

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
February 8, 2022

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair
Ms. Iris Lane, Vice Chair (participated virtually due to illness)
Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member
Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member (participated virtually due to illness)
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.

Board members, Mrs. Sandra Ramsey and Ms. Iris Lane requested to participate electronically. A motion was made by Board member Dr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the electronic participation by Mrs. Ramsey and Ms. Lane.

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

Approval of Agenda

Board member Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda 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.

New Business

Overview of 2022-2023 Budget Considerations

Ms. Rice presented information regarding the budget for 2022-2023.

Ms. Rice reviewed an overview of proposed state revenue for the 2022-2023 school year, based on Governor Northam's proposed budget. The proposed state revenue is optimistic, and the Governor's budget proposal includes a 5% compensation supplement for SOQ (Standards of Quality) positions in each year of the biennium. It also includes a substantial increase in at-risk funding, as well as funds for 1) school construction, 2) grocery tax hold harmless, and 3) re-benchmarking hold harmless.

Ms. Rice shared a projection for local revenue, based on the Required Local Effort and Required Local Match.

Based on currently projected state and local revenue, the division is anticipating an increase in state and local revenue of just over four million dollars.

Ms. Rice reviewed the budget goals. She emphasized the need for competitive compensation and shared that Westmoreland currently has the lowest starting salary for teachers among the divisions of the Northern Neck. She then shared plans to increase employee compensation by 10% for all employee groups. Ms. Rice presented revised salary scales. Each scale reflects an 8.5% increase in the starting salary and maintains a 1.5% increase between each step. She also shared increases for part-time daily wage employees and part-time hourly wage employees. The daily wage for bus drivers will move to \$118, and the daily wage for car drivers and transportation aides will move to \$90. The hourly rate for most part-time employees will increase to \$14.85.

Board members requested additional attention to the paraprofessional scale, specifically to determine whether paraprofessional pay is competitive with other divisions in the region. A request was also made to review the food service scale.

Ms. Rice shared that the division should receive information regarding our health insurance renewal costs in the next couple of weeks. She reviewed requests for added positions for the upcoming year. Ms. Rice also indicated that the plan is to prioritize the state revenue for school construction to construct a gymnasium/multipurpose facility for Cople Elementary, along with completing other capital improvement projects as funds permit. Ms. Rice reviewed the additional budget requests, which fall under the three broad categories of instructional materials & supplies, instructional technology, and operations & maintenance.

Mrs. Ramsey requested that the current Washington & Lee High School be included in the Capital Improvement Plan and budget to ensure it is properly maintained.

School Board Member Comments

Mr. Fallin expressed appreciation for the work on the budget. Mrs. Ramsey requested the dates of PreK/Kindergarten registration, when available, along with the total cost of food service personnel.

Adjournment

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