

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on October 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., Albemarle County Office Building, Room 241, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Dave Oberg; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Jonno Alcaro (arrived at 6:02 p.m.); Mr. Jason Buyaki; and Mrs. Pamela Moynihan (arrived at 6:05 p.m.).

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Matt Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Debora Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk of the School Board.

**Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.**

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Oberg 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 7 to discuss and consider: Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to litigation on a contract claim, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Alcaro and Mrs. Moynihan absent.**

**Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.**

At 6:14 p.m., Mr. Oberg 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 vote:**

**AYES:** Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Koleszar, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Mr. Paige, and Mr. Oberg.  
**NAYS:** None.

**Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.**

At 6:15 p.m., Dr. Acuff recessed the Board.

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

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

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 2018/19 Modernization Projects
- 3.3 WAHS Science Lab Addition & Classroom Modernization – Schematic Design
- 3.4 Exemption from Compulsory Attendance
- 3.5 Minutes
- 3.6 Personnel Action
- 3.7 For Action: Policy Reviews and Revisions

- 3.8 Comprehensive High School Program of Studies, Middle School Elective Offerings
- 3.9 For Information: Policy Reviews and Revisions
- 3.10 Class Size Report

Mr. Paige said that with the Western Albemarle High School Science Lab item, he has received feedback from teachers that they do not feel they are being heard in terms of design – such as multi-class lab spaces. He asked with item 3.10, there are several classes with thirty or over students, and he would like more information on what classes. Dr. Haas said that the information would be provided to the Board. 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. Announcements.**

Ms. Collins said that the division has seen some reductions in funding for Title grants. She said that for Title I, the initial reduction was about \$167,000, and recently there has been another reduction of \$44,000. In addition, there has been a reduction in the Title II grant. Initially the reduction was about \$24,000, and recently there has been an additional reduction of \$2,000. Mr. Koleszar asked which fiscal year were the reductions. Ms. Collins said that current year.

Dr. Acuff said that she visited Woodbrook Elementary School, and encouraged other board members to visit to see the progress in construction.

**Agenda Item No. 6.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.** None.

**Agenda Item No. 7.1. High School Facility Planning Study – Preliminary Findings.**

Dr. Haas said that Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) currently operates three comprehensive high schools (Albemarle, Monticello and Western Albemarle), one charter high school (Murray), and one vocational school (CATEC). The total combined enrollment at these schools is about 4,200 students.

In August 2016, ACPS launched High School 2022, a district-wide initiative to design, refine and deliver the future of high school for graduates in the class of 2022 and beyond. The work is ongoing, but some of the bigger themes proposed so far include project based learning, interdisciplinary instruction, alternative paths to credit, culminating experiences, student ownership, internships and work-based experiences. It is anticipated this vision will have facility impact, both in terms of the type of learning spaces needed and in terms of the capacity of our buildings.

Additionally, the school division has capacity needs at its high schools. ACPS's largest high school, Albemarle High School (AHS) is overcrowded and enrollment is only projected to grow. The current enrollment is 1,973 students and enrollment is expected to continue to increase over the next ten years to a peak of over 2,100 students. AHS currently utilizes an eight classroom leased modular unit. Ancillary spaces such as the cafeteria are inadequate for the number of students and parking is limited. Furthermore, Western Albemarle High School (currently 1135 students) is projected to grow by 200 students in the next ten years, which would result in overcrowding.

In response to both instructional and capacity needs, a facility planning study was launched last spring. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the educational adequacy and capacity of all the division's high school facilities and to provide options and recommendations going forward. ACPS contacted with HBA Architecture and Fielding Nair International (FNI) to conduct this study. Tonight, the firms will present their preliminary findings to receive feedback, answer initial questions, and receive requests for additional information. They will present their final report on December 14.

