

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on May 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., Albemarle County Office Building, Room 241, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

PRESENT: Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Dave Oberg; 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. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning; Ms. Debora Collins, Executive Director of K-12 Education; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Strategic Planning Officer; 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 asked to amend the agenda to add an item for Discussion of Implications of Decision on Yancey Elementary School. He then offered a **motion** to approve the amendment to the agenda. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mr. Koleszar then offered a motion to approve the agenda as amended. 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 Minutes
- 3.3 Personnel Action
- 3.4 CFA Food Service Addendum 2017
- 3.5 Architectural/Engineering Selection Committee for the Western Albemarle High School Science Lab Addition & Modernization Project

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

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements. None.

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

Mr. Koleszar said that Mr. Shea has written a legislative proposal for VSBA regarding the control of afterschool programs. He asked that the Board approve the proposal at its June 8, 2017 meeting.

Dr. Acuff said that she met with the Student Advisory Council and the topic of discussion was bullying. She suggested that the Board discuss the bullying issue at a future meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Hearing on School Consolidation.

Dr. Acuff opened the public hearing.

Mr. Julian Waters asked that the Board keep Yancey Elementary open. He feels that the decision was being rushed, and not all options have been explored.

Ms. Jessica Gordon is a Yancey parent. She encouraged the Board to keep the school open. The community needs the school.

Mr. William Anderson is an alumnus of Yancey. He asked that the Board look at other options to keep the school open.

Ms. Amy Kershner is the manager of the JABA Senior Center in Scottsville. They travel to Yancey twice a month to participate in intergenerational activities with the students. She has enjoyed the relationship with the school.

Mr. JR Washington is a graduate of Yancey. He feels that the process was flawed. Did the students play a role in the decision? Where parents engaged in the decision making process? Why is there a police presence at the meeting?

Ms. Waltine Eubanks is a descendant if the individual who gave the land for where Yancey stands. The decrease in enrollment is due to redistricting. The community will seek all legal means to keep the school open.

Ms. Audrey Gentry is a Yancey parent. She is in favor of closing the school. The quality of the education at the school is declining.

Ms. Roxanne Brown is a Yancey parent. She is in favor of closing the school. She said that the issue is not about the building but the education that is happening in school. She is a product of Yancey herself. History will forever remain.

Ms. Melinda Whitehurst is a parent. She encouraged the Board to keep Yancey open. She encouraged the Board to look for creative options to keep the school open.

Mr. Mark Mellusi is a Scottsville parent. He believes in the benefits of smaller schools. He feels that decision was rushed.

Ms. Berlinda Mills is a member of the Esmont community. The school has struggled, but so have other schools. She shared with the Board a proposal for a school/community partnership. The community will fight back on the recommendation of closing the school.

Ms. Rosa Hudson is a member of the Esmont community. She shared with the Board the history of the Yancey. She said that enrollment was down because the school board keeps redistricting children out of the school.

Ms. Peggy Scott is a member of the Esmont community. She said that she attended the three town hall meetings. She learned that the budget was approved for the school for next fiscal year. She encouraged the Board to keep the school open.

Mr. Thomas Scott is a bus driver for Yancey. He asked if closing the school going to help the students. The school needs resources to educate its students. He asked that the school remain open.

Ms. Donnia Holland is a Yancey parent. She was a member of the school improvement committee. Educating a child is not only for teachers to do. She feels that students should be given a chance to succeed. She encouraged the Board to keep the school open.

Ms. Megan Crickenberger is a Yancey parent. Yancey is a failing school. She asked that the Board close the school.

Mr. Chris Yates spoke about Little Learners Preschool within the school. The program has been successful. He feels that the decision is too hasty.

Ms. Sharon Ayers is a member of the Esmont community. She feels that it is important to keep the school open in the community. She said that the students are not getting a proper education but they will. The community wants to keep the school open.

Mr. Andre Thomas is a member of the Esmont community. He said that this is the first step in a process to close all three southern elementary schools. The school division still has to pay for the students and teachers. He feels that the problem is in the leadership. He encouraged the Board to make the right decision and keep the school open.

Ms. Catherine Lochner is an Albemarle County resident. She feels that the Board needs to address the real needs of the students such as teachers matching the demographics of students. She encouraged the Board to keep the school open.

Mr. Lucian Jackson is a member of the Esmont community. He asked if the Board could deal with the decision made regarding Yancey. He encouraged the Board to do what is best for students.

Ms. Stacy Rush is a product of Yancey. She also an employee of Little Learners Preschool. She said that good things are happening in Yancey. She asked that the Board keep the school open.

Mr. Harold Pillar said that he does not care whether the school is closed or not. The Board needs to look for new solutions to address the dispersed population of students in the southern part of the County.

Mr. Ramyan DeBato is a Red Hill parent. He expressed concern about the rapid decision to close the school. Closing the school will not solve anything. He encouraged the Board to look for creative solutions to keep the school open.

Ms. Tracy Mitchell is a Yancey parent. She did not want her children to attend Yancey. She decided to try the school. She encouraged the Board to keep the school open.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Yancey Elementary Update.

Mr. Tistadt said that during the course of the 2016-2017 school year, staff has been providing the School Board with a series of reports and updates on Yancey Elementary School. Specifics of these reports can be found as part of the School Board agendas on the following board meeting dates:

- August 11, 2016
- January 12, 2017
- March 9, 2017
- April 27, 2017

The first three updates addressed student achievement and climate survey information. The April 27th update addressed the status of two major grants that are significant to Yancey Elementary School. For both grants, a 21st Century Grant and a Title I School Improvement Grant, staff cautioned the School Board that it was likely that the funding would not be available for the 2017-2018 school year.

At the April 27th meeting, staff also informed the School Board that it now appears that Yancey might not reach the original student enrollment projection for the 2017-2018 school year. The 2016-2017 enrollment is 118 and the projection for next year is 108 as the graduating 5th grade class is larger than the projected kindergarten class. Updated estimates for the kindergarten class suggest that it may be less than projected such that Yancey may have an enrollment next year of fewer than 105 students.

The School Board discussed all of the above information. The School Board asked staff to bring back to the board meeting on May 11 information related to the potential of closing Yancey and absorbing its students into Scottsville and Red Hill Elementary Schools.

He then highlighted the information provided in the report to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide the School Board with relevant information so that the board has the information that it needs to make decisions on next steps. The updated information included: 1) enrollment data, 2) community use data, 3) capital and operating budgets, 4) student transportation data, 5) demographics of the school, 6) and copy of the Yancey Workgroup Report from 2014, 7) capacity numbers for Scottsville and Red Hill Elementary Schools, 8) Yancey Climate Survey data, 9) staffing at Yancey, 10) information on the legal authority of the Board, 11) suggestions for alternative school uses, 12) cost per pupil data, 13) school size research, 14) information on the land deed, 15) information on pre-K programs, 16) a statement about transition if the Board decided to close the school, 17) grant funding information for Yancey, 18) a timeline of information leading to the discussion, and 19) options available to the Board regarding Yancey.

Dr. Acuff asked staff to explain the priority school status and the options for the status.

Mr. Paige said that the information shows transportation times being shorter. He does not understand how the times can be shorter.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if there would be transportation issues if the Board considered turning Yancey into a primary school or a preschool center.

Mr. Koleszar said that this is a difficult decision. He has always been a strong supporter of Yancey. He values what is most important the best learning environment for students. He asks if there is a point where a school becomes too small. He feels that there are too many adults in the building and not enough students. He feels that as a Board, we failed to address the problems known at Yancey. He will vote to close the school. He is not happy about the process, and the Board should have foreseen this happening. The Board and staff need to make sure that everything is in place to make the transition successful.

Mr. Paige said that he supports Yancey. He acknowledges that there are problems at Yancey. He feels that the process was rushed. He is not ready to give up on Yancey, and he feels that the problems at the school can be solved by looking at other options. He supports keeping Yancey open.

Mr. Buyaki said that he is unhappy with the process. He believes in the students at Yancey. The Board does not know if SOL test scores have increased and we do not know if the funding is not going to be granted. He is concerned about moving small groups of students from Yancey to Scottsville and Red Hill. He asked if staff would track and report the Yancey student scores to the Board if they are moved to the other schools. He will vote against closing the school.

Mrs. Moynihan feels that process is important. She said that the Yancey issues have been on going. Yancey has had issues since she has been on the Board. She supports small schools but we cannot support small schools the way they need to be supported in order to be successful. The community comes out only when there is discussion about closing the school. She feels that for the good of the students, the students need to be moved to the other schools. She is in favor of closing the school at the end of the current year in order to improve the learning environment for the students.

Mr. Oberg said that the Board needs to put kids first. He feels that this is a tough decision, and there is no good decision. He feels that the right thing to do at this time is to move the students to Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools. He feels that a successful charter school could be placed at the school but that takes time. He thinks that Club Yancey is important to the community and the students. He feels that the savings from consolidating the school could be placed back to the Club Yancey program for the program can continue.

Mr. Alcaro said that the decision has been difficult. Red Hill, Scottsville, and Yancey communities have a lot to be proud of. He tried to answer the question, what would need to be done to keep Yancey open. He could not find a solution. This is all about the students. He will vote to consolidate Yancey into Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools. He feels the vote needs to be taken tonight so that students can prepare and transition planning can begin to introduce the students into the new schools.

Dr. Acuff said that this is a difficult decision. She said that comments have fallen into two categories: 1) the history of the school, and 2) the educational environment for students. The Board has the legal obligation to look at the consolidation of schools to promote efficiency. The students need the proper learning environment in order to flourish. She noted that the Board has discussed Yancey at many meetings. Process has to have a meaning, and it is not to delay. She feels that the school is too small. She does not feel that the decision is uninformed. She supports consolidating the school into Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools.

Mr. Paige said that he does not feel that the Board has not had enough time to investigate options for the school.

Mr. Buyaki asked if SOL scores for the Yancey students be provided to the Board separately from the data for the schools that the students will be consolidated to.

Mr. Paige said that he does not feel that the Board of Supervisors know what is going on in regards to closing of the school.

Mrs. Moynihan said that it is her understanding that if the Board consolidates the school then it would be turned over to the County.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** that the School Board close Yancey Elementary School effective at the end of the 2016-17 school year, and that the Yancey students be assigned to Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools consistent with the attendance area map contained in the May 25, 2017 Yancey staff report. Mr. Koleszar asked that the word consolidate be used rather than close. Mr. Alcaro **withdrew** the motion.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to consolidate Yancey Elementary School into Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and that the Yancey students be assigned to Red Hill and Scottsville Elementary Schools consistent with the attendance area map contained in the May 25, 2017 Yancey staff report. Mr. Koleszar asked that the word consolidate be used rather than close. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Mr. Oberg, Dr. Acuff, Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Koleszar.

NAYS: Mr. Buyaki and Mr. Paige.

Motion carried by a 5:2 vote.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to direct staff to investigate the use of Yancey Elementary as a location for the continuation of Club Yancey with funds reserved from the savings. **He then withdrew the motion.**

Agenda Item No. 7.3. Break.

There was a break from 8:59 p.m. until 9:13 p.m.

Impact of Decision on Yancey Elementary School

Dr. Acuff said that she is committed to working with the County and the community to keep the Yancey building open.

Mr. Buyaki feels that the families who will be moving be contacted to let them know what school they will be attending. He also likes the idea of taking the students and families to the school they will be attending.

Mr. Koleszar said that he feels that the Board should look at the security addition plan for Scottsville Elementary and consider changing it from a one-classroom addition to a three-classroom addition. He also asked if a gym expansion should be considered for Scottsville as a project in the CIP. He suggested that some of the savings from closing the school be put into the CIP.

Mr. Alcaro said that the security and one classroom was under the referendum money. If the Board decided to hold the security addition back and consider adding additional classrooms and a gym renovation, would the money not need to be secured again?

There was Board consensus for staff to provide the Board with information on the potential to add additional classrooms to the project.

Dr. Acuff said that all of the after school programs are self-funded. She asked what the Board's legal authority was for an afterschool program, and are there equity issues with other schools.

Mr. Oberg said that the Board should take steps to soften the blow of consolidating Yancey by keeping Club Yancey open as an afterschool program. Mr. Alcaro asked if the proposal was for only one year or as an on-going basis. Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to see it as a pilot, and the impact of subsidizing afterschool programs.

There was Board consensus for staff to provide information on providing a subsidized afterschool support for students.

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** that the division report out to the Albemarle County School Board all future SOL scores when made available by the State for all current 2016-2017 B.F. Yancey students until those students graduate from Albemarle County Schools or leave the division. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. Dr. Acuff asked for discussion. Mr. Koleszar said that he favors the motion but does not want to violate release of student information in the process. Mrs. Moynihan said that she shares the same concern, and asked about its legality of the motion. Mrs. Farley said that the Board could discuss the individual student data in closed meeting but bulk data would need to be reported in open session. Dr. Acuff said that if the goal is to monitor the performance over time if the window is too long. She asked what would happen the SOL testing go away. **The motion passed with Dr. Acuff voting no.**

Mr. Koleszar said that Little Learners Preschool would be dislocated. He asked staff to look at ways the division could continue to partner with the preschool.

Mr. Buyaki asked what the operational costs would be in order to maintain the building.

Mrs. Farley said that the title of the school would remain with the School Board until or unless the Board decides to do otherwise with the building.

Dr. Acuff suggested that staff begin to pull the requested information together, and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Moran said that there is a historical legacy in the school that is valuable and important to Albemarle County. She wants to make sure that history of the school is documented.

Mr. Koleszar said that he would be open to the idea of a charter school proposal for the school. Mr. Oberg agreed.

Dr. Acuff suggested that the Woodbrook Redistricting item be heard prior to the Strategic Priorities Update.

Agenda Item No. 7.4. Strategic Priorities Update.

Dr. McLaughlin said that each biennium the Albemarle County School Board adopts strategic priorities that are designed to move the division forward in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the ACPS strategic plan, Horizon 2020. The board adopted new strategic priorities for the 2015-2017 biennium in the fall of 2015. At the end of each school year as part of the School Board Self Evaluation and the Superintendent's Evaluation, the board develops an impact rating judging the degree to which each of our strategic priorities has been implemented to positively impact our school division. The materials provided to the board in this item will serve to inform the board about the implementation of our priorities during the 2016-2017 school year so they can make an informed decision with their impact ratings.

Mr. Koleszar suggested that the slide on industry credentials be broken down further.

Agenda Item No. 7.5. Redistricting Study Scope for Woodbrook Elementary School Addition. (Heard prior to the Strategic Priorities Update)

Ms. Schmitt said that the school division has experienced enrollment growth in the urban ring area adding over 250 students in the last 5 years in the four elementary schools whose boundaries surround the city of Charlottesville: Agnor-Hurt, Cale, Greer, and Woodbrook. This growth has exceeded the building capacity of those facilities. Greer is experiencing the most significant overcrowding as a result of this growth. A redistricting study was conducted in 2015 to evaluate more immediate options for Greer Elementary prior to additional seats being built. No solution was found with the conclusion that additional capacity needed to be constructed. To this end, an addition onto Woodbrook Elementary was approved and is currently under construction. This project is intended to provide relief to Woodbrook, Agnor-Hurt and Greer. It is planned that the addition will be complete and open for the 2018/19 school year. In conjunction with this project, redistricting will need to occur to address current and projected overcrowding at Greer Elementary, Woodbrook Elementary, and Agnor-Hurt Elementary.

Mr. Koleszar feels that the middle school objective be more robust. He feels that the boundaries for Jack Jouett and Burley Middle Schools be reviewed to make sure they are aligned.

Mr. Buyaki suggested that the word "shall" be used rather than "should".

Mrs. Moynihan feels that splits should be minimized when looking at school boundaries.

Dr. Acuff said that there may be redistricting for a high school in the future, and she just wanted to make sure it is known that it may happen down the line.

Mr. Koleszar feels that the committee should develop potential recommendations about grandfathering if it is appropriate. Mr. Buyaki said that the Board should only discuss grandfathering. Mr. Oberg said that grandfathering is a policy decision and the committee has no authority to adopt such a recommendation. Dr. Acuff said that maybe the committee should provide options rather than recommendations. Mr. Koleszar said that it should say that only the Board would make decisions on grandfathering.

Dr. Acuff, with agreement from the Board, moved the Self-Appraisal agenda item to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7.6. Board Self-Appraisal.

This item was deferred to the June 8, 2017 meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Julian Waters said that he supports grandfathering for redistricting. He said that he took online personal finance last year, and it was not challenging or stimulating. He also suggested that the Board consider having public comment at the end of the business meeting as well as the beginning of the meeting.

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

Dr. Bernard Hairston shared with the Board that on June 3, 2017 there will be a conference on Culturally Responsive Teaching.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.

At 10:25 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 assignments of specific central office staff members. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 10:39 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. Oberg, Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Paige, Mr. Koleszar, Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Alcaro, and Dr. Acuff
NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 10:40 p.m., Dr. Acuff, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk