

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
September 20, 2021

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, September 20, 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
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. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye. (Ms. Lane not present for closed session.)

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 Ms. Lane.

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 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 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

Dr. Richard Williams, Director, Three Rivers Health District, provided an update from the Virginia Department of Health. Dr. Williams shared Three Rivers remains at the verge of overwhelming the hospitals. The Delta variant has been very impactful for children, both older children (ages 12-18) and younger children (ages 0-11). The level of transmission is high throughout the state and in Westmoreland County. Vaccination is strongly encouraged. Dr. Williams also encouraged the division to participate in the ViSSTA program.

Dr. Perry shared the attendance recognition for August. The school with the highest student attendance was Washington District Elementary with an average percentage present of 92.04%. The school with the highest staff attendance was Montross Middle School with an average percentage present of 97.09%.

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. Mrs. Ramsey 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

Action Items

Donations to Schools

Dr. Perry shared a list of donations that have been made to the schools. 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. Ramsey, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye.

Information Items

Payment of Bills

Dr. Perry shared that arrangements have been made to process our bills. Approval of bills for payment will be presented at the October 18, 2021 Board meeting.

ViSSTA Program Overview

Ms. Rice presented an overview of the ViSSTA (Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance) program. This is an optional program provided through a joint effort between the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Education. It provides free COVID-19 screening testing for students, teachers, and staff as an added layer of prevention combined with vaccination and other mitigation strategies.

Communication Forum

Ms. Rice shared the dates of the 2021-22 Communication Forum meetings: October 20, 2021; December 15, 2021; and February 16, 2022. All meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room. One Board member representative is needed for each meeting.

VSBA Policy Updates

Ms. Rice presented the following VSBA policy updates to “lay on the table” for 30 days.

AD-Educational Philosophy

GAA-Staff Time Schedules

Growth Assessments

Ms. Rice presented an overview of the state Growth Assessments. These assessments, new for 2021-2022, are mandated by 2021 legislation and administered to students in grades 3-8 in reading and math. The purpose of the assessments in 2021 is to provide baseline data to guide instruction and to measure individual student academic progress. Full implementation will occur beginning with 2022-2023.

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented a Facility Update. The issues related to the parking lot and the grading of the athletic fields for the new Westmoreland High School have been resolved. Construction is on target to meet the substantial completion date of March 8, 2022. Dr. Perry recommended time be allocated in upcoming Board work sessions to discuss future use of the existing Washington & Lee High School facility and grounds. Dr. Perry shared bids have been advertised and are due October 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. for the renovation to the entrances of Montross Middle and Cople Elementary schools. Replacement of HVAC units at Montross Middle, Cople Elementary, and Washington District Elementary schools will begin soon, as will installation of the keyless entry system. Renovation of the bathrooms at Montross Middle will occur in Summer 2022.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- September 23, 2021 – VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Richmond
- October 21, 2021 – VSBA Budget Workshop: The Basics of Budgeting and Equity – Charlottesville
- November 17-19, 2021 – VSBA Annual Convention - Williamsburg

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Lane inquired about avenues for staff to share feedback about how the pandemic is affecting them individually. Dr. Wallace suggested that once schools have identified gaps that need to be addressed based on data from the growth assessments, consider using community volunteers to

assist with tutoring. Mrs. Lewis noted that she does not agree with staff members being required to use their leave for the purpose of isolation or quarantine.

Date & Time of Next Board Meeting

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

- School Board Work Session - Tuesday, October 12, 2021 - 5 p.m.
- Regular School Board Meeting - Monday, October 18, 2021 - 6 pm

Adjournment

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