

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on March 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Graham Paige; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. David Oberg (arrived at 6:02 p.m.); and Mr. Jason Buyaki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Matthew Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Debbie Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Chad Ratliff, principal of Murray High School and the Community Public Charter School; Mr. Michael Craddock, associate principal of Murray High School and the Community Public Charter School; Ms. Jamie Gellner, Program Evaluator; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Assistant Director of Planning and Budget; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Executive Director of Community Engagement; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Alcaro 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 to discuss and consider prospective appointments to the Long Range Planning Committee; subsection 1 to discuss and consider appointments of personnel; and subsection 1 to discuss and consider the performance of a teacher. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Oberg absent.**

The Board recessed from 6:12 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Alcaro 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. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Callsen, Mr. Oberg, Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Paige, and Mr. Koleszar.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to appoint Kate Bakich as the Samuel Miller Magisterial District representative on the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Dr. Acuff, 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.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Religious Exemption
- 3.3 Religious Exemption
- 3.4 Religious Exemption
- 3.5 Learning Resources Selection and Adoption
- 3.6 Personnel Action
- 3.7 Religious Exemption

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None.**Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.**

Ms. Callsen said that for those of us who are basketball or UVA fans, March is Championship Month, also known as March Madness because the NCAA Tournament takes place later this month. And, it just so happens that UVA is the top-rated college team in the nation right now. In Albemarle County Public Schools, however, we do not have to wait for a tournament to crown some champions of our own. One of the true gifts of serving on this Board is the opportunity it provides to each of us to meet so many incredibly talented young men and women. And we have several who have joined us this evening. Earlier last month, at our 13th annual Spelling Bee, Layla Buber, a sixth grader from Henley, won our championship after 19 rounds of competition. Earlier this month, she made her third trip in three years to the regional finals. I really liked what Layla said in *Charlottesville Tomorrow* about her experience— *“I’m really proud of all my friends for making it this far, and I’m proud of my friends who competed at the school level, too,” she said.*

Here’s a test for all of us on the dais and in the audience—what is the longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary—it has 45 letters and it’s Layla’s favorite word. And, if you can spell the word, we will give you an award too. I will give you some time to think about it and when Layla comes up to the podium, she will give us the answer. Maureen Jensen, one of our lead coaches, was a coordinator for our Spelling Bee, and she has few presentations to make. I would like to ask Maureen and all of those students who qualified for the regional bee to join us at the podium.

We also have with us this evening, our own national champions, students from our Center for Learning & Growth. Working with their teacher, Renee Willis, and with professionals at Lighthouse Studios here in Charlottesville, four students recently wrote, filmed and produced a virtual reality, 360 film on the events that took place in our community last August. Competing against magnet art and film high schools from around our nation, our students won the prestigious Community Matters Award from the 360 Filmmakers Challenge national showcase competition. In addition to the extraordinary display of creativity and community engagement that our students brought to this project, they learned about and came to master a very exciting and innovative technology. I invite my colleagues on the Board to take a few minutes to visit Lighthouse Studios at Vinegar Hill to experience this 10-minute award winning film in its 360, virtual reality environment. We are fortunate to have with us this evening, Renee Willis and two of the four students who earned this national award.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Acuff said that she attended a town hall meeting hosted by Supervisors McKeel and Gallaway.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Julian Waters spoke about arts education and how it can change lives. He encouraged the Board to provide more funding for arts.

Ms. Krista McMullen is parent. She encouraged the Board to offer an African American Literature course at Monticello High School and Western Albemarle High School.

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

Dr. King provided the Board with information on the planned walkout on March 14 and the guidance that was provided to principals.

Mr. Oberg expressed concern that the School Division cannot allow for truancy. He has concerns from a legal standpoint.

Mr. Buyaki asked where the students who walk out would go. He expressed concern about students leaving the building, and asked if there would be an increased police presence.

Mr. Alcaro asked if students walking out could use the internal courtyards at schools.

Mr. Paige asked how many middle schools were planning on participating.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Board Member Reports. None.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Preschool Annual Report.

Ms. Collins and members of the preschool team provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the preschool annual report. Early development of literacy and numeracy skills matter, and ACPS's preschools build those skills in a way that is developmentally appropriate. Preschool in ACPS is funded across several funding sources: the Virginia Pre-School Initiative (VPI) and local government, Headstart, Title I and Special Education (ECSE). Preschools exist in the following schools: Agnor-Hurt (VPI, Title I/VPI), Baker Butler (ECSE), Broadus Wood (2 Headstarts, ECSE) Brownsville (Headstart, ECSE), Cale (2 VPI, ECSE), Greer (2 VPI), Hollymead (Headstart, ECSE), Murray (ECSE), Red Hill (Title I/VPI), Scottsville (VPI), Stone Robinson (VPI, ECSE), Stony Point (Title I and VPI and ECSE), Woodbrook (VPI and ECSE).

In 1994, the Board of Supervisors established the Bright Stars program as collaboration among Social Services, the School Division and community partners using VPI funds and local funding. Bright Stars is an early intervention program for at risk four-year old children and their families that attempts to increase learning opportunities by addressing risk factors that affect school performance. At risk factors are based on a variety of criteria that include such things as parental illiteracy, poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, chronic illness, criminal activity, developmental disabilities and behavioral, oral language, social or personal difficulties.

In 2009, the Pre-School Network for Albemarle County was established to oversee the blending of funding streams from the VPI, Title I and Early Childhood Special Education programs to serve more children in inclusion classrooms. In 2015, a PreK Oversight Team with representatives from local government, schools and Head Start was formed to provide oversight for the Network. This report will highlight all four types of program.