Dr. Haas then introduced Mr. Isaac Williams from Fielding Nair International. Mr. Williams reviewed with the Board an overview of the work of the study including the process, context of information used to develop

recommendations, design principles, opportunities within the County and school division, and scenarios to address high school facility needs in the future.

Dr. Acuff asked how many students go to academies other than at the base school.

Mr. Koleszar asked how many students are rejected from academies because there is not enough space.

Mr. Oberg said that he knows two students who attend MESA, not because they are interested in math and engineering, but because they are interested in other offerings at Albemarle High School.

Dr. Acuff feels that the division should rethink the academy model.

Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to see a 20-year plan rather than a 10-year plan for all the extra capacity at the high school level with the first scenario of building a new high school.

Mr. Oberg clarified that scenario one is the traditional high school like the current model within the division. Students would go to their community high school.

Mr. Alcaro asked if in the example centers being shared with the Board, are the students only in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. Moynihan asked how large are the school districts that have the centers being shared with the Board. She expressed concern about transportation to centers. She also expressed concern about how the division will decide on what the center will focus on.

Mr. Oberg expressed concern about the location of building a center in the northern part of the County.

Mr. Koleszar said that if the Board is supposed to make a decision in the early part of 2018, then he feels there needs to be a comprehensive transportation study completed.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the center model allowed enrollment to be staggered.

Mrs. Moynihan asked how many students does the division currently have placed in internships.

There was a break from 8:40 p.m. until 8:54 p.m.

Dr. Acuff said that she likes the center idea because it would be accessible to all students.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if there have been any surveys of the community about what they would like out of the options presented. She feels there needed to be more community involvement and would like to see a survey of all students, parents, and community members.

Mr. Koleszar said that the decision is going to be whether there will be four high schools or specialty centers. He said that the problem with another comprehensive high school is that there is not enough of a critical mass at the school to have a quality program. Having centers would draw students from all over the county.

Mr. Buyaki asked Mr. Koleszar to define critical mass. He also noted that he does feel that the division is using on-line opportunities effectively for instruction.

Mrs. Moynihan said that the Board needed to explore on-line courses more. She then asked if there was a virtual high school in Virginia.

Dr. Acuff said that the Board might wish to receive a report on virtual learning.

Mrs. Moynihan said that the costs would be spread out over numerous years.

Mr. Paige asked what is different between the costs of modernization with this planning versus the modernization that was in the bond referendum.

Mr. Oberg said that he is unsettled about this. It is a lot to take in and a lot to absorb. His initial reaction is that he likes the village option because it has a smaller footprint and gives greater adaptability.

**Agenda Item No. 7.2. Break.**

A break was taken during the work session.

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

Ms. Vasilisa Malakhova spoke to the Board about her daughter. She asked that the Board allow her daughter to continue attending Cale Elementary School rather than Stony Point Elementary School.

Mr. Julian Waters is a County resident. He spoke to the Board about the modernization projects at Western Albemarle High School. Western Albemarle staff feels that the modernization will have a negative impact on learning. They also feel that their input was not taken into account during the process. He ended by thanking the Board for all the opportunities while running for the School Board.

Ms. Mary McIntyre thanked the Board for the opportunities she has been granted while running for the School Board. She has grown as a teacher, a parent, a community member and a critical thinker.

Ms. Katrina Callsen thanked the Board for the opportunities that she has had while running for the School Board.

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

Mr. Koleszar said that there was previous discussion about transportation for students who would like to attend an academy at another school. He would like the Board to make a decision about this issue in December.

Mr. Koleszar said that in regards to the public comment regarding the student at Cale. It is important to know that if a student leaves another student does not fill that seat in the immersion program. He feels that the policy should be flexible enough to say yes for educational reasons. He feels the default is to say no. He feels that the policy should reviewed. Mr. Buyaki agreed with Mr. Koleszar. Dr. Acuff suggested that staff review the policy.

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

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

**Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment**

At 10:03 p.m., Dr. Acuff, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

---

Chairman

---

Clerk