

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, April 25, 2024

[Meeting Video Link](#)

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

BOARD MEMBERS - Dr. Kate Acuff, Dr. Rebecca Berlin, Mr. Chuck Pace, Mr. Graham Paige, and Ms. Allison Spillman.

ABSENT – Ms. Ellen Osborne and Ms. Judy Le

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE - Superintendent Matthew Haas; School Division Counsel Josiah Black; Assistant Superintendent Clare Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Patrick McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent Daphne Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Chandra Hayes; Chief Operating Officer Rosalyn Schmitt; Chief Technology Officer Christine Diggs; Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Officer Helen Dunn; and Clerk of the Board Christine Thompson

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.0 CLOSED MEETING - At 6:02 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 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. The purpose of this item is to discuss: (1) seven proposed resignations, three proposed retirements, and three proposed leaves of absence by classroom teachers; (2) the non-renewal of fifteen (15) annual contract teachers due to licensure issues; and (3) the nomination of a candidate for an administrative position in the Special Education Department. Ms. Spillman seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Ms. Spillman, Mr. Paige, and Dr. Acuff

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Pace, Ms. Osborne, and Chair Le.

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES

Agenda Item No. 2.1 Call to Order - At 6:30 p.m., Chair Acuff called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

Mr. Pace arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 2.2 Closed Meeting Certification - At 6:31 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. Ms. Spillman seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Paige, Dr. Berlin, Ms. Spillman, and Dr. Acuff

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Pace

ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le

Motion carried by a 4:0:1:2 vote.

Ms. Spillman offered a **motion** that the Board not-renew fifteen (15) annual contracts for teachers for reasons of licensure as discussed in the Board's closed meeting. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **A voice vote was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Pace, Ms. Spillman, Mr. Paige, Dr. Berlin, and Dr. Acuff
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le
Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 2.3 - Roll Call

Agenda Item No. 2.4 - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item No. 2.5 - Moment of Silence

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Agenda Item No. 3.1 Approval of Agenda – Dr. Berlin offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Spillman seconded the **motion**. **A voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Ms. Spillman, Mr. Pace, Mr. Paige, Dr. Berlin, and Dr. Acuff
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le
Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 4.2 For information: Policy Review and Revisions
- 4.3 For action: Policy Review and Revisions
- 4.4 For information: A/E Term Contract RFP Selection Committee
- 4.5 Adoption of AP Science Textbook
- 4.6 For action: 2024 VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award
- 4.7 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 4.8 Personnel Action
- 4.9 Special Education Annual Plan for School Year 24-25

Ms. Spillman offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Berlin **seconded the motion**. **A voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Ms. Spillman, Mr. Paige, Mr. Pace, Dr. Berlin, and Dr. Acuff
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le
Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.0 ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agenda Item No. 6.1 School Board Superintendent Business

Dr. Haas provided an update on recent recognitions. At a meeting in early May, the board will celebrate the Teacher of the Year and Education Support Professional of the Year.

Senora Sarah Reyes from Albemarle High School was announced as the Teacher of the Year, noting a surprise celebration organized by Mr. Bonham, which deeply moved her.

For the Education Support Professional of the Year, Carla Dodson from Murray Elementary was recognized for her long-term contributions and supportive role at the school. Dr. Haas mentioned that the selection process for these awards was thorough and involved various committees. Another accolade, for a central department administrative leader, will be announced next week.

Dr. Berlin visited Greer Elementary and participated in the activities with the students lead by the Piedmont Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners conducted an Earth Day festival and engaged with students in activities like learning about pollination, trying lettuce, and planting marigolds. They have set up several garden projects at Greer, with volunteers visiting twice a month to integrate science lessons into the curriculum. Dr. Berlin praised the Master Gardeners for their effective hands-on approach, which brings science to life for students. There were also some candid moments shared, including Dr. Berlin participating in a song about plant biology with the kids. The program's impact was highlighted, and there is interest in expanding support for it through the Albemarle Foundation.

Ms. Spillman and Dr. Berlin held a meet-and-greet at Western Albemarle High School to update the public on school board activities and discuss goals for the upcoming year. The event had a good turnout with active engagement, particularly around budget, collective bargaining, and grading policy. Ms. Spillman and Dr. Berlin will review the feedback and collaborate with the board on future priorities.

Ms. Spillman gave a shout-out to Mr. Bricker at Brownsville Elementary for his impressive performance at her daughter Bonnie's second-grade event. The show, "Name That Tune," featured Grammy-winning songs and classical music played on the xylophone, with Mr. Bricker wearing a full sequin suit. The performance was a big hit, and Ms. Spillman expressed gratitude for his contribution to such a memorable event.

Dr. Berlin announced that *The Addams Family* musical will be performed at Western Albemarle High School starting tonight and running through the weekend, with two shows on Saturday. Next weekend, *Godspell* will be held at Albemarle High School. Dr. Berlin highlighted the dedication of students and staff involved in these performances, recognizing their significant contributions to the community, especially during this busy graduation season.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Reeva Spradlin spoke passionately about the impact Ben Hurt had on her community and personal life. She shared how he played a significant role in her and her family's lives, providing a sense of community and support during challenging times. She emphasized that rather than removing Mr. Hurt's name, we should focus on promoting values of understanding and inclusivity. She highlighted that her own experiences, and those of her mother, underscore the importance of the support and recognition they received, which helped shape their lives and careers.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.0 – SCHOOL DIVISION BUSINESS**Agenda Item No. 8.1 FY25 Budget Adoption**

Ms. Spillman offered a motion to adopt the FY 2024/25 School Board Budget of \$269,407,627 for the School Fund and \$25,953,238 for Special Revenue Funds. Mr. Paige **seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Ms. Spillman, Mr. Paige, Mr. Pace, Dr. Berlin, and Dr. Acuff

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.2 – FY 2023/24 Third Quarter Financial Report

Ms. Spillman offered a motion to accept the FY 2023/24 Third Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Pace **seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Ms. Spillman, Mr. Paige, Mr. Pace, Dr. Berlin, and Dr. Acuff

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.


No. 9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 9.1 Other Business by Board Members and/or the Superintendent – None.


Agenda Item No. 9.2 Closed Meeting – None.

Agenda Item No. 9.3 Closed Meeting Certification – None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.0 ADJOURNMENT - At 6:58 p.m., hearing no objections, Chair Acuff adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.



Chair



Clerk