

An Organizational/Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Ms. Ellen Osborne; Mr. David Oberg; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Jonathan Alcaro; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; and Ms. Judy Le.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debora Collins, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Strategic Planning; Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney; Ms. Kimberly Gibson, Lead Coach for Language Arts 6-12 and Talent Development; Dr. Melanie Lichtenstein, Talent Development Specialist; Student Representative Elizabeth Albarran; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk of the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 5:45 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; subsection 7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture 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. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

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. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Paige called the Albemarle County School Board 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. 1.5. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers.

Dr. Haas opened the floor for nominations for School Board Chair.

Mr. Alcaro nominated Mr. Paige for School Board Chair.

Dr. Haas closed nominations.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Paige as chair. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Paige asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Dr. Acuff nominated Ms. Callsen for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Paige closed nominations.

Ms. Acuff offered a **motion** to appoint Ms. Callsen as Vice-Chair. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to reappoint Jennifer Johnston as Clerk of the School Board. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

Agenda Item No. 1.6. Establishment of Meeting Time, Date and Place. (approved after item 1.7)

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to approve the meeting calendar. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. Ms. Le noted that the meeting date of June 11 should really be Monday, June 13th. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.7. Appointments to PREP and CATEC Boards/Appointments to Other Boards and Committees.

CATEC: Ms. Le offered to serve on a three-year term on the CATEC Board.

PREP: Mr. Paige offered to serve on the PREP Board. Mr. Alcaro offered to serve as the alternate.

Audit: Ms. Osborne offered to serve on the Audit Committee.

Capital Improvements Program Committee: Dr. Acuff and Mr. Alcaro offered to serve on this committee.

Communications: Ms. Le and Mr. Oberg offered to serve on this committee.

Legislative: Ms. Callsen and Mr. Oberg offered to serve on this committee.

Public Education Foundation: Ms. Callsen offered to serve on this board.

Discipline Committee: Ms. Callsen, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Le offered to serve as this committee. Mr. Alcaro offered to serve as the alternate.

TJACE: Ms. Osborne offered to serve as the representative on this board.

Accountability Committee for Environmental Sustainability: Dr. Acuff offered to serve on this committee.

Dr. Acuff noted that the Board should appoint a board member to serve as a mentor to the student representative to the School Board.

Mr. Paige introduced Ms. Elizabeth Albarran the new student representative on the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Approval of the 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 votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 For information: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.3 For action: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.4 2022-2023 School Division Calendar
- 3.5 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 3.6 Personnel Action
- 3.7 FY 22 Budget Amendments
- 3.8 Superintendent’s Designee to Attend Board Meetings in His Absence
- 3.9 Dominion Agreement for Electric Bus Charging Station
- 3.10 School Board Member Code of Conduct

Ms. Schmitt pointed out that Item 3.7. includes a mid-year salary adjustment of 4% for all regular employees in March.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Mr. Paige said we are truly honored this evening to have with us Lucille Smith, who recently completed *Unforgettable*, an extensive history of Jackson P. Burley High School. Last year, the school was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In her preface, Ms. Smith wrote, “Black History Matters. We must continue to document and preserve the rich and brave story of African American students in Charlottesville City and Albemarle County.” Before readers open the book’s first pages, Ms. Smith advises them that “The interviews from students, faculty and administrators are raw, candid and from the heart.” Her connection to segregated education includes her husband, Rauzelle, who graduated from Burley High School in 1966. Rauzelle later served as Chair of the Charlottesville City School Board. Ms. Smith grew up and attended school in North Little Rock, Arkansas, across the river from Little Rock Central High School. A place forever known for its role in bringing into national public consciousness the struggle for equal educational opportunity. This is not a volume, though, about separate and unequal education in our community. It is instead a joyous celebration of remarkable young men and women, whose time at Burley comes back in pages filled with personal reflections, copies of original documents and photos and a long list of extraordinary achievements. It recounts a story that should be told again and again, of how education teaches us perseverance, pride and confidence, friendship and the value of just plain hard work. And how together, all of these gifts build strong families and careers and selfless and uplifting community service. Although she did not have the opportunity to attend Burley, the considerable talents of Ms. Smith as an historian and writer would convince you otherwise. She served for more than 30 years with the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center, better known to us as NGIC. She now devotes much of her time as a volunteer to local boards and community organizations and to her church. I understand the division will be making copies of *Unforgettable, Jackson P. Burley High School, 1951-1967* available to our school libraries and each member of this Board also will receive a copy. I’d like to formally introduce you to Lucille Smith and ask our guest to share with us some thoughts about her important contribution to learning for all students in all school divisions.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements. (Heard prior to Item 5.1.)

