

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD Thursday, April 13, 2023

ROLL CALL – UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Kate Acuff, Dr. Rebecca Berlin, Ms. Katrina Callsen, Ms. Judy Le, Ms. Ellen Osborne, Mr. Graham Paige, Student Representative Ms. Sanuthi Amarasinghe

ABSENT: Mr. Jonathan Alcaro

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Superintendent Matthew Haas; Deputy Superintendent Debora Collins; Assistant Superintendent Clare Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Patrick McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent Daphne Keiser; Chief Operating Officer Rosalyn Schmitt; School Board Attorney Ross Holden; Chief Technology Officer Christine Diggs; Public Affairs & Strategic Communications Officer Phil Giaramita; Director of Budget and Planning Maya Kumazawa; Clerk to the School Board Christine Thompson

Agenda Item No. 1.0 CLOSED MEETING

At 5:00 p.m., Mr. Paige offered a **motion** that the Albemarle County Public 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 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; Subsection 3 for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and Subsection 8 for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ms. Callsen and Mr. Alcaro

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 2.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES

Agenda Item No. 2.1 CLOSED MEETING CERTIFICATION

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

AYES: Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, *Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Berlin, and Ms. Le
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Ms. Callsen

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

*Mr. Alcaro joined the closed meeting via teleconference and departed the meeting after the vote to certify.

Agenda Item No. 2.2 CALL TO ORDER

At 6:35 p.m., Chair Callsen called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Agenda Item No. 2.4 MOMENT OF SILENCE

Agenda Item No. 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the Agenda. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Le
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Callsen

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Paige, Ms. Osborne, Dr. Acuff, Dr. Berlin, and Ms. Le
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Callsen

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

- 4.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 4.2 Approval of the Minutes
- 4.3 Carl D. Perkins Local Plan for Career & Technical Education
- 4.4 2023 Community Lab School Charter Renewal
- 4.5 COVID-19 Status Update
- 4.6 Transportation Update
- 4.7 For Information: 2023-2024 Calendar Amendment
- 4.8 For Information: Policy Review and Revision
- 4.9 Consortium Incentive Grant Application
- 4.10 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 4.11 Personnel Action
- 4.12 Adoption of AP Calculus Textbook

Agenda Item No. 5.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agenda Item No. 5.1 SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION – Introduced by School Board Representative Sanuthi Amarasinghe

“A few weeks ago, I had the chance at Community Lab School to be part of an unusual learning opportunity. In cooperation with UVA's forestry program in Charlottesville City, I joined several Community Lab students in constructing a solar kiln on our campus. The kiln will shrink the amount of time it takes to dry wood from years to a matter of months. The wood can then be more quickly available for use by community groups. This project resulted from the imagination, passion and energy of our design and engineering teacher, Mr. Bredder and the support of Ms. Hostetter, who oversees our IB program. For me the solar kiln is an example of how inspiration from teachers offer exciting learning experiences. This evening we are celebrating the inspirational work of 24 teachers and 26 classified staff who exemplify this dedication to students. They are the teachers and staff members of the year for this dedication to students. I want to quote from Mr. Dan Redding, the executive director of human resources – “We brought this process forward to highlight exceptional professionals and to celebrate their considerable control patients to the fulfillment of the three goals outlined in our strategic plan, ensuring that students thrive, that communities are valued and that students are benefiting from equitable and transformative resources.” “Mr. Redding will talk about the criteria used to select these outstanding professionals but in general, the standards align with those set forth by the state, to select Virginia teachers of the year for each region and one for the entire state. Our teacher of the year will be representing our division in next year's statewide competition. I'd like to introduce Mr. Redding who will tell us a bit more about this spirit special annual program in our division and to also introduce our honored guests.”

Of the nearly 1,400 teachers in the school division, 25 were chosen as the teacher of the year for their respective schools and among this select group, Jessica Eisenhauer, who was the educator of the year for Monticello High School in 2022, was the very best of the best.

The school division also announced today that its classified staff member of the year is Pecolia Conner, a teaching assistant and Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP) site facilitator for Agnor-Hurt Elementary School.

Dr. Haas said the professionals honored through our teacher and classified staff member of the year program reflect the best work going on in our division. They represent our highest performance standards, caring about and promoting our dedication to knowing and supporting every student.

The division's executive director of Human Resources, Dan Redding, said a committee of executive staff leaders, principals, teachers and parents formed the selection committee. Each school in the division nominated a teacher and member of their classified staff to the committee.

Elementary school educators, staff members of the year include:

Agnor-Hurt	Adam Mohr and Pecolia Conner
Baker-Butler	Danielle Paxton and Emily Sims
Broadus Wood	Elizabeth Strauss and Ruth Smith
Brownsville	Angela Rutherford and Jennifer Layne
Crozet	Jaylen Crist, and Juliannah Vining
Greer	Karen Snead and Darla Ullery,
Hollymead	Sarah LaPrade and CJ Hall
Meriwether Lewis	Bonnie Carey and Kelley Hathaway

Mountain View	Mary Morales and Darleen Ragland
Virginia L. Murray	Hollins Mills and Janet King
Red Hill	Arilana Zlotnick and Casey Powell
Scottsville	Elizabeth Cox and Elizabeth Payne
Stone-Robinson	Laura Sexton and Stephanie Jones
Stony Point	Julia Trammell-McGill and Teresa Jones
Woodbrook	Kim Martin and Susan Reuschling

Middle school teachers and staff members of the year are:

Burley	Ainsley Davis and Sharon Wood
Henley	Pam Koury and Alissa Layne
Journey	Patricia Mariscal and Chastity Clements
Lakeside	Bobby Gregg and Connor Harris
Walton	Heather Kepple and Lolita Curry

High school teachers, staff members of the year include:

Albemarle	Jennifer Morris and Carol Janssens
Community Lab	Kristin Wilson and Rachel O’Neill
Monticello	Jessica Eisenhauer and Roxanne Steppe
Western Albemarle	Brian Ball and David McCauley

Four departments also nominated classified staff members of the year. **The Building Services Department** selected Tracy Hocutt and **the Department of Child Nutrition’s** staff member of the year is Lisa Marshall. The employee of the year for transportation was Robert Mitchell.

Reflecting its dual role in the schools, the **Department of Technology** selected both a teacher of the year, Jessa Campbell and a staff member of the year, Christina Denyer.

All nominees were recognized by the School Board during its meeting this evening.

Agenda Item No. 6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Miss Barbara Cruikshank lives in the Whitehall district. She spoke about cell towers that have from our high school. Miss Cruikshank passed out a chart that showed readings at the level of wireless radiation and a T-Mobile document drafted in 2000; Outlining health impacts of wireless radiation.

Mr. Vernon Liechti is the president of the AEA and teacher at AHS. He shared his appreciation to the school board in authorizing to draft a resolution for collective bargaining, and his appreciation to Dr. Haas in his desire to work collectively with the AEA this is an important step and the AEA looks forward to working with the board and staff.

Ms. Janie Pudhorodsky lives in the Rio district. Representing impact, a local social justice organization. She spoke about preschool after school care for families struggling to afford care. She commented that they have no assurance there will be options through Bright Stars program next year; this is an equity issue.

Mr. Tom Eckman lives in the Rivanna district. He spoke about after school care for preschool age children. Preschoolers need to be a priority. At risk children will be put at a disadvantage.

Ms. Kelsey Cowger spoke about pre-K aftercare. She is the co-president of Impact. Impact is frustrated at the lack of urgency. Staff has declined to respond to or answer emails - the achievement gap should be a priority for the School Board. CPS excludes meaningful numbers of their children; she urged the Board to let preschool children participate in the lottery program and make this a priority.

*Ms. Callsen arrived at 7:49 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 7.0 SCHOOL DIVISION BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 7.1 Special Education Annual Plan for School Year 23-24 - Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), the IDEA Federal Regulations, and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, local educational agencies are required to submit an annual plan and application for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities in order to secure Federal funds. Albemarle County Public Schools ensures the community and Federal and State Departments of Education that its policies and procedures are consistent with the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs in Virginia, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and corresponding Federal Regulations. The Annual Plan consists of the following components: 1. The Annual Plan document includes the applications for Section 611 Flow-Through Grant (K-12) and the Section 619 Early Childhood Special Education (PK) Grant. 2. The Part B Set Aside Calculation and Plan is included. It outlines how a portion of the Federal funding was calculated, developed with consultation from private schools and parents and the resulting implementation plan. These funds are used to support children eligible for special education services that are unilaterally placed by their parents in home or private school programs located in Albemarle County. (3) The Revised Regional Jail Agreement is included. This agreement ensures that special services are provided for eligible inmates at the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Jail per federal and state regulations. The approved version of the Annual Plan is expected to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education on or before May 10, 2023. This plan was reviewed, as required by Virginia Regulations, by the Special Education Advisory Committee on March 14, 2023.

Dr. Acuff commented that she has been on the School Board for nine years and this was the most comprehensive dive she has seen. She was very appreciative. She asked Mr. Hanna how they did through the pandemic with an autistic student. Mr. Hanna replied that asking a student with autism to sit down was next to impossible. We were able to get him back in the classroom quickly and once that happened it was much better.

Ms. Osborne asked about how many ACPS students we serve in the jail program. -- Before the pandemic we served about 20, now we serve much less.

Mr. page asked if all the jail program students are CPS students. No, they come from all over.

Dr. Berlin noted that the budget has approved additional intervention. If you think about this current group of students we have, what are the things we need? Supplemental pieces, language comprehensive, pre-K knowledge and more consistency in the math intervention services.

Ms. Le asked about the intensity of student need – if they are all in a BASE program. – Most of the students are in a BASE program.

Dr. Berlin Asked about the IEP count. -- we have dropped significantly since the pandemic some chose to go to private school, and some chose to home school. There were more transient - moved from the area, and some waited to enroll.

Mr. page asked about training for employees - behavioral trait how? - - Teachers reach out to the trainer. It's gone for schools, teams, and prerecorded sometimes. The prerecorded training sessions have been moved over to Schoology.

Dr. Acuff passed about having special ed training for teachers who are not special ed teachers -- we have put together training for general ed teachers.

Dr. Berlin thanked everyone who came to share with the board. It is really appreciated.

Miss Lee thanked all the special education staff for coming and presenting.

Agenda Item No. 7.2 FY 24 Budget Updates

Staff presented updates and recommendations for the FY 24 budget in preparation for budget adoption on April 27.

Ms. Le asked what is the emergency staffing for? -- Play when a fluctuation isn't anticipated, i.e., if you see a kindergarten class larger than expected.

Mr. Paige inquired about security - how many schools will be involved in the window film upgrades. -- we want to expand it to all schools.

Dr. Acuff asked if the state opted for the 7% salary increase, what would the numbers look like? -- We are waiting for that and will update when necessary.

Chair Callsen asked what streamlining technology means. -- It takes away some middle steps in giving access to some of the programs our students need to use as resources.

Agenda Item No. 8.0 SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS

Dr. Haas provided an update on the work he is doing on the public sector collective bargaining process. As a reminder, his aim is that we have a timeline and manageable expectations for completing the draft of the school boards desirables. He wants the process to be a collaborative process with outside counsel, Eric Paltel has completed a draft resolution for his review as well as Ross Holden's. Dr. Haas provided his review on April 11th. This accompanied Ross' feedback provided during the week of April 3. Eric, Ross, and Dr. Haas will meet next week to discuss the draft. He will bring the proposed draft to the Board to receive feedback in preparation for the beginning of collaborative meetings with AEA representatives. Once the board is satisfied with the draft, he will propose that meetings between Board representatives and AEA representatives begin.

He proposed the following structure for the meeting process. This will be a collaborative meeting process to iterate a collective bargaining resolution. Dr. Haas will chair the meetings and proposed that two representatives from the Board meet with two representatives from the AEA. After considering the various duties of Board members, he requested that Jonno Alcaro and Ellen Osborne be the representatives for the School Board. He has shared this with Chair Callsen. Pending the Board's completed review of the draft resolution, he will work with the Board representatives and AEA representatives to establish a first meeting, which he anticipates will happen in late May. Then a bi-weekly meeting schedule will ensue with an initial limit of four meetings to give them a time constraint in which to work. The objective of the meetings will be to arrive at a shared collective bargaining resolution that the Board will consider for approval.

Dr. Haas appreciates our SPED staff and parents who attended this evening. He appreciated the level of detail. The teacher and classified staff recognition tonight. The level of high quality of staff we have. He is appreciative of Mr. Giaramita and our HR team and our Board supporting their work.

Dr. Acuff attended the soft opening of the Boys and Girls Club on Monday.

Dr. Berlin and Dr. Acuff are members of the Albemarle Foundation for Education and they have hired the first Executive Director and will be launching a fundraiser very soon.

Dr. Acuff added that historically we have not had a School Board meeting in the last two weeks of June. I propose we cancel the second meeting. Ms. Callsen -- we may need to have a closed meeting to address some personnel issues – we will get clarity on if we need that meeting. The board agrees we can cancel the second meeting in June.

Agenda Item No. 9.0 OTHER BUSINESS – None.

Agenda Item No. 10.0 ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m., hearing no objections, Chair Callsen adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.



Chair



Clerk