

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD MINUTES**  
**February 27, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 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. Katherine Lewis, Member  
Mrs. Sandra 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 Member Mrs. Ramsey.

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 asked for a moment of silence in memory of Andrew Pendleton, Bus Driver. 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 student attendance recognition for January. The school with the highest student attendance was Montross Middle School with an average percentage present of 94.55%.

### **Character Trait Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of January and the trait of Courage. Students recognized this month included Samara Thompson in grade five at Cople Elementary School; Emory Townsend in grade two at Washington District Elementary School; Nicholas Hendrix in grade eleven at Westmoreland High School; and Tayden Gray in grade six at Montross Middle School.

### **Bus Driver Recognition**

Mr. Rich, Transportation Supervisor, recognized all drivers and aides for Bus Driver Appreciation Week, February 13-17, 2023. Mr. Rich shared a picture of the drivers and aides at each school.

## **Black History Month**

Principals shared highlights of many activities in which students participated during Black History Month at each school.

## **Virginia Kindness Week**

Principals shared highlights of many activities in which students participated during Virginia Kindness Week at each school.

## **VSBA Regional Spring Network Forum Art Contest**

Ms. Rice shared the artwork entries for the upcoming VSBA Art Contest. The entry for the Elementary submission was done by Jett Thomas Tre' Hopewell in grade five at Cople Elementary School. The Middle School submission was done by Jaliyah Astarr Shelton in grade six at Montross Middle School. The High School submission was done by Leah Anna Holmes in grade twelve at Westmoreland High School.

## **Westmoreland High School Varsity Wrestling Team**

Mr. Sadler, Wrestling Coach at Westmoreland High School, and the wrestling team shared information regarding the successes of this year's wrestling team. The team achieved success at the division, regional, and state levels.

## **School Board Appreciation**

Prior to recognizing School Board Appreciation Month, Dr. Perry noted that a second moment of silence was needed for another employee lost in recent weeks. He then asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mary Jones, Food Service Worker.

In honor of School Board Appreciation Month, Ms. Rice read a Certificate of Recognition from Virginia Governor, Glenn Youngkin. She then shared a special video message from Senator Mark Warner. The Central Office and each school presented School Board Members with tokens of appreciation.

## **School Board Clerk Appreciation**

Chairman Ralph Fallin recognized Ms. Allen, School Board Clerk and Ms. Rice, Deputy Clerk for their dedication and hard work. VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week was February 13-17, 2023.

## **Open Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

## **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; and Dr. Wallace, Aye.

- A. Approval of Appointments & Resignations
- B. Approval of Board Minutes
- C. Approval of Bills

## **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 Ms. Lane.

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

## **Information Items**

### **Facility Report**

Dr. Perry shared information from the various construction project punch lists. Dr. Perry shared items of concern and the current status of the items.

## **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- March 2, 2023: VSBA Regional Spring Network Forum, Essex High School 5:00 pm
- March 15, 2023: VSBA March Hot Topic Conference, Wytheville, VA
- March 30 – April 2, 2023: COSSBA National Conference, Tampa, FL
- April 13, 2023: VSBA April Hot Topic Conference, Charlottesville, VA
- April 14, 2023: VSBA Master Board Continuing Education, Virtual

- April 21, 2023: Employee Recognition Banquet 5:30 pm WHS

### **School Board Member Comments**

Ms. Lane shared information about Black History.

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

School Board Work Session: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.; Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. (Executive Closed Session) and 6:00 p.m. (Open Session) and 7:00 p.m. (Public Hearing on School Board Budget).

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Ramsey and unanimously approved by Board Members to adjourn the meeting.