

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
September 18, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, September 18, 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. 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 Mrs. Ramsey 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 Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

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

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

4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, 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: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, 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

Ms. Lane suggested the approval of the minutes be removed from the consent agenda and be approved at the October meeting due to some revisions. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Delegations/Presentations

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for August. The school with the highest student attendance was Washington District Elementary School with an average percentage present of 96.06%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of August and the trait of Patience. Students recognized this month included Caden Chan in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Bailey Morrison in grade five at Washington District Elementary School; Nathaniel Bartlett in grade six at Montross Middle School and Nevaeh Wright in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School.

WHS Soccer Team

Coach Astrop introduced Mr. Sudduth, Head Coach, and several members of the soccer team. The boys team were Single A State Runner's Up in 2022. This year the team won District Champions and were Regional Runners' Up. However, the team did not win the State Championship. Mr. Bowen added that the support of the parents, grandparents and community was outstanding.

Virginia Department of Health Update

Dr. Richard Williams shared an update on communicable disease. There is a vaccine for the newest variant. Everyone aged 5 and older should get the new vaccine. Vaccine availability can be found on the website.

Open Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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

Action Items

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry presented information regarding school donations. Board Member, Mrs. Ramsey made the motion to accept the donations. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace.

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

Budget Resolution

Alexes Chatham, Finance Director, presented a budget resolution to complete two capital improvement projects at Westmoreland High School. The projects are the installation of stadium seating and construction of a field house. Board Member Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the budget resolution. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair Ms. Lane.

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

Communication Forum

Ms. Rice presented the Board-Staff Communications: Communication Plan with Employees policy. Ms. Rice gave an overview of the policy and dates of the upcoming meetings. Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane volunteered to participate in the October 18th meeting.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared the following facility update:

- The canopy at Westmoreland High School is almost complete.
- Central Office received a new HVAC system.
- The flagpole lights at Westmoreland High School are going to be replaced. The current lights are inserted into the ground and hold water causing them to short out.

- The sound system in the theater and gymnasium at Westmoreland High School is almost complete

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
- October 14, 2023: Employee Appreciation Picnic – Westmoreland State Park
- November 15-17, 2023: VSBA 2023 Annual Convention - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Dr. Wallace asked if information about the upcoming Employee Appreciation Cookout had been sent out.

Dr. Wallace asked if the board was registered for the Annual Conference.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

- A School Board Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- The regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session).

Adjournment

Board member Dr. Wallace made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board member Mrs. Ramsey.

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