

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on April 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., Albemarle County Office Building, Room 241, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Dave Oberg (arrived at 6:33 p.m.); Mr. Jason Buyaki; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Jonno Alcaro; and Mrs. Pamela Moynihan.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Matt Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning; Ms. Debora Collins, Executive Director of K-12 Education; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk of the School Board.

**Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.** None.

**Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.** None.

**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. Agenda.**

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

**Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.**

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Special Education Annual Plan (2017-2018)
- 3.3 Exemption from Compulsory Attendance
- 3.4 Personnel Action
- 3.5 Additional Holiday Leave for 12-month Employees
- 3.6 Minutes
- 3.7 For Approval: Policy Reviews and Revisions
- 3.8 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches

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

**Agenda Item No. 4.1. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda.**

**Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.**

Dr. Moran noted that today Red Hill Elementary School hosted an event for the Day of the Young Child.

**Agenda Item No. 6.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.**

Dr. Moran noted that schools are preparing for SOL testing in the next couple of weeks.

**Agenda Item No. 7.1. Capital Appropriation Request.**

Mr. Tistadt provided the Board with points for consideration regarding the capital appropriation request. He noted that a more competitive construction market is causing many bids to come in over budget. If this occurs with projects, we have scheduled for this summer, it may be necessary to shift funding to cover these increased costs. In the case of Woodbrook Elementary School, it may require that the School Board request an increase in the appropriation for that specific project. Staff recommends that the source of this increase be year two modernization funding, albeit it is hoped that the Board of Supervisors will ultimately agree to restore those funds.

To ensure that these projects begin on time, any actions required of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to occur on May 10. The School Board has a meeting scheduled on May 10 immediately prior to the joint boards meeting and the Board of Supervisors has a meeting scheduled that evening. Two actions may be needed by the School Board:

1. The School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors increase the appropriation of the Woodbrook project by \$xxx,xxx and decrease in the appropriation to the modernization project by a commensurate amount.
2. The School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors consider at their earliest opportunity to increase the bond referendum projects' total appropriations to cover any current appropriations that have had to be used to cover bids that exceeded budget amounts. The School Board makes note that the interest costs for the general obligation bonds are lower than budgeted and that these reduced costs could be used to incur additional debt to cover projects that are over budget.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the Board of Supervisors had set aside a reserve to place the savings they had from interest rate savings.

Dr. Acuff asked if staff had any idea of how many companies are planning on bidding.

Mr. Buyaki asked what changes were applied to make a change in the bids necessary.

The Board is scheduled to take action on this item at a special meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item No. 7.2 Preparation for Joint Board Meeting on CIP.**

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board points for consideration regarding the Capital Improvements Program. The presentation included a review of potential major capital projects: 1) High School Improvements, 2) Continuation of Modernization Program, 3) Western Feeder Pattern Capacity, and 4) Southern Feeder Pattern Improvements. She noted that the May 10<sup>th</sup> joint meeting agenda would include a discussion of project request, selection and prioritization; reflection on the bond referendum experience; discussion of potential big-ticket items in the near future; and, discussion of potential of a 2018 referendum.

Mr. Koleszar noted that he would like to get ahead of growth rather than chasing growth.

Mr. Paige asked if the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee had reviewed the information on southern feeder pattern improvements.

Dr. Acuff asked how many of the classrooms are middle elementary.

Mr. Koleszar asked how much of the lower interest rate was due to poor projections and how much was due to the bond referendum project.

Dr. Acuff asked when the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee would be coming to the Board.

**Agenda Item No. 7.3. Break.**

The Board did not take a break.

**Agenda Item No. 7.4. Yancey Grant Update.**

Dr. Moran, Mr. Zimmermann, Mr. Tistadt, and Ms. Collins provided the Board with points for consideration regarding an update on grants that Yancey Elementary School receives. Yancey has a number of significant external funding sources that are unique to that school. Three major grants provide resources to the school.

Yancey has received for two years a School Improvement Grant under Title 1 to continue the required implementation of the priority school reform model. University of Virginia was designated the Lead Turnaround Partner to deliver consultation and training services to Yancey. Funds will also be used to pay stipends for Yancey Elementary School teachers. It is not anticipated that this grant will continue through the 2017/18 fiscal year.

The final two funding streams for major Yancey grants are the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant and Club Yancey. These grants/donations have supported after-school academic and fitness enrichment programs to students. The 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant expires at the end of the current year. The FY 16-17 funds will be spent by September 30, 2017. The Club Yancey program Director is in the process of applying for another CCLC grant. This grant has funded a large part of salaries for staff operating the program.

Additional Club Yancey funding has been primarily provided by donations, however donations have been increasingly difficult to raise over the past several years. In the distant past, these donations have been sufficient to provide for a significant amount of staff costs for the Club Yancey program, however over the past several years donations have declined significantly.

Current year funding for these grants are as follows:

School Improvement Grant - \$253,517

The primary expenses for this grant are for \$200,000+ of services provided by UVA and its partners, with approximately \$45,000 for funding of staff development stipends.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant - \$141,984  
Club Yancey - \$8,915

The primary expenses for these programs are for the director of the program and for staff to operate the after school enrichment programs offered.

Dr. Acuff asked if staff knows when a decision will be made regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant.

Dr. Acuff asked how long the division has been receiving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the previous 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant was also at Yancey.

Mr. Paige asked if the grant would end in September 2018. Dr. Acuff noted that it would end in September 2017. Mr. Paige asked if there would be any further updates from the Department of Education before September 2017.

Mr. Alcaro asked if this change was because of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) not necessarily due to a change in administration.

Dr. Acuff noted that it appears that Yancey will be losing approximately \$394,000 in support that was going to the school.

Mr. Koleszar asked if the \$250,000 grant that started last year and started late, how much carryover is left and what is being planned for the money.

Mr. Paige asked for clarification on the carryover grant money.

Mr. Tistadt then provided the Board with an update on enrollment projections at Yancey Elementary School.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if enrollment was declining in the other southern elementary schools. Is the enrollment declining at all levels or just elementary? She then asked about the percentage of available capacity at Scottsville Elementary School and Red Hill Elementary School.

Dr. Acuff noted that the enrollment has been declining over the past six years in the southern feeder pattern. Is there any indication that there may be a change?

Mrs. Moynihan asked if the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee studying at growth and capacity in the southern feeder pattern. Could the Board expect to see information that would decrease enrollment at Yancey, Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools?

Mr. Paige asked how the division's projections for Yancey compare to those provided by Weldon Cooper.

Mrs. Moynihan said that as a School Board we are responsible for consolidation of schools when necessary. She feels that it may be appropriate for the Board to consider it in this case. She said that when enrollment in a school drops below 100, it leads for challenges in providing a good educational environment – specials and professional development. She asked how other Board members felt about closing Yancey and moving the students to Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools.

Mr. Oberg said that he does not see the ability to meet the needs of individual students when there is only one teacher per class per grade level.

Dr. Acuff asked what information does the Board need staff to bring to the Board in order to discuss the topic further.

Mr. Alcaro said that he would like to see what alternatives staff would suggest about Yancey.

Mr. Paige said that he would like to see a study of the impact on the Yancey community. He would also like to see the impact on extracurricular activities such as facility rentals. Finally, he asked if it would be feasible to move students from Scottsville and Red Hill to Yancey.

Mr. Oberg said that he would like to see the impact on transportation times.

Mrs. Moynihan said that she would like to see the impact on professional development for teachers.

Dr. Acuff said that with the loss of grant funding for the school, she does not see where the division could find the money to offset the loss.

Mr. Koleszar feels that this needs to be a careful process where the community is fully engaged. He does not want to shortchange the process. He would like to see a timeline as well.

Ms. Farley noted that she would need to look at any contracts that the division may have regarding Yancey and the impact of any changes to the school.

Dr. Acuff said that she would also like staff to provide school climate data.

**Agenda Item No. 8.1. Public Comment.**

Ms. Christine Thomas is a resident of the Esmont community. She asked why every ten years the Board discusses closing Yancey Elementary School. She asked why additional classrooms could not be built at Yancey rather than Scottsville. She does not feel that the Board’s desire to close Yancey is because of the students.

Mr. Jillian Waters is a student at Yancey Elementary School. He feels that closing Yancey is the last thing the Board should do. Closing the school would not address the issue of declining enrollment. He also thanked the Board for their support in maker spaces at schools.

Mr. Lucian Jackson said that the Board needs to consider the impact on the community if Yancey were to be closed. He said that he also sees the need to look at the issue from the human side – what is best for students and what is fair for all.

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

Mr. Koleszar said that he attended a VSBA conference on the effectiveness of school boards. The cornerstone of the presentation was the Iowa Lighthouse Study.

Mr. Alcaro echoed Mr. Koleszar in that the conference was excellent. He said that it was mentioned that uncorrected hearing and eyesight greatly impacts student learning. The speaker also suggested that the entire board attend the same session at the same time in order to lead to deeper conversations.

Dr. Acuff asked if the school nurses do routine vision or hearing exams.

Mr. Koleszar said that at the NSBA conference he attended several sessions that were impressive: one on restorative practices and the other on the idea that all teachers should be reading teachers.

**Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.** None.

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

**Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment**

At 7:57 p.m., Dr. Acuff, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk