

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA
BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 11, 2022**

The Westmoreland County School Board met for a work session on Tuesday, October 11, 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

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

2022 Model Policies

Attorney, Nicole Cheuk, shared what she was able to discuss concerning the model policies without offering legal advice. She gave a brief overview and answered questions. She stated that under the statute, nothing has changed. It is in the review process at this time. Currently, we are operating under the 2021 policies. Some of the items discussed included:

- Practices need to match policies.
- Pronouns used should match the name given at birth.
- The correct bathroom to use should correspond to the biological gender.
- A parent has to request in writing that their child be recognized as transgender.
- The term “sex” refers to biological gender.
- The School Board cannot compel employees to use other pronoun.

School Board Protocols

The VSBA Code of Conduct is normally signed by the board in January. It was presented to the Board for consideration. Board Chair Mr. Fallin asked members if they had any questions or items that needed to be discussed. The Board agreed that the Superintendent and Board Chair decide what items go on the School Board agenda.

It was suggested that the Board hold some Town Hall meetings to maybe improve parent participation. Parents only come when their child(ren) are receiving an award.

Strategic Plan Goal #2

The Board discussed the second goal of the Strategic Plan. Several items were discussed. Extended discussion addressed strategy #5 and strategy number 8. Middle School career plans are addressed by Major Clarity. Capstone Projects implementation will begin this year.

Cell Phone Policy

Discussion of the policy added emphasis to several aspects. This policy includes smart watches. Students need to understand that all devices need to be out-of-sight. Principals hope to make this policy effective when the new semester begins.

Covered Structures at Schools

The concern is that employees at Cople Elementary School have to be outside during inclement weather to check ID's of people picking up students and then they have to walk the students to the correct vehicle. It was suggested that we look into some kind of covered shelter for these employees to stand under while performing their duties.

School Board Sponsored Social Events/Employee Recognition

Members discussed what kind of event that they want to hold next. It was decided to do something for those employees who were absent during the teacher workday. This would include paraprofessionals, custodians, nurses, bus mechanics, bus and car drivers/aides, and food service. Some suggestions were keychains, shirt for custodians, and gift cards.

Next year there will be a budget line for Employee Recognition. Superintendent Dr. Perry suggested that in the future focus on limited annual events like the picnic. Other suggestions included:

- For non-teaching staff, consider doing something during the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- It was suggested that there be a Movie Night at Westmoreland High School. A movie suggestion was the Polar Express. Serve popcorn and drinks.

Future Use of W&L High School

It was suggested to shut down the school and minimize utility costs. The building has already been vandalized. It was discussed that we continue renting the cafeteria and gym.

Board Comments

Board member Mrs. Lewis shared that she had enjoyed attending the football game on Friday. She also shared that she witnessed a fight that happened and the lack of help to break it up.

Adjournment

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