

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Mr. Graham Paige; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. David Oberg; Ms. Ellen Moore Osborne; and Ms. Judy Le.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debbie Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Jamie Gellner, Program Evaluator; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Jasmine Fernandez, Project Advisor; Mr. Chad Ratliff, Principal of Murray High School and the Community Public Charter School; Ms. Stephanie Passman, Head Teacher Murray High School; Ms. Lindsey Snoddy, Deputy Director of Building Services; Dr. Christine Diggs, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Paige offered a **motion** that the School Board go into a closed meeting as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under subsection 1 for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment and the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Paige offered a **motion** that the Board certify by recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Meeting. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Osborne; Dr. Acuff; Ms. Callsen, Mr. Oberg, Ms. Le; and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Alcaro, Chairman, called the meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item. No. 2.1. Approval of Agenda.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Carl Perkins Grant FY20
- 3.3 Project Graduation FY20
- 3.4 Miscellaneous Grants – CTE/Technology

- 3.5 Lease Agreement for Rental of Monticello High School Facility
- 3.6 Donations and Reimbursements to the School Division FY2019-20 – 2nd Quarter
- 3.7 Personnel Action
- 3.8 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. Mr. Alcaro asked for discussion. Mr. Paige asked how the other schools stack up against Henley Middle and Sutherland in regards to printers. Mr. Alcaro thanked all the donors who have provided for the division. **The motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Mr. Oberg said that it was the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who first said that music was the universal language of mankind. Just this past year, scientists at Harvard published the most comprehensive study ever done on the subject. They agreed. An article in *Psychology Today* a few years ago said with music you can reach across cultural and linguistic boundaries in ways you cannot with ordinary languages such as English or French. Although we're going to test at least the French part tonight. That's because we are going to conduct our own research with the help of some incredibly talented musicians from Meriwether Lewis Elementary School. The school's mission statement that it seeks to inspire and develop a community of critical and creative thinkers, responsible global citizens and lifelong learners. He likes even more, how the school's music program is bringing the school's mission to life, beginning with kindergarten students. Under the direction of Cheryl Wetmore-Simpson, Meriwether Lewis students are using music to bring joy and reverence into our communities. Ms. Wetmore-Simpson says students are never too young to learn about community service and she proves it by scheduling student performances in senior citizen communities, by partnering with the Salvation Army and by honoring our veterans, all with musical tributes. This evening, on the occasion of School Board Appreciation Month, we are privileged that many of the students are here on our behalf. Ms. Wetmore-Simpson then introduced the students who sang for the Board.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Keiser said that the Human Resource held a local job fair several weeks ago at CATEC. There was a great variety of individuals who participated.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Amy Gaertner is a teacher, and president of the Albemarle Education Association. She spoke to the Board about teacher compensation and workload.

Ms. Cheryl Knight is a teacher. She spoke to the Board about teacher compensation.

Mr. Vernon Liechti is a teacher. He spoke to the Board about teacher compensation. He also suggested that the Board appoint a teacher to the Board as they are going to do with a student. He also said that the Board should support collective bargaining for public sector employees.

Mr. Robert Basilio read a statement from Sandy Richardson, co-founder of the Community Public Charter School. She supports the idea of merging the Community Public Charter School with Murray High School.

Mr. Josh Flaherty and Ms. Julie Stavitski are teachers. They support the idea of merging the Community Public Charter School and Murray High School.

Ms. Nicole Root and Ms. Chloe Root are part of the Murray High School community. They shared with the Board why they love Murray High School.

Ms. Jennifer Homan is a Community Public Charter School parent. She shared her family's experience at the school. She supports the proposal to merge Murray High School and the Community Public Charter School.

Ms. Sarvasrika Sing is a student at Murray High School. She shared her experience at Murray High School.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Dr. Haas shared with the Board the work that he has been doing over the week.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Board Member Reports.

Mr. Alcaro said that he attended the book tasting at Stony Point Elementary. He also visited the local mosque.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Charter School Annual Report and Charter Amendment Proposal.

Mr. Ratcliff and Ms. Passman provided for the Board's consideration the annual Charter School Report and a proposal to amend the charter. In accordance with Albemarle County School Board Policy LC, Principal Chad Ratliff will be provided an annual report of the Division's two charter schools, Murray High School and Community Public Charter Middle School. The schools are co-located and aim to foster creativity and intellectual curiosity through art and design, experiential learning, mastery, and student agency. They also serve a secondary function as "lab schools" to design and pilot nontraditional approaches to learning that align to ACPS mission, vision, and goals with intent to inform practices more broadly.

Ms. Callsen asked about enrollment at the schools. She also asked for the demographic breakdown of the students. She expressed concern about whether or not the schools are reaching all of our students. She then asked how many students were not able to be accepted to the schools last year.

Mr. Paige asked for information on what parts of the County are the students coming from to attend the schools.

Dr. Acuff asked if under the consolidated school plan, will the middle school students automatically be enrolled in the high school when it is time to transition.

Dr. Acuff asked if transportation was provided for students.

Ms. Callsen asked if there was a sibling preference for acceptance.

Ms. Callsen said that there needs to be a clear policy on how applicants are accepted.

Mr. Paige asked if all the students are Albemarle County students.

Ms. Le asked about the chronic absenteeism at the school.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there was a draft of the combined charter.

There was Board consensus to bring the charter amendment proposal back to the Board for approval.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Ms. Snoddy provided for the Board's consideration information on the feasibility of developing a Sustainability Advisory Committee. The School Board has requested a Sustainability Advisory Committee. The presentation included background on ACPS environmental policies and programs, example committee formats,

and a suggested format for an ACPS Sustainability Advisory Committee. Committee participation would be on a voluntary basis. Any future recommendations to the Board from the Sustainability Advisory Committee would include estimates of costs and savings.

Mr. Alcaro asked what direction staff was looking for at the meeting.

Ms. Callsen asked for the difference between a School Board committee versus a Superintendent committee.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the legislation to expand solar expansion came out of committee.

Ms. Callsen said that she would like the committee to provide a report directly to the Board.

Mr. Oberg said that it may be more efficient to be a Superintendent's committee.

Dr. Acuff said that she would support a School Board advisory committee. Ms. Callsen agreed.

Mr. Oberg said that there would be a lot of logistics to work through for a School Board committee.

Ms. Le said that she would support a Board subcommittee who would put together a committee to do the work.

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** that the Board form a Sustainability Advisory Committee with Dr. Acuff and Ms. Callsen serving on the committee. The committee will develop a plan on how to implement a committee to report to the Board and serve as the Board members on the committee. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Paige, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Le, Ms. Callsen, Mr. Oberg, Ms. Osbourne, and Mr. Alcaro.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break.

There was a break from 8:17 p.m. until 8:27 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.4 Educational Broadband Services (EBS) Lease Agreement with Shentel.

Mr. Holden and Ms. Diggs provided for the Board's consideration the Educational Broadband Services lease agreement with Shentel. This lease agreement will allow Shentel to operate its equipment on the ACPS EBS spectrum. Funds from this lease will allow ACPS to provide Internet access to students at home without increasing the ACPS operational budget, allowing us to better address the "Learning@Home" gap. Additionally, this public private partnership can provide potential benefits for county residents.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was a part of this in any manner.

Mr. Alcaro asked how many hotspots are needed to get to the last ten percent of our students.

This item will be placed on the next consent agenda for approval.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. Anti-Racism Policy Implementation Update.

Dr. Hairston and Ms. Fernandez provided for the Board's consideration information on the implementation of the Division's anti-racism policy. Policy ACC defines anti-racism as the practice of

identifying, challenging, and changing the values, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism in Albemarle County Public Schools. The policy also states the School Board and School Division shall reject all forms of racism as destructive to our mission, vision, values, and goals. The presentation included an update from the Anti-Racism Steering Committee on the five major activity categories to include: Policy Communication; Leadership and Administration; Curriculum and Instruction; Professional Learning/Training; and Policy Enforcement. A logic model will be introduced as an important first step for project design, implementation and evaluation planning of the 27 deliverables/regulations of the policy.

Mr. Paige asked when the training with Dr. Joseph Williams would be taking place next week.

Dr. Acuff asked about the Student Diversity Advisory Committee and the training they will receive. How will training get down to younger students?

Mr. Alcaro said that this is a long-term project because it is a matter of engaging everyone.

Mr. Paige asked if Murray High School was engaged in the anti-racism work.

Ms. Callsen asked if the overarching goals were tied to concrete goals that could be measured.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** that the Albemarle County School Board uphold the Superintendent's decision with respect to the complaint of discrimination brought by employee A pursuant to School Board Policy GB subject to certain additional measures that the School Board may direct the Superintendent to implement in connection with this matter. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

AYES: Ms. Callsen, Ms. Le, Ms. Osbourne, Mr. Paige, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Oberg, and Mr. Alcaro.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:10 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Alcaro adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk