

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on August 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Mr. Graham Paige; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; Ms. Ellen Moore Osborne; Ms. Judy Le, and Student Representative Melanie Burkhart.

ABSENT: Mr. David Oberg.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debbie Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Christine Diggs, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Strategic Planning Officer; Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., Ms. Callsen 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. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

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

Mr. Paige said that the meeting is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia state law and Albemarle County ordinance because the Covid-19 pandemic makes it impracticable and unsafe to assemble a quorum physically in a single location. The meeting is being streamed live on the Albemarle County Public School's website, and public comment may be offered through the Zoom waiting room feature in accordance with the School Board's protocol or by written submission.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item. No. 2.1. Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Exemption from Compulsory Attendance
- 3.3. Personnel Action
- 3.4 2020-2021 School Crisis Plans and Certifications
- 3.5 Superintendent’s Recommendation Regarding Naming of Sutherland Middle school
- 3.6 For Action: Policy Review and Revision – Mask and Face Covering Policy
- 3.7 VSBA Policy Agreement
- 3.8 For Action: Policy Reviews and Revisions

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. Mr. Paige asked for discussion. Ms. Le asked to pull item 3.6. She indicated that she was still not comfortable with the face covering exception for physical education. Mr. Holden said that the policy does require the use of a mask or face covering as long as you are ten feet apart and participating. If you are not participating you must wear a mask. Ms. Le asked if that would be the same for indoor classes. Mr. Holden said that the policy is for outdoors but when indoor becomes a possibility the health professionals would be consulted. However, the policy as it is written now says that you have to wear a mask. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Chelsea Sachno is a Brownsville parent. She has two children with disabilities and receive ECSC services. She is concerned with the Board’s decision that no preschooler will receive in person education. She feels that the decision violates the Albemarle County Public School’s nondiscrimination policy. The decision also violates due process for children with disabilities under IDEA. She asked that the Board consider applying the same standard for limited attendance for preschool special needs children as is being offered for K-12 students.

Ms. Amy Geartner is a teacher. She asked that teachers be given a voice in creating and developing plans and schedules. Time is needed in the schedule to give students what they need. She said that teachers do not feel heard.

Ms. Sarah Wilson is a parent. She has two concerns about the virtual learning. She said that it is her understanding of the elementary schedule is that it will greatly exceed the recommended screen time from the Virginia Department of Education. She is also concerned about the emotional and mental health strain that is being placed on students. She also expressed concern about teacher fatigue.

Ms. Lara Harrison is a Rio district of Albemarle County. She spoke to the Board about how they are participating in racism.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Announcements.

Dr. Hairston reminded the Board of the upcoming Equity and Diversity Conference tomorrow from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. There are 330 individuals signed up to participate.

Dr. Daphne Keiser introduced Mr. Jason Lee, principal of Western Albemarle High School, and Ms. Kasaundra Blount, principal of Burley Middle School.

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

Dr. Hairston provided the Board with an update on the childcare program for staff. As of today, there were 39 staff members who have requested services for their 55 children ages 4 -12. Enrollment confirmation will be sent out on Monday.

Ms. Callsen said that this item should have come before the Board for approval since it will be taking place in school facilities. How is the childcare being funded? Is it self-sustaining? She said that this is a benefit to employees so were County employees also included.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. COVID Update.

Dr. McLaughlin and Ms. Eileen Gomez, School Nurse Coordinator provided for the Board's consideration a COVID-19 Update. The presentation included factors that will determine progression to the next stage for Albemarle County Public Schools, Albemarle County and Charlottesville City case incident rate with a floating 7-day average, and Albemarle County and Charlottesville City percent positivity rate with a floating 7-day average.

Dr. Acuff asked if the Charlottesville City percent positivity rate included students from the University of Virginia.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the University of Virginia was doing its own COVID testing or was it being done by Albemarle County or the City of Charlottesville.