Mr. Koleszar said that it is tremendous that they work together as a team rather than in silos. He also likes that the preschool programs are located in schools so that relationships can be formed.

Dr. Acuff asked about the health needs of pre-k students. She asked if there are any health screenings done through the Bright Stars program.

Mr. Alcaro noted that in the Bright Stars program that alumni are meeting or exceeding expectations in math but reading is lower. He asked if that is across the board for all student classifications.

Ms. Callsen asked if there are any unmet needs for Bright Stars, and how many children are on the wait list?

Ms. Collins then recognized Ann McAndrews who retired as the Bright Stars Coordinator.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Follow up to two Program Evaluations – Community Use and Extended Day Enrichment Programs.

Ms. Gellner provided for the Board's consideration a follow-up on the recommended actions that have been implemented following the Community Use Program Evaluation and the EDEP Program Evaluation.

Mr. Paige confirmed that Ms. Gellner would be reevaluating the pilot EDEP programs at Scottsville and Red Hill Elementary Schools.

Mr. Koleszar asked how many students really need to be in the EDEP program and would benefit from the service but cannot afford the program. Do we have that data?

Dr. Acuff asked if there were pre-K programs at Scottsville and Red Hill Elementary Schools.

There was Board consensus for staff to gather information who students who would be interested in attending the EDEP program if fees were reduced further.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break

There was a break from 7:59 p.m. until 8:10 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. 2017-2018 Charter Schools Annual Report.

Mr. Ratliff and Mr. Craddock provided for the Board's consideration the 2017-2018 Charter Schools Annual Report. In accordance with Albemarle County School Board Policy LC, Principal Chad Ratliff will be providing an annual report of the Division's two charter schools, Murray High School and Community Public Charter Middle School. Included is the charter extension request for Murray High School brought to the Board for information in Agenda Item 3.3 of the February 22, 2018 Regular Work Session.

Dr. Acuff asked what support do teachers need to adapt to the innovation work taking place at Murray High School.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to extend the Murray High School Charter through August 2018. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 8.5. One-Time Project Funding.

Mr. Zimmermann provided for the Board's consideration a request for one-time project funding. As part of the discussion of the 2nd quarter financial report on February 22, staff recommended the use of identified one-time monies for projects during the current fiscal year. During discussion of these one-time items, two additional items (security film and windows shades) were brought forward and approved for addition to the list of one-time project funding for the current year. Staff has determined that further research and discussion will need to be done regarding security film prior to beginning this project. At this time, no monies are requested for security film. For all other projects, staff seeks final approval of these items to begin and complete projects during the current fiscal year.

These items will be funded using savings identified during the current fiscal year; therefore, no additional funding is required. Projects in the Building Services, Building Improvement, and Technology appropriation categories will require action to move \$1,255,000 between categories. Expenses in the Instructional and Transportation categories have sufficient savings to meet project requirements.

Ms. Callsen asked about the window film and why it is not being considered at this time.

Mr. Buyaki asked if the saving found in the budget located in the appropriated categories listed in the attachment. He then said that he would like to hold off on doing classroom furnishings and internal and external window shades, and to ask staff to do more exploration on costs of other security measures such as metal detectors.

Dr. Acuff said that a metal detector would not deter an outside intruder looking through windows, so she supports funding for internal and external window shades.

Mr. Koleszar expressed concern that we have government by antidote. He is anti-security measures at schools. He is also concerned about this “bucket list” of items when we do not know what the budget is going to be for next year.

Mr. Paige asked about the use of the passenger vans being proposed to purchase.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the proposed fiscal year 17-18 one-time funding in the amount of \$1.39 million. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion. Dr. Acuff asked for discussion. Mr. Koleszar said that he would vote against the motion because he feels we are putting the cart in front of the horse. We are voting to commit money for the high school center without knowing how big the gap will be. Mr. Buyaki said that he agrees with Mr. Koleszar. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Acuff, Mr. Oberg, Mr. Alcaro, and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: Mr. Koleszar, Mr. Buyaki and Ms. Callsen.

Motion carried by a 4:3 vote.

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

Mr. Paige said that at the February 22, 2018 meeting, the Board heard public comment from Orange County parents and racial incidents. He would like to make sure that the incidents are being investigated. He would like to know what the problem is at the school and to find out what can be done to solve the problem.

Dr. Acuff said that she and Ms. Callsen met with the administrative team at Western Albemarle about the issues discussed at the February 22, 2018 meeting. A letter was sent to the Western Albemarle parents addressing the issues.

Dr. Hairston said that the meeting with the administrative team at Western Albemarle was to address the issue with Fluvanna High School. He is not able to address other issues. If there is smoke, there is fire. Staff will need to look at how to address perception versus reality.

Mr. Oberg said that he was upset about what he heard at the meeting. The fact that one of the high schools has a reputation where other schools do not want to compete against them, it has to be addressed.

Mr. Paige said that the athletic program needs to be looked at deeply.

Mr. Oberg said that we need to address the behavior but we also need to address the heart.

Ms. Callsen said that she would like to see a list of clear steps that we have taken or plan on taking so that in a year we can have something to monitor progress.

Dr. Acuff said that she was troubled by the comments about Western Albemarle. She asked for more data that are factual. She said that it might be unwise to think this is an issue in the Western feeder pattern. Whatever steps we are going to take need to be taken across the division not just at Western.

Dr. Hairston said that on the 14th and 15th of March there would be a screening and community discussion of *I'm Not a Racist, Am I?*

Mr. Koleszar feels that at Western Albemarle the problem has more to do with elitism rather than racism.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:15 p.m., hearing no objections, Dr. Acuff adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk