

A budget work session and public hearing of the Albemarle County School Board was held on March 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Graham Paige, Ms. Katrina Callsen, Mr. Jonno Alcaro, Ms. Ellen Osborne; Ms. Judy Le; and Mr. David Oberg.

ABSENT: Dr. Kate Acuff.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debbie Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney, Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Strategic Planning, Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Christine Diggs, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Maya Kumazawa, Director of Planning and Budget; Mr. Jamie Foreman, Deputy Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Steve Saunders, Principal of Greer Elementary School; Ms. Lauren MacLean, Assistant Director of ESOL, World Languages, and Homeschool; Mr. Miles Nelson, Coordinator of Mental Health and Wellness; Mr. Kevin Kirst, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services; Student Representative Elizabeth Albarran; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to 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 3 for discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of 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. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Dr. Acuff and Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

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. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Dr. Acuff.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** that the School Board direct the Superintendent to initiate negotiations to acquire Property A for an amount not to exceed that which has been authorized by the School Board and subject to the School Board's final approval. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Dr. Acuff.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Paige, Chair, 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. Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2022-2023 Funding Request.

Mr. Paige opened the public hearing. Having no one speak, the public hearing was closed.

Agenda Item No. 2.2. Break.

The Board did not take a break.

Agenda Item No. 2.3. FY 2022/23 Budget Development Work Session #3.

Ms. Kumazawa provided the Board with an overview of the work session.

Mr. Kirst provided for the Board's consideration the health services proposal in the funding request.

Mr. Alcaro asked in 2025 when there are 3 FTEs, is that aimed at larger elementary or middle schools or is it aimed at a wide variety of schools where one nurse may go to more than one school.

Ms. Collins provided for the Board's consideration the field trip funding proposal in the funding request.

Mr. Oberg expressed appreciation for this proposal. He feels that it is very important.

Ms. Callsen asked if the proposal would pay for the entire cost of each experience.

Ms. Kumazawa provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the Capital Improvements Program in the funding request.

There were no questions.

Mr. Foreman provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the technology replacement program proposal in the funding request.

Mr. Paige asked what provisions are there for areas in the County where there is difficult accessibility to the internet. Are there provisions in the budget for those areas?

Mr. Alcaro asked if there is an updated number or percentage for the students who have internet access. Has there been an increase or decline in accessibility?

Mr. Paige said that building out of broadband and accessibility is a focus of the County. He asked how the division was partnering with the County.

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an overview of renovations and furniture proposal in the funding request.

Ms. Osborne asked if some furniture was replaced due to COVID and mitigation strategies. Are teachers asking for furniture?

Ms. Le asked if this will be a proposal for the next ten or so years. She also asked if the replacement cost would remain the same for both elementary and secondary levels.

Mr. Oberg said that he is in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Alcaro said that this appears to be a thirteen-year replacement cycle. He asked if the useful life of the furniture being purchased fits that timeframe.

Ms. Albarran said that she has enjoyed the new furniture that has been placed in schools.

Ms. Le said that she appreciates the grade level approach to furniture replacement.

Ms. Osborne asked how old was the furniture being replaced.

Mr. Paige asked if the furniture in storage could be incorporated back in to the school with new furniture.

Mr. Alcaro asked what is done with the old furniture.

Ms. Kumazawa and Mr. Saunders provided for the Board's consideration an overview of differentiated staffing.

Ms. Le asked how staff can show that this type of funding makes a difference.

Ms. Callsen said that she feels there needs to be more guidance on how differentiated staffing is used in schools.

Ms. Le said that her goal would be to have an outside entity looking at how the division is doing in using differentiated staffing.

Ms. Callsen asked if there was a resource that could be shared with the Board that showed how differentiated staffing was used at each school.

Mr. Alcaro noted that there was information provided to the Board on differentiated staffing during the program on the subject.

Mr. Paige asked if differentiated staffing was used to fund FLES (Foreign Language in the elementary school) staff.

Ms. MacLean provided for the Board's consideration information on the FLES program.

Mr. Paige asked if the next four schools have been determined for the FLES program.

Ms. Callsen expressed appreciation to staff for speeding the implementation process up for the program. Mr. Oberg agreed.

Ms. Le asked if there are other ways outside of STAMP testing that could be used to determine the success of the program.

Ms. Callsen said that she would be interested in seeing who is participating in the program at each school.

Ms. Callsen asked if the immersion program is being maintained at any schools.

Mr. Paige asked if all students are participating in the program at each school.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there is an objective for a level of ability to speak a language after participating in FLES.

Ms. Osborne asked how what languages are offered in schools is determined.

Ms. Callsen said that she would like to see more quantitative data around this program. She suggested that the Board have a presentation or work session on the topic.

Mr. Nelson provided for the Board's consideration information on how the services of school counselors and social and emotional counselors overlap.

Ms. Le asked for a day to day example of the overlap in work.

Ms. Kumazawa then asked the Board to focus on two questions in preparation for the approval of the funding request on March 10.

Question 1

- *What other information would you like in preparation for the approval of the Funding Request?*
- *What immediate action items do you have for staff?*
- *What is one takeaway for the request to the Board of Supervisors?*

Ms. Le said that at takeaway is to know that we are investing in people. Ms. Callsen agreed.

Mr. Paige said that a takeaway is the need for recognizing the relationship between the growth in the County and the need for new schools.

Question 2

- *What long-term items should be considered in the budget?*

Ms. Le said that she is looking to be able to show success, failure or the middle range for the large investments being made especially as it relates to student achievement.

Mr. Paige said that if there were additional comments then Board members could send them to Ms. Kumazawa.

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment.

At 8:21 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk