

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD MINUTES**  
**July 17, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, July 17, 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  
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. Mr. Fallin shared that Member, Mrs. Ramsey, was not feeling well and would not be attending the meeting.

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. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board Member Dr. Wallace and seconded by Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane. Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

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

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; 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**

Dr. Wallace 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**

#### **Character Trait Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of June and the trait of Forgiveness. Students recognized this month were Kendric Page - kindergarten at Cople Elementary School; Lillian Vincent - kindergarten at Washington District Elementary School; and Desiree Hayden - grade 8 at Montross Middle School.

### **Open Public Comments**

There were no open public comments.

Board Chairman, Ralph Fallin, recognized Board of Supervisor's member, Ms. Dorothy Tate.

Ms. Lane announced that after talking to constituents, friends, and family members, she is rescinding her resignation from the School Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

Board Member, Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

## **Action Items**

### **Donations/School Gifts**

Dr. Perry presented information regarding a generous \$25,000 donation from Mr. and Mrs. J. Mulholland, for repairs to the School Board Office. Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane made the motion to accept the donation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace.

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

### **VSBA Policy Updates**

Ms. Rice presented the VSBA Policy updates for action. She reminded Board members that there are two optional policies that need to be addressed. Policy BDDL is a new optional policy regarding Electronic participation in committee meetings from remote locations. If the board decides not to adopt this policy, individual committees will be able to create their own policies to meet in person or virtually. Dr. Wallace made the motion to not approve this policy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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

Ms. Rice shared that the second optional policy, BCEA, specifies that a Disciplinary Committee composed of at least three board members presides over all cases of student suspensions of more than ten days and expulsions. Ms. Rice shared that the Board's decision regarding whether or not to keep policy BCEA would impact which version(s) of policy JGD-JGE would be available to them. The Board briefly discussed policy BCEA but did not reach consensus. Ms. Rice recommended the Board set-aside policy BCEA and policy JGD-JGE until the next meeting, allowing time for the Board to further consider policy BCEA and allowing Ms. Rice time to consult with VSBA regarding how policy BCEA and policy JGD-JGE work together. Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane, made a motion to defer action on these two policies until the next board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace.

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

Ms. Rice presented the remaining policy updates for action. Board member, Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept the remaining policies as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair, Ms. Lane.

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

## **Information Items**

### **Update on Strategic Plan Goal 3**

Dr. Perry shared information on what actions have taken place to meet each of the strategies in Goal 3. This included continuing implementation of some

practices such as Olweus and new activities and programs for some strategies, such as the implementation of a telephone cell policy.

### **Summer Academy Update**

Ms. Rice shared that the summer academy was financed with federal funds. The Summer Academy was held at all four schools during the month of June. Teachers used PBL (Project Based Learning) instructional practices and concluded with activities reminiscent of Eight Awesome Days of August. The Principals shared presentations highlighting the activities students participated in during the academy.

### **Facility Report**

Dr. Perry shared that we have gone out to bid on the Field House. The football bleachers are under contract and a meeting was held recently to finalize the colors of the bleachers. The fence(s) are included in the bid for the Field House. The contractor said the canopy should be completed by the end of this month. Mr. Risavi is working to get the Football field lights included within the county's bid for lights for the Athletic Complex. Dr. Perry shared that he has met with some companies about getting solar power at Westmoreland High School and possibly six electric buses.

Conway Payne shared the Transportation Department's program to digitize their operations. Fleetio will track the maintenance, inventory, expenses and other items.

### **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- August 4, 2023: Opening Convocation 2023 – WHS
- September 21, 2023: VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Chesterfield
- September 25, 2023: State of the Schools 2023 – WHS – 5:00 p.m.

### **School Board Member Comments**

Ms. Lane attended VSBA's Conference on Education and shared information from the Eastern Region's meeting. VSBA's Eastern Region Chair, Kathleen Beane, shared the need to form a committee to work on the upcoming Regional Forum.

### **Date & Time of Next Board Meeting**

There will be a School Board Work Session on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 5 p.m. The regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session).

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Lane and seconded by Dr. Wallace to adjourn the meeting.

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