

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on March 10, 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 Dr. Kate Acuff.

ABSENT: Mr. David Oberg.

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 Budget; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, School Finance Officer; Ms. Karen Water-Wicks, Community Education Program Coordinator; Ms. Sheila Hoopman, Capital Improvements Program Manager; Student Representative Elizabeth Albarran; Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification. None.

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. Approval of 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: Dr. Acuff, Ms. Le, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.0. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Donations and Reimbursements to School Division FY 2021-22 – 1st and 2nd Quarter
- 3.3 For Action: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.4 Minutes
- 3.5 For information: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.6 Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding Naming of Broadus Wood Elementary School
- 3.7 SPED Program: Leased Space Agreement
- 3.8 For Action: Galaxie Farm Temporary Construction Easement
- 3.9 Personnel Action
- 3.10 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 4.0. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Mr. Alcaro said that it is my honor this evening to introduce two of our students and one of our teachers for their extraordinary personal achievements this year.

Spelling Bee Winners

Our students are champions, having earned this distinction last month at our division's annual Spelling Bee. This year, there were two separate competitions, one for our elementary school students and one for our middle schoolers. Lyla Thiede, a Mountain View fifth-grader, finished first among the spelling bee winners from all of our elementary schools and Henry Mathewes, from Henley, placed first among all of our middle school winners. Both Lyla and Henry will be competing in the Regional Spelling Bee, the next leg to the national Spelling Bee, which takes place this Saturday morning beginning at 9:30 at Albemarle High School. We also will be represented by the second and third place finishers at each level. They include Claire Meng from Hollymead, Madeleine Rasmussen from Red Hill, Catriona Shuve from Burley and Seven Gray from Lakeside.

Also, with us this evening are Catrina Sims and Kim Gibson, two of our lead coaches, who served as coordinators for this year's bee. Please join me in thanking them and in congratulating Lyla and Henry and all who participated in this year's program.

Equity in Education Month

The Virginia School Board Association tells us on their web site that, "When inequity in education persists, there is a cost to all involved including missed opportunities for economic development, greater dependence on government supports and fewer Virginians ready to serve and lead."

If every student is to fulfill their highest potential and if the future of our communities is to be both personally rewarding and prosperous, the contributions of our public schools is vital. It is this truth that led the state school board association to designate March as Equity in Education Month. Tonight, we have with us Mary Morales, who as a Spanish teacher in Mountain View's Immersion Program, serves on the frontline of our efforts to institutionalize classroom equity. Mary's story is an unusual one among teachers who have entered our culturally responsive teaching program. She has been a teacher for more than 30 years and more than 20 of those years have been here in our division. Her experience illustrates how this program is changing outcomes for students and for teachers by closing opportunity and achievement gaps. Mary, I'm hoping you can bring to life for us tonight, some of your insight into how words about equity translate into better lives for children.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Haas recognized principals who were attending the meeting – Dr. Costa, Ms. Sublette, and Ms. Wood.

Dr. Haas said that earlier in the week he held community forums with families and staff. He said that both forums were well attended.

Dr. Haas said that he visited Brownsville Elementary School earlier in the week.

Dr. McLaughlin said that he spoke with former School Board student representative Elijah Witt. He noted that he was a Jefferson Scholar at the University of Virginia. He contributed his success to his work as a student representative on the Board.

Agenda Item No. 6.0. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Dr. Acuff said that she was no longer able to serve on the CATEC Board. She noted that Ms. Callsen has agreed to fill the remainder of her term.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** for Ms. Callsen to fill the remainder of Dr. Acuff's term on the CATEC Board. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Sarah Harris lives in the White Hall magisterial district. She said that some parent demands recently are conflicting with each other, and the demand are impacting the ability for students to think critically.

Mr. James McClung is a teacher. He spoke about concerns of cell phone use in classrooms. He asked that there be clear expectations for use and also clear expectations for actions that teachers can take to deal with issues surrounding the use of cell phones in the classroom.

Ms. Beth Sarosiek lives in the White Hall magisterial district. She spoke about the lack of gifted resources for young students due to unleveling of classes.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Mountain View Addition Design Development Information and Approval.

Ms. Hoopman and Mr. Jack Clark from RRMR architects provided for the Board's consideration information on the Mountain View addition design development. Planning is underway for additions and renovations at Mountain View Elementary that will meet the school's current needs. The plans include expanding the cafeteria, adding six classrooms, several resource rooms, restrooms, and auxiliary spaces. The goal is to incorporate a larger parking lot and separate the bus loop and parent pick-up and drop-off for safety. The scheme also involves renovated and enlarged outdoor learning spaces and playgrounds.

Staff recommends proceeding with construction drawings for the addition to prepare for opening in the Fall of 2023. The addition will be necessary for equity and parity for the students at Mountain View Elementary. It will allow them to be part of the school community within the building for many years.

Mountain View Elementary Addition project design is funded in the Capital Improvements Program, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year budget. The approved construction budget is 5.6M. The total estimated construction cost is \$10.6M. An additional \$4.4M has been requested, and is under review.

It is recommended that the attached design development documents be reviewed and approved and that the committee continue with the construction document phase of the project.

Dr. Acuff asked about the HVAC replacement in the older part of the building. What standards for environmental sustainability are in the new addition and how will the HVAC replacement in the old part of the building impact those standards? She also asked if the windows will open in the addition.

Mr. Alcaro asked about the assumption for the number of students in each of the new classrooms.

Ms. Callsen asked about why the costs is so much over the estimated budget.

Dr. Acuff asked how many additional students can be accommodated with this project.

Mr. Alcaro asked if learning cottages would still be in use at Mountain View after the addition is completed and the new potential elementary school is being built.

Dr. Acuff asked about solar tubes.

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the design development. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. COVID-19 Status Update.

Dr. McLaughlin, Ms. Schmitt, and Mr. Ryan McKay with the Blue Ridge Health District provided for the Board's consideration a COVID-19 status 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. The presentation included information on community spread data, community vaccination statistics, level of school impact, goals of COVID-19 Spring 2022 plan, upcoming changes for masking, isolation, and contact tracing, mitigation strategies that will remain in place until the end of the school year, and changes that require Board action.

Mr. Paige asked if the School Health Advisory Board had a recommendation for staff masking.

Mr. Alcaro said that he would like to hear more about the discussion of the School Health Advisory Board.

Dr. Acuff said that we do have a lot of vulnerable students because many are not able to be vaccinated. She asked what the current CDC guidelines for staff mask wearing.

Mr. Paige polled the Board members on where they stand with staff masking with the following results:

- Dr. Acuff – favor mask wearing for staff; not support weekly testing
- Mr. Alcaro – support suspending mask requirement based on local data but not rescinding policy
- Ms. Callsen – supports removing mask requirement
- Ms. Le – supports mask wearing for staff
- Ms. Osborne – supports mask wearing for now but would like more data
- Mr. Paige – supports mask wearing for staff
- Student Representative Albarran – supports mask wearing for teachers

There was Board consensus for the School Health Advisory Board to provide a recommendation on staff masking and vaccination/testing requirement. Recommendation will be discussed at the March 24, 2022 meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. School Board Approval of the FY 2022/23 Funding Request.

Ms. Kumazawa provided for the Board's consideration information regarding the funding request to assist in its adoption. This is the fourth session following the Draft Funding Request presentation on February 17. Staff will provide a summary of the funding request, follow-up on outstanding items, and facilitate the approval of the School Board's Funding Request. A copy of the Draft Funding Request is available on the Budget website: <https://www.k12albemarle.org/our-departments/fiscal-services/budget/2022-23-budget-development>.

The presentation included an update on the FY23 State Budget Update, an overview of the total school fund expenditures, and an overview of the special revenue funds.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to adopt a Funding Request of \$242,041,753 in operating funds and \$20,842,976 in Special Revenue Funds for FY23. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. 2nd Quarter FY 2021/22 Financial Report

Mr. Zimmermann presented for the Board's consideration the 2nd Quarter FY 2021/22 Financial Report. The second quarter financial reports representing October, November, and December 2021 are presented for the Board's consideration.

This report provides information on the budgeting and expenditure of funds by state category, and the changes that both the Board and staff have made during the year that affect these categories. All lines are numbered to assist in clearly guiding readers of the report when specific information is discussed.

Revenues: March 31 Average Daily Membership (ADM), upon which state revenues are estimated, is projected to be 13,288. This is 56 students more than budgeted. State revenue projections are based upon updated numbers from Governor Northam's amendments provided to the General Assembly in December. Sales tax revenues and lottery proceeds are anticipated to be stronger than originally projected, and will likely be updated very soon with new figures from the House and Senate crossover discussions in March. State proceeds are anticipated to exceed budget by more than \$1.5M. Local school revenues are anticipated to be less than budgeted due to the continued effects of the pandemic. Federal revenues are estimated to meet budget. Local transfer will at least meet budgeted amounts, as local revenues are stronger than originally anticipated. A more detailed presentation of revenues received to date is presented on page 2 of the report.

Expenses: Future total compensation and benefit expenses are estimated for this report. Estimates are based upon expenses incurred, payroll runs through February 18, and estimated payroll expenses from the new ADP bi-weekly payroll process through fiscal year end. Teacher pay in this process will continue through August, therefore a significant amount of our overall compensation is incurred at the end of each fiscal year. Overall compensation and benefits are estimated to be less than budgeted by ~\$630,000. Monthly compensation and operational expenses by state category are presented on page 3. Detailed operational expenses by department and school are shown on pages 4-6 of the attached report. Due to issues associated with deployment of an upgraded purchasing system, items purchased may be shown as being incurred in an incorrect month. Overall expenses and encumbrances are correctly displayed in total, however the month in which they were actually paid may not be correct. This issue has been reported to local government's finance department and they are reviewing options to correct this reporting error. Operational savings are expected to exceed \$3.2M due to the contingency of ~\$2.8M for the 4% March pay increase being unneeded due to estimated salary savings. Page 7 of the report provides summary information regarding changes during the year.

Balance of Revenues over Expenses: Reported December 31 revenues exceed expenses by slightly more than \$15.2M. Reported state revenues collected totaled nearly \$23.5M. Projected balances at year end are anticipated to be near \$5M.

Special Revenue Funds: Special revenue funds are presented on pages 8-10.

School Fund Balance: Fund balance use in FY21-22 is budgeted to be ~\$6.6M. This information, and year end scenarios are presented on page 11.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to receive the 2nd quarter financial reports as presented. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. Break.

There was a break from 8:32 p.m. until 8:42 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.6. Plan for Return to In-Person Board Meetings

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration a plan for return to in-person board meetings. Pursuant to Virginia state law and Albemarle County ordinance, the School Board has been meeting electronically during the Covid-19 pandemic. In anticipation of the County Office Building's Lane Auditorium opening, staff will present a plan to return to in-person Board meetings next month. In the plan, meetings will continue to be streamed live on the Albemarle County Public School's website. Public comment can be offered in person, electronically or by written submission.

Mr. Alcaro said that it is his understanding that the Board of Supervisors staff is testing the process. Is that the case?

Ms. Le asked if the meeting stream would look the same as it did prior to virtual meetings.

Agenda Item No. 8.7. Creating a Greater Presence in Magisterial Districts.

Dr. Hairston and Ms. Water-Wicks provided for the Board's consideration a recommendation for creating a greater presence in magisterial districts for Board members. Priority area two of the strategic plan is committed to developing a culturally responsive environment that will respect and champion all stakeholders' diversity of life experiences so they are actively empowered to engage in our school community (Objective 2.3). The Office of Community Engagement will partner with School Board members to implement Strategy 2.3.6 by engaging with families in their neighborhoods and magisterial districts. We seek an endorsement from the Board to move forward with this initiative.

Ms. Le said that she does not have a sense of times when people would want to meet. She is flexible.

Ms. Callsen offered her appreciation for the work.

Dr. Acuff said that it would be helpful if these engagements could be preserved in some manner.

Mr. Alcaro said that he needs to have more conversation about the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 8.8. 2022 Work Session Topics.

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board’s consideration recommendations for future work sessions. Typically, the second Board meeting of each month is designated as a work session. These work sessions offer an opportunity for greater understanding of critical issues facing the Division and to provide staff with direction in support of the Division's Strategic Plan.

A work session committee, comprised of staff and representative Board members, has met and drafted topics for the remaining work sessions this calendar year for the Board's review. The committee would like feedback from the Board and to provide any additional direction to staff as they plan upcoming work sessions.

Mr. Alcaro said that there is flexibility if other topics come up.

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

Dr. Acuff said that she would like for the budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors include at least one slide on the capital needs of the division.

Ms. Callsen said that there was a public comment on cell phone use in schools. She asked what the cell phone policy was for the division.

Mr. Alcaro asked Ms. Albarran if she found that cell phone usage was an issue in school.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:22 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk