

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
May 15, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, 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.

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: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, 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 Member Mrs. Lewis.

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, 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 Member Mrs. Lewis.

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: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Perry asked for a moment of silence in honor of Gloria Hortense Smith, a retired cafeteria worker, who passed away on May 2, 2023. The Board was led in prayer by Dr. Perry and 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

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for April. The school with the highest student attendance was Washington District Elementary School with an average percentage present of 94.83%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of April and the trait of Cooperation. Students recognized this month included J'Vonte Hutchinson in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Scarlett Desimone in grade one at Washington District Elementary School; Lydia Hawkins in grade ten at Westmoreland High School; and Allison Frazier in grade six at Montross Middle School.

Bus Driver Recognition

On behalf of Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, Mr. Sudduth, Mechanic, recognized bus drivers for the Attendance and Dependability Award. The following drivers missed three days or less for the entire school year: Harold Dickerson, Lisa Diehl, Bruce Legge, Lisa McCoy, Terry Rich, Katrina Sanders, Cathy Veney. Mr. Sudduth also shared a positive email that Mr. Rich received. A member of the community observed that bus 12 had stopped and appeared to be on fire. Fortunately, it was determined that it was steam and not fire coming from the bus. The community member commended bus aide, Ms. Garner, for her quick reaction to the situation and looking out for the safety of our children. When the bus came to a stop, Ms. Garner had the students calmly waiting and ready to evacuate if necessary.

Westmoreland HS Theatre

Students from the newly revived Drama Program at Westmoreland High School thanked the Board for attending their performance in April. It was well received and attended. The students then presented an excerpt from their Spring Theatre performance of Robin Hood. Mrs. Hooks, Program Director, shared that students from grades 5 and up participated in the performance.

Westmoreland HS SkillsUSA Winners

Mr. Keckley, Director of CTE, shared that several students from Westmoreland High School participated in the Skills USA Championship. This is a career competitive competition showcasing the best of Career and Technical Education students in the Nation. Four student winners from Westmoreland High School will be going to the National Competition. They are: Romeo Ramos – 1st Place Collision Repair Technology; Brayden Cobb – 1st Place Robotics Urban Search and Rescue; Darrien Fauntleroy – 1st Place Robotics Urban Search and Rescue; and Matthew Fisher – 4th Place Automotive Service Technology.

Cople/Montross Middle – Community Problem Solvers Junior Division Winners

Ms. Steele, Principal, shared that the theme for this year is “Doing It For The Culture”. Ms. Steele announced that the team won first place in State Competition. Members of the Junior Community Problem Solvers Team shared information regarding their project on helping to bring a positive culture to Cople Elementary. Coaches Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Meyers expressed the hard work the team has done this year. The team will not be going to the International Competition.

Open Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

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

Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; and Dr. Wallace, Aye.

Action Items

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. Dr. Wallace made the motion to accept the donations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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

Approval of Summer Hours for Twelve-Month Employees

Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Rice, presented a request for summer hours for 12-month employees. Board Member, Dr. Wallace, made a motion to approve the request for Summer Hours for 12-month employees. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Mrs. Lewis.

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

Adoption of School Board Goals 2023

Chairman, Mr. Fallin, shared that the School Governance Team, consisting of the Superintendent and Board Members, held a Professional Development Session in April. The Governance Team has a commitment to participate annually in Professional

Development. The session is also necessary to maintain our status as a Master Board. Mr. Fallin shared each goal and the actions being taken to reach each goal. Dr. Wallace, Board Member, made a motion to approve the School Board Goals 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis, Board Member.

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

Information Items

Update on Strategic Plan Goal 1

Dr. Perry shared that Goal 1 was mainly about Human Resources. He stated that there are eight strategies in Goal 1. Ms. Rice presented each strategy and discussed the actions being taken to meet each strategy. Dr. Perry shared several graphs representing demographics of Westmoreland County Public Schools.

Summer Programs

Ms. Rice presented a calendar of Summer Programs for 2023. The calendar included changes to the last day of school, as well as, WHS Graduation, Summer School Sessions and the opening of school for 2023-2024.

Six-Month Review of the "Local Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services – Stakeholder Input

Dr. Perry shared that the Return to Learn Instructional Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect recent changes instituted by the Governor and General Assembly. He stated that in addition to going over the plan, input from the public is needed. Changes made to the plan included taking out a lot of the COVID references.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared updates to the Westmoreland High School To Do List. He provided a list of all school vehicles and their age.

Dr. Perry shared information regarding the total amount spent on all Capital Improvement Projects 2021-2023. Information included that 88% of the projects have been completed; where the money for the projects came from, and where the money was spent.

Dr. Perry shared that 55% of the projects planned for 2023-2026 have already been completed. He stated that division funding will be needed to fund the remaining projects.

Food Service had to spend \$400,000 this year. The funds will be used to replace old equipment.

Dr. Perry informed the Board that they will need to soon put money into the Central Office facilities.

Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane, asked if the old Washington and Lee High School building will ever be used. Dr. Perry stated that the plan is to shut down everything except the gym. The building has structure issues that are too expensive to update.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- June 2, 2023: VSBA Hybrid School Law Conference – Richmond or Virtual
- July 13, 2023: VSBA Conference on Education - Richmond

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Lane presented each Board member with a program from the Northern Neck Technical Center graduation. She shared that 140 Program Completers graduated. This is the most they have ever had. She said Westmoreland was well represented. Four of our graduates were chosen for the different disciplines: Jack Lahey, Maritime Trades; Devine Garnett, Culinary Arts; Romeo Ramos, Auto Body; and Matthew Fisher, Auto Body Technology.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

A School Board Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 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 Dr. Wallace and seconded by Ms. Lewis to adjourn the meeting.

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