

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MONTROSS, VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD WORK SESSION/EARLY BUDGET FORUM MINUTES**  
**January 17, 2023**

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment Statement**

Board Chair Mr. Fallin presented the current version of the Public Comment Statement. Mr. Fallin suggested that some of the wording in the statement be changed so that there is a clearer understanding that no personal attacks or naming of individuals/titles will be permitted during public comment. The Board then discussed that the time limit needs to be enforced. Several ideas were shared on how to keep speakers within the allotted time limit. The suggested changes to the statement will be sent to the attorney for review.

#### **Book Study**

Vice Chair Iris Lane presented the book “Stick Together” by Jon Gordon and Kate Leavell as a possible source of a book study. The book was used by VSBA for study in 2022. The Board was asked if they would be interested in reading and discussing the book. The Board agreed. The Board then discussed and agreed that each board member would facilitate a chapter.

#### **Board Development**

Board Chair Mr. Fallin shared that he had discussions with VSBA on the agenda for the upcoming professional development to maintain the Board’s Master Board status. The training will include Board protocols and goals. Possible dates and times were discussed.

### **School Security**

Superintendent Perry presented information on school security personnel. Schools have the choice of having School Resource Officers as set forth by the Code of Virginia or School Security Officers. Information was shared from the office of DCJS and the general statutes pertaining to SROs and SSOs. These are the only positions that should be providing security in schools. The Board asserted the preference for SROs over SSOs.

### **Early Budget Forum**

Deputy Superintendent Ms. Rice shared the goals for the upcoming budget which are rooted in the priorities of personnel and instruction. In an effort to recruit and retain the best personnel in our division, the main goals will be competitive salaries, signing bonuses, retention bonuses, retention incentives through provision of retiree health insurance, smaller class sizes, additional mental health and behavioral support for students, tuition assistance, and internship opportunities. Ms. Rice provided an overview of anticipated state and local revenue based on the Governor's proposed budget amendments. She then presented new instructional personnel positions, capital needs, and other needs addressed in the current draft of the 2023-2024 School Board budget.

### **Board Comments**

None

### **Adjournment**

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