

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA  
BOARD MINUTES  
November 15, 2021**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, November 15, 2021 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. Katherine Lewis, Member

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member (participated virtually in accordance with COVID-19 protocols)

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.

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

The motion for the approval of the following certification was made by Board Member Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Board Member Dr. Wallace.

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. Ramsey, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

The Board was led in prayer by Dr. Perry and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 with an average percentage present of 94.02%. Staff attendance was not presented this month due to the current payroll specialist vacancy.

#### **Character Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of October and the trait of Responsibility. Students recognized this month included Terry Rich, III in grade two at Cople Elementary; Jasmeli Lopez-Ramos in grade three at Washington District Elementary; Yeymi Mendoza-Medina in grade seven at Montross Middle School; and Julissa Valdez in grade eleven at Washington & Lee High School.

#### **School-Based Outpatient Therapy**

Ms. Emily Eanes, Director of Youth and Family Services, Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck Community Services Board (MPNN CSB), provided an overview of the School-Based Outpatient Therapy Program that will be offered in Westmoreland County Public Schools. Ms. Eanes shared that the Therapeutic Day Treatment program has come to an end, and School-Based Outpatient Therapy will take its place. The MPNN CSB will provide a license-eligible therapist who will meet with students one-on-one in person at the schools. Referrals for services will be accepted from school personnel, parents, or the Family Assessment & Planning Team (FAPT) and will be directed to the CSB. The CSB will complete an assessment, obtain signed releases, and notify the school when a student is ready to begin services. The therapist will meet with students once per week for 30-60 minutes, seeing 6-8 clients per day. The cost for services will be billed to Medicaid or Anthem. If a student is not Medicaid-eligible and is unable to pay, funding may be available through the local FAPT.

#### **Virginia Department of Health Update**

Dr. Richard Williams, Director, Three Rivers Health District, provided an update from the Virginia Department of Health. Dr. Williams shared that there has been a decline in COVID-19 cases nationally and statewide. Westmoreland County still has a high level of transmission. Approximately 56% of Westmoreland residents are vaccinated, and that percentage is slowly increasing. Dr. Williams shared the Three Rivers Health District is actively involved with the Pfizer 5-11 y/o vaccine campaign and will be scheduling a clinic date with the school division. VDH will not be scheduling a booster clinic through the schools, but the booster is readily

available for staff through a variety of locations. Dr. Williams indicated that decisions regarding field trips and bringing in guest speakers should depend upon levels of community transmission. He added that he would not recommend these if transmission is at a substantial or high level.

### **VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month**

Ms. Rice shared that November is VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month. Ms. Rice shared the Proclamation from the VSBA Board of Directors. The Board then viewed a recorded message to the Board from Congressman Rob Wittman. Ms. Rice shared that Delegate Margaret Ransone would be meeting with the Student Leadership Committee at Washington District Elementary.

### **Open Public Comment**

There were no public comments submitted in advance of or during the meeting.

### **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. Ramsey, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

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

### **Action Items**

#### **Approval of Bills**

Dr. Perry presented a list of bills for approval. Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace.

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

#### **Donations to Schools**

Dr. Perry shared a list of donations that have been made to the schools. Ms. Lane made the motion to accept the donations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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

Dr. Perry also shared a substantial donation of books by the local UPS Store who selected Westmoreland County Public Schools to be the beneficiary of the Toys for Tots Literacy Program for the local community. Dr. Wallace made the motion to accept this donation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

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

#### **Authorized Signer for the NN Regional Alternative Education Program**

Westmoreland County Public Schools serves as the fiscal agent for the Northern Neck Regional Alternative Education Program. Dr. Perry presented the following action item to the School Board due to a change in Westmoreland County finance personnel.

Remove Mrs. Sherri Kennedy as the authorized signer and delete her name from the Northern Neck Regional Alternative Education Program bank accounts; and

Approve Ms. Constance Allen as the authorized signer for the Northern Neck Regional Alternative Education Program bank accounts.

A motion was made by Board Member Mrs. Lewis, seconded by Board Member Ms. Lane, to remove Mrs. Sherri Kennedy as the authorized signer and delete her name from the Northern Neck Regional Alternative Education Program bank accounts, and to approve Ms. Constance Allen as the authorized signer for the Northern Neck Regional Alternative Education Program bank accounts.

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

### **Winter Break for Twelve-Month Employees**

School Board Policy GCBD-R6 states twelve-month employees are entitled to New year's Eve, New Year's Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the day after Christmas. Alternate, compensatory days are given if the holidays fall on a weekend. Ms. Rice presented a request to close all schools and offices for the duration of the holiday break (December 20-31, 2021) and permit twelve-month employees to be off, without using leave, for the five days they would be required to work so long as the hours are made up during the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the request as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lane.

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

### **Information Items**

#### **Facility Update**

Dr. Perry presented a Facility Update. The successful bidder for the Montross Middle School security entry and Cople Elementary School vestibule project was Scheibel Construction. The Notice of Award was sent to Scheibel October 29, 2021.

Regarding construction of Westmoreland High School, Dr. Perry shared the cost of the change order to upgrade the parking lot was \$293,000 and the cost of the change order for the swales was \$181,000. Dr. Perry shared photographs of the emergency road, landscaping, and loading dock. He noted that with interest earned and change orders factored in, the current high school contingency totals \$397,434.93. The substantial completion date remains March 8, 2022.

#### **VDOE Program Feedback**

Dr. Perry shared positive correspondence from the Virginia Department of Education related to the following:

- Approval of ISAEF funds for school year 2021-2022,
- Approval of waiver to increase the percentage of Virginia Preschool Initiative children served through use of local at-risk criteria,
- McKinney-Vento federal program monitoring, and

- Administrative review of the USDA food distribution program at Westmoreland County Public Schools.

### **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- November 17-19, 2021 – VSBA Annual Convention - Williamsburg
- January 24-25, 2022 – VSBA Capital Conference – Richmond
- July 30, 2022 – Westmoreland High School Convocation - Montross

### **School Board Member Comments**

Chair Fallin thanked all those who attended the meeting or joined online.

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

Chair Fallin shared the dates/times of the next Board Meetings:

- School Board Work Session - Tuesday, December 7, 2021 - 5 p.m.
- Regular School Board Meeting - Monday, December 13, 2021 - 5 pm

### **Adjournment**

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