

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD MINUTES
January 18, 2022

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, January 18, 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
Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member
Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member
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.

Approval of Agenda

Board member Ms. Lane made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis. Dr. Wallace inquired whether the Board needed to amend the agenda to discuss the mask mandate in light of Governor Youngkin's Executive Order Number Two which would become effective January 24, 2022. Mr. Fallin indicated the School Board's decision regarding masks on January 5, 2022 would remain in effect until the Board took any further action. Dr. Perry indicated that if the Board wanted to revisit its decision the regular School Board meeting on January 24, 2022 may be a better time to do so, as the state may have provided additional guidance by that time. No change was made to the agenda.

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

Action Items

Approval of 2021 Title IC Consortium Incentive Grant Application

Ms. Rice presented the 2021 Title IC Consortium Incentive grant application for approval. The division will receive \$10,135.50 in federal funds. These funds will be used to purchase instructional materials and supplies to be used with Migrant Education Program students during pull-out services and in the general classroom throughout the regular school year, and for Matematica. Funds will also be used to purchase instructional materials for family engagement activities.

A motion was made by Board Member Dr. Wallace, and seconded by Mrs. Ramsey to approve the Title IC Consortium Incentive Grant Application as presented.

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 an overview of early budget considerations for 2022-2023.

Two primary budget goals include: 1) provide competitive compensation and compensation that parallels cost of living increases, and 2) address capital improvement projects at Cople Elementary, Washington District Elementary, and Montross Middle School. The Board indicated they would like to include the Central Office in the capital improvement goal.

Ms. Rice presented 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 indicated the school division is currently proposing a 7% increase in compensation for all employees for the 2022-2023 school year. This figure may be adjusted upward if funds permit in order to be competitive and combat the cost of living increases. Ms. Rice presented an overview of early budget needs that have been voiced by school principals and Central Office directors and supervisors. This includes needs in the areas of personnel, instructional materials, instructional site licenses, technology, furniture, equipment, clinic and office supplies, and facilities/maintenance requests. This list is not exhaustive and is intended to capture needs that are not already included in the division's operating budget.

School Board members proposed additional budget needs for consideration. These included:

- 1) Additional paraprofessional positions at the elementary levels;
- 2) Additional Central Office personnel;
- 3) Additional groundskeepers for the summer months,
- 4) Instructional materials for coding instruction,
- 5) Additional, highly visible, visitor signs for schools,
- 6) Consideration of the feasibility and cost effectiveness of moving the awning from Washington & Lee HS to Montross Middle, and
- 7) Installing new, marquee signs at all schools as an effective communication tool.

Dr. Perry shared that the division is also working on a capital improvement plan and budget separate from the division operating budget. He added that the budget for Capital Improvements will be presented to the Board of Supervisors, along with the division's Operating Budget.

Mrs. Lewis asked whether Dr. Perry had received a copy of the auditor's report. She indicated audit findings had been shared at the recent Board of Supervisors' meeting. Dr. Perry responded that he had not yet received a final copy of the audit, but would obtain a copy and share with Board members.

Ms. Lane indicated she would like for someone from the County Administrator's Office to give a presentation to the School Board on how taxes impact the school division's budget. Board members agreed they would like more information from the county on taxes, local revenue, and the school funding formula.

School Board Member Comments

Board members expressed appreciation to those who contributed to the work of identifying budget needs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Wallace expressed appreciation to his fellow School Board members for being a functional Board, particularly in light of activities around the state. Mr. Fallin echoed this sentiment, commending the School Board for communicating with each other and reaching decisions in a professional manner.

Adjournment

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