

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
November 20, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, November 20, 2023 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. 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 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. 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 Dr. Wallace and seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane.

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

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 October. The school with the highest student attendance was Cople Elementary School with an average percentage present of 94.66%.

Dr. Perry shared the team attendance recognition for October. The school with the highest staff attendance was Cople Elementary School with an average percentage present of 95.15%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of October and the trait of Responsibility. Students recognized this month included Kaylee Juanarajs in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Eliza Scherm in grade five at Washington District Elementary School; Isabela Cisneros in grade six at Montross Middle School and Gavin McComas in grade ten at Westmoreland High School.

Open Public Comments

One person signed up for public comments. Mr. Fallin informed the speaker that she would receive a response from the Superintendent.

Consent Agenda

Board Member, Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

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

Calendar Request

Ms. Rice asked the board for approval to change December 18th to a Teacher Workday and make December 19th and 20th holidays for all students and staff. The rationale is that if schools do not miss any days due to inclement weather up through December 15, 2023, there is enough time built in to the calendar to make these two days into holidays. The motion to approve the calendar change was made by Board Member Dr. Wallace and was 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

Winter Break for Twelve-Month Employees

Ms. Rice shared the Board Policy regarding twelve-month employees entitled holidays. There are six days during the scheduled break that twelve-month employees are required to work. Ms. Rice asked the board for approval to close all schools and offices for the duration of the holiday break. Permit twelve-month employees to make up the six days during the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Board Member Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve the winter break for twelve-month employees. The motion was 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

Information Items

Communication Forum

Ms. Rice informed the board that there would be a Communication Forum on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. She noted that one board member is needed to participate. Board Member Mrs. Lewis volunteered to attend the Communication Forum.

School Improvement Plans

Principals presented their School Improvement Plan for 2023-2024. Plans included improvement goals and steps that will be taken to meet each goal.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared that the canopy has been completed and next week workers will be marking the grounds for the field house.

Dr. Perry shared pictures and highlights of the Mid Year A4LE Conference held at Westmoreland High School on November 3, 2023. Dr. Perry announced that Westmoreland High School was chosen as the 2023 Outstanding Project and is featured in the prestigious magazine "Learning By Design".

VSBA People's Choice Award

Board Vice Chair that Board Members attended the 2023 VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg. Every year there is an Exhibition of School Architecture. Firms submit their projects. Ms. Lane proudly shared that Westmoreland High School received the most votes and was awarded the People's Choice Award.

VSBA Annual Convention Take-Aways

Board members shared their favorite parts of the VSBA Annual Convention.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- 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

There were no Board Member comments.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

- The regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 5:00 p.m. (Open Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Holiday Reception).

Adjournment

Board Member Dr. Wallace made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.