreland County Food Service will be hosting a Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast beginning at 9:00 am. Dr. Jeffery Smith will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$20.
- January 19, 2024: VSBA Board Orientation 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- January 22-23, 2024: VSBA Hybrid Capital Conference – Richmond
- January 23, 2024: VSBA Orientation for New School Board members and Superintendents – Richmond
- January 23, 2024: VSBA Orientation for New School Board Chair and Vice Chair – Richmond
- March 5, 2024: VSBA Eastern Regional Spring Network Forum – Westmoreland County
- March 23, 2024: VSBA Hot Topic Conference “The Trust Edge Experience” - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Dr. Perry shared a comment to outgoing School Board Members, Ms. Lane, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Ramsey. School Board Chair Mr. Fallin presented these members with a plaque.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

- The next regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 4 p.m. (Budget Work Session), 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session).

Adjournment

Board Member Mrs. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.