

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

January 25, 2021

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 2021 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 - Participated via Electronic Communication

Board members participated electronically as established by the Governor's Executive Orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Chris Evans, Director of Technology

Mrs. Tina Withers, Clerk of the Board - Participated via Electronic Communication

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 system pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. Board member Mrs. Ramsey 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.

A moment of silence and a prayer was shared in remembrance of Gregory Carey, School Bus Driver (December 28, 2020), Katherine Roy, Substitute Teacher (January 9, 2021), Elsie Kelly, Retired Bus Driver (January 16, 2021), and the father of a student.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Dr. Wallace read the Westmoreland County Public Schools' mission statement and vision statement to the public.

Reorganization of the Board

Dr. Perry called for nominations for Chair of the School Board. Dr. Wallace recommended Mr. Ralph Fallin as Chair of the School Board. Ms. Lane made a motion to appoint Mr. Ralph Fallin as Chair of the School Board, Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

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

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Fallin.

Mr. Fallin called for nomination of Vice Chairman. Dr. Wallace recommended Ms. Iris Lane as Vice Chair of the School Board. Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Ms. Lane as Vice Chair of the School Board, 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.

Mr. Fallin called for nomination of School Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Dr. Perry recommended Tina Withers as School Board Clerk and Cathy Rice as Deputy Clerk. Dr. Wallace made a motion to appoint Tina Withers as School Board Clerk and Cathy Rice as Deputy Clerk. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Fallin recommended Dr. Daniel Wallace as the representative for the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and Mrs. Ramsey as the alternate. Ms. Lane made a motion to

appoint Dr. Wallace as the representative for the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and Mrs. Ramsey as the alternate representative. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Fallin recommended Ms. Lane as the representative for the Northern Neck Regional Technical Center and Mr. Fallin as the alternate.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to appoint Ms. Lane as the representative for the Northern Neck Technical Center and Mr. Fallin as the alternate for the Northern Neck Technical Center. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Fallin recommended Mr. Fallin as the representative for the Northern Neck Alternative Education Program and Ms. Lane as the alternate.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to appoint Mr. Fallin as the representative for the Northern Neck Alternative Education Program and Ms. Lane as the alternate to the Northern Neck Alternative Education Program. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Perry recommended adding an Education Foundation Representative to the agenda.

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Mrs. Kathy Lewis as the representative for the Education Foundation. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

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

Approval of Agenda

The amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent by adding the recommendation of an Education Foundation Representative to the agenda and moving agenda items around as needed.

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

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

- A. Minutes – December 10, 2019 work session, and December 16, 2019 regular meeting
- B. Finance Report (Appendix I)

Delegations/Presentations

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry presented the Student Attendance Report for the month of December to the Board. Washington and Lee High School had the best student attendance for the month of December. (Appendix II)

Dr. Perry presented the Staff Attendance Report for the month of December to the Board. Washington District Elementary School had the highest staff attendance for the month of December. (Appendix III)

Video Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A video tribute created by Washington & Lee Theater Program students was presented.

Action Items

Approval of Bills

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$172,230.03 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$169,465.83 as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. (Appendix IV)

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.

Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the donations/gifts given to the school division. Dr. Wallace 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.

VSBA Code Of Conduct

Ms. Rice read the VSBA Code of Conduct.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the VSBA Code of Conduct. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion. (Appendix VI)

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

New High School Request from County

Dr. Perry shared a document from the County Administrator. Dr. Perry reviewed a breakdown of the new high school debt service funds and the furniture, fixtures, and equipment/computer costs.

Dr. Perry recommended that the School Board approves paying a portion (\$250,000.00) of the remaining \$675,520.00 balance for furniture, fixtures, and equipment/computer costs for the new high school.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the recommendation of \$250,000.00 of the balance for furniture, fixtures, and equipment/computer costs. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Larry Hinson expressed his opinion regarding names for the new high school.

Budget Resolutions

Resolutions

Dr. Perry presented the following resolutions to the Board for approval.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the following resolutions. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Resolution for Appropriation of Funds from Additional Revenue Received from COVID-19 funds.

On **MOTION** of Dr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Ramsey, motion was carried to approve the following resolution for appropriation of funds from additional revenue received from COVID-19 funds:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westmoreland County School Board requests of the County Board of Supervisors to add to the 2020-2021 School Board Budget the following amount of funds in the following category:

Maintenance Category \$199,407.29

Technology Category \$358,881.70

WHEREAS, the money requested to be added to the Westmoreland County School Board Budget will come from additional funds from the County for COVID-19.

Chairman

Clerk

January 25, 2021

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

(Appendix VII)

Resolution for Appropriation of Funds from Additional Revenue Received from COVID-19 funds.

On **MOTION** of Dr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Ramsey, motion was carried to approve the following resolution for appropriation of funds from additional revenue received from the COVID-19 funds:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westmoreland County School Board requests of the County Board of Supervisors to add to the 2020-2021 Food Service Budget the following amount of funds in the following category:

Food Service \$6,435.83

WHEREAS, the money requested to be added to the Westmoreland County Food Service Budget will come from additional funds from the County for COVID-19.

Chairman

Clerk

January 25, 2021

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

(Appendix VIII)

Informational Items

Return To Learn

Dr. Williams provided a brief pandemic update. Dr. Williams stated the vaccination process has started but there is a shortage of vaccine availability at this time. Dr. Williams emphasized the importance that protective measures need to stay in place even after the vaccine has been administered. The goal is to have frontline workers which includes teachers, vaccinated by the end of February.

Ms. Rice shared CDC data with the Board. Ms. Rice stated that surveys were sent out to all employees to collect data on interest for getting the vaccine. Ms. Rice also shared that surveys were sent out to parents of all virtual students asking if they want to switch to in person instruction. New interim guidance for prek-12 school opening was also shared. (Appendix IX)

VHSL Fall Sports

Dr. Perry shared information on fall sports. Dr. Perry spoke with coaches and administrators and at this point the coaches and administrators need more conversation among themselves. Dr. Perry recommended that the high school be given the option of

beginning conditioning and the option to engage in fall sports if they choose based on the fact they adhere to all CDC guidelines.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to delegate authority to Dr. Perry to make the determination based upon inputs from the high school whether or when to commence practice for preparations for the sports seasons. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

Selection of Name for New High School

Dr. Perry read School Board Policy FFA. Dr. Perry stated that they followed this process and the Board has been given several data points. Surveys were provided, town hall meetings were held, letters, emails, phone calls and conversations with many community members were held. Mr. Fallin stated that there were three names that consistently rose to the top: Westmoreland High School, Westmoreland County High School, and Washington and Lee High School. Mr. Fallin started the process by asking if there was a motion to name the new high school Westmoreland High School.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to name the new high school Westmoreland High School. Ms. Lane seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the new high school name. Each Board member shared their reasoning for how they interpreted the data points.

Mrs. Ramsey explained her interpretation of the survey data and how it led to the conclusion to keep the name Washington and Lee High School.

Ms. Lane explained her interpretation of the survey data and the town hall conversations and concluded that Westmoreland High School should be the new name.

Mrs. Lewis stated that her interpretation of the online survey and the fact that the new school is a replacement school for Washington and Lee High School led her to conclude that Washington and Lee High School should remain the name.

Dr. Wallace stated that he focused on the online surveys and town hall meetings and concluded that Westmoreland High School should be the new name.

Mr. Fallin stated that he focused on the online surveys and town hall meetings and concluded that Westmoreland High School should be the new name.

Vote: 3 Ayes/2 Nays; Ms. Lane, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Nay; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Nay; Mr. Fallin, Aye.

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry provided a powerpoint of the new high school. (Appendix X)

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry reminded the Board of upcoming events.

School Board Member Comments

Mrs. Lewis inquired about a future discussion on the Eagles as mascot and school colors. She suggested the need to put together a group to come up with ideas.

Adjournment

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

Clerk

Chairman