

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD MINUTES**  
**December 13, 2021**

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 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 (open session only)  
Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member  
Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member (participated virtually)  
Dr. Daniel Wallace, Member (participated virtually)

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent  
Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

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

Board Member Mrs. Ramsey 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 Dr. Wallace seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, 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 Mrs. Ramsey and seconded by Board Member Ms. Lane.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, 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. Lewis.

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: 4 Ayes/0Nays; Mr. Fallin, 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.

Ms. Lane 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 November. The school with the highest student attendance was Cople Elementary with an average percentage present of 94.80%. Staff attendance was not presented this month.

#### **Character Honorees**

Ms. Rice presented the Character Trait honorees for the month of November and the trait of Honesty. Students recognized this month included Amar'e Thomas in grade five at Cople Elementary; Alexa Trejo in grade pre-kindergarten at Washington District Elementary; Gracie Hill in grade eight at Montross Middle School; and Natalie Shaw in grade ten at Washington & Lee High School.

#### **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 post-Thanksgiving surge in the number of positive cases and hospitalizations in Virginia and across Three Rivers. There is a high rate of transmission in all counties within Three Rivers due to the Delta variant. Vaccines are working well against the Delta variant. Boosters have been authorized for ages 16 and up. There is a vaccine campaign underway for children ages 5-11 years old. There were 57 doses administered at Westmoreland's December 7, 2021 clinic. At the follow-up clinic in January, both the first and second doses will be available. Dr. Williams recommended that everyone receive the COVID vaccine, including those individuals who previously had COVID. He also recommended the booster for those eligible. Dr. Williams also recommended the flu vaccine.

### **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. Mrs. Ramsey made a motion to approve the bills as presented. 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.

### **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. Ramsey.

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

### **School Board Meeting Calendar 2022**

Ms. Rice shared a proposed School Board Meeting Calendar for 2022. Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ramsey.

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. This included photographs of construction progress at the Westmoreland High School site. Dr. Perry also shared images of the approved Wayfinding Theme for the high school. Dr. Perry noted that with potential change orders factored in, the current high school contingency totals \$43,638.37. The substantial completion date remains March 8, 2022.

### **Masks**

Dr. Perry shared information on pandemic-related hot topic issues including masks and the status of mandatory vaccines for students and staff. Vaccines are not mandatory for students. President Biden issued an executive order regarding vaccinations and/or routine testing for adults. An Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) went into effect on November 5, 2021 but quickly became the subject of litigation. OSHA subsequently suspended activities related to the implementation and enforcement of the ETS pending future developments in the litigation.

### **Christmas Card Student Art Contest**

Ms. Rice shared the names of the winning student artists for the 2021 Christmas Card Art Contest, along with their winning artwork. Featured student artists included Jaxon Wood in grade four at Cople Elementary, Jonah Mackall in grade ten at Washington & Lee High School (WLHS), Dajiana Wright in grade eleven at WLHS, and Rocio Orosco-Manzo in grade twelve at WLHS.

## **Upcoming Events**

Dr. Perry shared upcoming events for Board members.

- December 15, 2021 – Communication Forum - SBO

- January 24-25, 2022 – VSBA Capital Conference – Richmond
- February 8, 2022 – VSBA Title IX Best Practices – Charlottesville
- February 16, 2022 – Communication Forum – SBO
- March 11, 2022 – VSBA March Hot Topic Conference – Bristol
- April 20, 2022 – VSBA April Hot Topic Conference – Charlottesville
- June 2, 2022 – VSBA School Law Conference – Richmond
- July 19, 2022 – VSBA Conference on Education - 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. The Board Members wished everyone happy holidays and expressed appreciation for gifts received. Mr. Fallin asked Board Members if they would like to continue with participating in an annual day of Board Development with VSBA. Board members unanimously agreed they would like to continue. Dr. Perry will work with Gina Patterson at VSBA to schedule a date.

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

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

- Early Budget Forum - Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 5 p.m.
- Regular School Board Meeting - Monday, January 24, 2022 - 6 pm

### **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.