

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
October 16, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 16, 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. Sandy Ramsey, Member

Mrs. Kathy Lewis, Member

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Member (participated remotely)

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, Dr. Wallace, has requested to participate remotely. Mrs. Ramsey made the motion to approve Dr. Wallace's request. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair, Ms. Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 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

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey 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

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

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 September. The school with the highest student attendance was Cople Elementary School with an average percentage present of 95.42%.

Dr. Perry shared the team attendance recognition for September. The school with the highest staff attendance was Cople Elementary School with an average percentage present of 95.09%.

Character Trait Honorees

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of September and the trait of Fairness. Students recognized this month included Alyssa Greene in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Josef King in grade three at Washington District Elementary School; Orchid Kenis in grade eight at Montross Middle School and Jordyn Danchak in grade nine at Westmoreland High School.

Bullying Prevention Month

Mrs. England, Student and Family Services Liaison, shared that October is Bullying Prevention Month. The Olweus Program is used in all schools to educate students on bully prevention awareness. Each school planned a week of different activities that addressed bullying prevention.

VSBA Academy Awards

Dr. Perry shared that VSBA acknowledges professional development that Board Members participate in. He explained the criteria of each of the awards. Certificates and pins were awarded to all Board Members, the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent and the School Board Clerk.

Board Chair Mr. Fallin highlighted some of the many things Board Members are responsible for.

Open Public Comments

There were three people signed up for public comments. All three people addressed the same concern. Mr. Fallin informed the speakers that they would receive a response from the Superintendent.

Consent Agenda

Board Member, Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Mrs. Lewis. Ms. Lane stated she had submitted revisions for the July 17 and August 15 meeting minutes but the minutes included in the packet were not revised. Mr. Fallin said the board packet would be updated with the revised minutes.

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. Lewis.

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

Calendar Revision

Ms. Rice asked the board for approval to change December 1st from an early dismissal day for elementary only to early dismissal for all four schools. The rationale is to create a block of time to conduct division-wide professional development in CPI Training which is training for all staff on deescalating difficult situations and also for other training for select groups. The motion

to approve the calendar change was made by Board Member Mrs. Lewis and was seconded by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey.

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

Information Items

Accreditation Results Update

Ms. Rice presented final accreditation results for each school, noting that all four schools are fully accredited without conditions. The presentation included specific information regarding each school's performance on each of the performance indicators for the current year, previous year, and three-year average. Ms. Rice highlighted areas of significant success, as well as opportunities for improvement.

Mrs. Ramsey stated she would like to know what is being done to improve EL and College and Career Readiness in a future presentation. It was noted this information will be included in the presentations of the School Improvement Plans.

Ms. Lane asked where we rank within the State. Dr. Perry shared that surrounding counties are part of a consortium and we are not. He said he would get information on our county.

Budget Update

Ms. Rice stated that Governor Youngkin convened a special session of the 2023 General Assembly on September 6, 2023. The General Assembly adopted an amended FY 2024 budget, enacted as Chapter 1. The amendments include an additional two percent compensation supplement effective January 1, 2024; an increase in funded SOQ support positions; and flexible per pupil funding to be prioritized by divisions for student learning loss, literacy, and attendance recovery. Ms. Rice provided details on the amount of increase in state revenue for Westmoreland, and the exact breakdown of these increases. This included information regarding ALL In Funding for the division.

Facility Report

Dr. Perry shared that there would be a pre-construction meeting for the fieldhouse on Wednesday, October 18th at 10am. The building permit is still under review.

A pre-construction meeting for the lights has been set for November 6th at 10am with Musco Lighting and R. E. Lee.

The canopy is completed.

Dr. Perry shared that work on the Division Office has been started. He shared several pictures of some of the work that has been completed.

Dr. Perry shared pictures of the padded football goal posts. He suggested that everyone go and hug one.

Dr. Perry shared that the A4LE Conference will be held at Westmoreland High School on Friday, November 3rd from 8am to 2pm.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- November 3, 2023: Association for Learning Environments 2023 Mid-Year Conference at Westmoreland High School 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- November 15-17, 2023: VSBA 2023 Annual Convention - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Lane wished everyone a Happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

She asked if the hotel reservations had been made for the VSBA Annual Convention?

- Ms. Allen let the board know that reservations have been made.

Ms. Lane asked what type of assistance is provided to employees if they consider themselves being bullied. She added that she has not heard any concerns or received reports of any such bullying.

Mrs. Ramsey thanked everyone who attended the School Board picnic.

Mrs. Ramsey requested that the Board go back into closed session to discuss a few things.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

- The regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session).

Recess

Mr. Fallin called for a brief recess and then the Board reconvened to return to closed session.

Board Member Mrs. Lewis made a motion that the Board reconvene into closed session as provided in Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing student matters pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(2) of the Code of Virginia. Board Member Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

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

At 8:00 pm the meeting was reconvened into public meeting on the motion by Board Member Mrs. Ramsey 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

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

Adjournment

Board member Mrs. Lewis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. 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