Ms. Collins said that school started back in session after a three-week break. She thanked everyone for working together to deal with challenges of COVID-19 to include staffing issues.

Mr. Paige said that this week is Principal Appreciation Week. He recognized the principals in attendance at the meeting. He read the proclamation that was approved by the Governor.

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

Dr. Keiser shared with the Board information on adjustments being made to substitute pay.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Amanda Moxham lives in the Rio magisterial district. She spoke about the lawsuit against the Albemarle County School Division’s anti-racism policy. She indicated that the Hate-Free Schools Coalition supports the work of the division through the anti-racism policy.

Ms. Emily Mathon lives in the Rio magisterial district. She spoke about the lawsuit against the Division and the anti-racism policy. She spoke in support of the work through the anti-racism policy.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Public Hearing for the Redistricting of Crozet and Brownsville Elementary Schools.

No one appeared to speak at the public hearing.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. FY 2020/2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Josh Roller of Robinson, Farmer and Cox provided for the Board's consideration a review of the FY2020-2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Albemarle County operates under the County Executive form of government, one of two such counties in the Commonwealth. With this particular form of government, the School Division is considered a component unit of the overall County. Therefore, each year a single audit is completed that encompasses the financials of all aspects of County operations, including our School Division.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to accept the FY2020/2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. COVID-19 Update.

Dr. McLaughlin and Mr. Ryan McKay with the Thomas Jefferson Health District provided for the Board's consideration a COVID-19 update. The COVID-19 update provides current information on the local conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic that are used to inform school operational decisions during the 2021-2022 school year.

Ms. Le asked about the testing demand situation.

Mr. Oberg asked if there was a threshold for positivity rate at which time the division to close for a couple of weeks.

Dr. Acuff asked about the division's policy on providing masks to teachers and students. Are most students are wearing cloth masks?

Ms. Le asked how often and how are the KN-95 masks being distributed. She also asked if there was direction from the health department on the best masks to use at this time.

Ms. Callsen asked about close contacts, testing, quarantine for asymptomatic students.

Mr. Paige asked if the Division was doing anything to encourage vaccination for students who are not vaccinated.

Dr. Acuff asked if fully vaccinated included being boosted.

Ms. Le asked if the strain on resources monitoring included non-instructional staff. She also asked when a peak was expected to be seen in the area. She then asked about hospital capacity.

Dr. Acuff asked about the strain on school nurses.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break.

There was a break from 8:11 p.m. until 8:21 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. Talent Development Update.

Ms. Collins, Dr. Lichtenstein, and Ms. Gibson provided for the Board’s consideration a talent development update. In 2016, ACPS began shifting the language of gifted programming to talent development. This shift in language more closely reflected the work of the division to foster, recognize and develop the unique talents of all students. This update will provide an historical perspective, most recent gifted identification percentages, and a talent development dashboard.

Dr. Acuff asked if the virtual school had a talent development staff member.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there were targets for where the Division should be in three years or so.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. School Size Work Session Follow-Up

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board’s consideration information to follow-up on the September 23, 2021 work session on school size. On September 23, the School Board held a work session to discuss school size policies and received data that may guide the development of such policy. On October 14, the School Board had a follow-up discussion about the topic and a motion was passed to table the discuss and revisit the topic in January.

Mr. Oberg said that there is no need for a policy.

Ms. Le agreed that there is no need for a policy.

Ms. Osborne agreed that there is no need for a policy.

Mr. Alcaro said that he does not see a need for a policy but he would be open to developing guidelines.

There was unanimous consent that a policy on school size was not needed.

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

Dr. Haas said that a Board member asked for specifics on the substitute pay adjustments. He then asked Dr. Keiser to provide the details.

Ms. Le asked about the “rule” of not testing unvaccinated closed contacts.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 8:52 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk