

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

November 16, 2020

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Vice Chair

Ms. Iris Lane, Member

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member

Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

Mrs. Tina Withers, Clerk of the Board

Mr. Chris Evans, Director of Technology

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fallin, Chair.

Ms. Lane 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 system pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Board member Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

The motion for the approval of the following certification was made by Board member Ms. Lane, 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 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/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, 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 statement and vision statement to the public.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

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

Open Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

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

- A. Approval of Personnel Appointments & Resignations
- B. Board Minutes - October 8, 2020 & October 19, 2020
- C. Finance Report (Appendix I)

Delegations/Presentations

Update from VDH - Dr. Richard Williams, District Director

Dr. Williams shared updated information on the COVID-19 pandemic. Westmoreland County's percent positivity rate has decreased to the moderate level. Most school systems have returned to hybrid mode with only one case of viral transmission that occurred in a school system. Dr. Williams stated that he feels it is safe to proceed with students in school with the rigid safety measures in place.

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry presented the student attendance report for the month of October to the Board. Montross Middle School had the best student attendance for the month of October.

Dr. Perry presented the staff attendance report for the month of October to the Board. Cople Elementary School had the highest staff attendance for the month of October. (Appendix II)

CTE Presentation

Mr. Savoy Director of Career and Technical Education, presented the plans of study available to students of Westmoreland County. Mr. Savoy highlighted the business, marketing and IT program. He stated currently there are five pathways for students. (Appendix III)

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$409,152.94 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$100,029.98 as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. (Appendix IV)

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

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry acknowledged individuals that gave donations/gifts to the school division. Dr. Perry and the Board acknowledged the importance partnerships with the community, businesses, and families to ensure students have what they need and the Board graciously accepts donations/gifts.

A motion was made in accordance with school board policy KH, to accept the gifts/donations as presented.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the donations/gifts given to the school division. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion. (Appendix V)

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

Athletics

Dr. Perry shared an outline of the modified sports schedule developed by VHSL for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Perry focused on the winter sports that begin on December 14, 2020. Dr. Perry also included information gathered from local superintendents. Dr. Perry shared a letter from Mr. Sadler, Athletic Director.

Dr. Perry recommended that we do not participate in the winter sports of basketball and wrestling for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dr. Wallace made a motion that Westmoreland County not participate in winter sports. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion. (Appendix VI)

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

Winter Break for Twelve-Month Employees

Ms. Rice recommended to the Board to close all schools and offices for the duration of the holiday break.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the winter break as proposed by Ms. Rice. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

Information Items

Return To Learn Update

Ms. Rice shared an informative powerpoint on the Return To Learn Plan. Ms. Rice highlighted the Virginia Department of Health dashboard which is updated and monitored each day for changes. Ms. Rice also highlighted the three groups of students which consist of all virtual students, blue cohort students and gold cohort students, staff and student adherence to the 5 key mitigation strategies and reviewed overall canvas activity. Ms. Rice stated the verizon jetpacks have arrived and the target date for distribution is the first week in December. The technology department also received 644 new chromebooks which have been configured and delivered to MMS and WLHS this week. Ms. Rice stated all administrators and teachers were provided with the book "The Distance Learning Playbook". The next window for parent choice is January 15, 2021. (Appendix VII)

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry shared pictures of construction at the new high school. Dr. Perry also shared pictures of bottle stations, the new sign at Montross Middle School, and the solar breaker panel at Cople Elementary School. (Appendix VIII)

Town Hall Meeting(s)

Dr. Perry asked to combine the interested community members and civic groups into one town hall meeting. The Board agreed to combine the two groups into one meeting. The facilitators for the December meeting will be Mrs. Lewis and Ms. Lane.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry reviewed upcoming events with the Board.

School Board Member Comments

School Board members comments reflected thanks to all the staff members for such a smooth transition into the hybrid model.

Mr. Fallin congratulated Ms. Lane whom was elected as the member at large for the VSBA Board of Directors.

Adjournment

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

Clerk

Chairman