Mr. Alcaro asked staff for staff's thoughts on the changes to the CDC recommendations put out over the last few days.

Dr. Haas noted that given the current data, he still recommends starting school in Phase II. Staff will continue to review data and bring another recommendation to the Board at its October business meeting.

Ms. Callsen asked why the percent positivity rate was included.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Return to School.

Ms. Collins, Ms. Schmitt, Dr. Keiser, and several principals and staff provided for the Board's consideration an update of the return to school plan. As ACPS begins the school year in a virtual learning environment, the work session focused on what the school day/week would look like for students. Emphasis was placed on sharing schedules (K-2,3-5, Middle and High), synchronous and asynchronous information, as well as learning management technology tools (SeeSaw and Schoology). Both principals and teachers shared their planning and designing for students who start school on September 8, 2020. Updated information on Stage 2 was provided as well.

Ms. Schmitt and Dr. Keiser provided an update on staffing and stage 2 in-person enrollment.

Ms. Callsen asked how the data was being gathered and is there consistency in gathering the data from schools on who would be coming in to the building for instruction.

Ms. Callsen asked what was the role of the learning coach.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there was an indication that with the drop in enrollment how many of those not coming to Albemarle County Public Schools would be going into homeschooling, going to private school, or if Kindergartners would be held out for another year by parents.

Ms. Le asked about hotspots and the availability of hotspots to families for those with issues.

Ms. Callsen asked if there would be funding implications for the decrease in enrollment.

Ms. Collins, principals and teachers presented what school would look like for synchronous and asynchronous learning for elementary, middle and high school students. The presentation included definitions of synchronous and asynchronous learning, a preview of what an elementary and secondary schedule would look like daily, and a demonstration on the Seesaw and Schoology.

Ms. Callsen asked the following questions: 1) is synchronous learning optional; 2) how is attendance and truancy be handled; 3) what is the plan if a student was not logging on; 4) can school work could be done on weekends; 5) are specials were mandatory, 6) how was each attendance group (morning/afternoon) selected and is it the same at each school; 7) how are grades being handled; 8) how would performance feedback would be provided to students; 9) when would individual feedback be provided to students; 10) how would resources be shared among teachers; and 11) has there been training around sensitivity to students environments for different learning activities.

Mr. Alcaro asked how a student scavenger hunt activity at home work if the student was not at home when attending school.

Ms. Callsen asked Principal Kristen Williams what she has seen as the parental preference for either instruction in the morning or the afternoon.

Ms. Le expressed concern about equity because she feels that there is a wide variation in instruction between schools. Who is ensuring that the learning is equitable?

Mr. Paige expressed concern about the amount of screen time for students.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there will be help for students who have issues with computers.

Mr. Paige asked what is the amount of screen time for a student over the entire school day.

Ms. Callsen said that it looks like Schoology makes differentiation easy. She asked if SeeSaw had the same flexibility.

Ms. Le asked about screen times for teachers.

Ms. Callsen said that it looks as if the day is longer for students. She asked how students picked their schedules.

Mr. Alcaro said that he agrees that information should be no more than three clicks. He also asked how teacher office hours would work – Zoom meeting or phone call.

Ms. Burkhart asked about accessibility for high school students for SAT prep classes. She also asked if there would still be assistance available for college application help.

Ms. Burkhart asked about the attendance for high school students.

Ms. Burkhart asked if honor societies would continue to run.

Ms. Burkhart asked if having the camera on while on the Zoom class would be a requirement.

Ms. Burkhart asked if Google Classroom would be used this year.

Ms. Burkhart expressed concern about the 4X4 format this year and how it may impact progress in foreign languages.

Mr. Alcaro thanked staff for following a process since the Spring. He said that this was a great content filled worksession.

Ms. Callsen said that there is a lot of possibility for instruction, and she is hopeful.

Mr. Paige thanked staff for their hard work. He said that equity should continue to be a priority.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:46 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk