

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on April 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Albemarle County Office Building, Lane Auditorium, 401 McIntire Road, 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; Mr. Kevin Kirst, Executive Director of Student Services; Ms. Lindsay Snoddy, Director of Building Services; Student Representative Kofi Mason; Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting – if needed. None.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification – if needed. None.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Paige, Chair, called the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Mr. Paige asked that during the moment of silence that Ms. Healy a teacher from Greer Elementary who passed away recently be remembered.

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: Ms. Osborne, Ms. Callsen, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Le, Dr. Acuff, 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 Minutes
- 3.3 COVID-19 Status Update
- 3.4 For Action: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.5 Miscellaneous CTE & Tech Grants
- 3.6 For Information: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.7 Personnel Action
- 3.8 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 3.9 For Action: Carl D. Perkins Local Plan for Career and Technical Education

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Paige introduced Kofi Mason a student at Albemarle High School. Mr. Mason will be serving as the student representative to the School Board until the end of June 2022.

Agenda Item No. 4.0. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Student Representative Mason said that it certainly is a privilege to have this opportunity to introduce two of my colleagues who are here this evening and to also celebrate the accomplishments of students across our school division. Spring is an annual time for renewal throughout our community and also a very important time for students. We're, of course, about to fully enter the SOL season in all of our schools. That's very important. And so are the completion of college plans for our seniors, including many who earn prestigious scholarships to continue with their education. Tonight, I invite Board members and those who are here in person or online to join in celebrating three of our students, all of whom who represent the very best of any county in our country. Each is an outstanding scholar and leader committed to, in the words of the late Senator John McCain, *servicing causes greater than themselves*. The first is Katherine Olivar Flores from Monticello High School. She recently was named by the UVA as a Walentas Scholar. She is unable to join us in person this evening because she is at work but her presence can be felt in these words from UVA about Walentas Scholars: "*They lead by example. They make a positive impact on the world around them. They take the most rigorous courses available to them and they are trailblazers as the first generation of their family to earn a bachelor's degree.*" Katherine's scholarship covers the entire cost of attendance for four years at the University of Virginia and it funds supplemental enrichment experiences. Also with us is Aben Afriyie, from Albemarle High School. Abena recently was awarded a Posse Scholarship, headquartered in New York, Posse is a nationally renowned program, now in its 33rd year. Its mission reflects its purpose-- *Our country is diverse. Its leadership should be, too.* The program is one of the most comprehensive college success and leadership development initiatives in our country. President Obama in fact, contributed a part of his Nobel Peace Prize grant to Posse. I'm going to ask Abena to share some thoughts with us. Also with us tonight is Katharina Ravichandran (RAV-A-CHAN-DRIN), also from Albemarle High School. We know Kat for her extraordinary leadership of our school division food drive and we'll have more on that in a minute. She also is the recipient of the Joshua J. Scott Merit Award from the Emily Couric Leadership Forum. Here's what the forum said in their public statement: "A gifted math student, she uses her heart and mind, together with mathematical modeling, to solve real-world problems in her community. She founded the nonprofit Students Working Against Hunger to enlist students across the region in food drives and food donations from restaurants." "*We're passionate about educating high potential young women,*" the Forum says and Kat confidently is one of the best. Kat, we'd welcome your insight into your experience with the Forum and how it will shape your future. And, we'd also look forward to your report on the food drive.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Haas congratulated those who were recognized during Spotlight on Education.

Dr. Haas welcomed Principal Angela Stokes to the meeting.

Dr. Haas welcomed Kofi to the Board.

Dr. Haas invited everyone to attend the Historic Landmark unveiling ceremony at Burley Middle School on Saturday, April 16, 2022.

Dr. Haas shared with the Board information on his visit to Lakeside Middle School on Monday.

Mr. Paige presented Mr. Alcaro with a gavel for his service as Chair of the School Board during 2019 and part of 2020.

Agenda Item No. 6.0. School Board/Superintendent Business. None.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Vernon Lechti is the president of the Albemarle Education Association. He spoke to the Board about collective bargaining and encouraged the Board to adopt the AEA resolution presented last month.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Burley Walk of Fame and Field Improvements Presentation.

Ms. Snoddy introduced the Burley Walk of Fame and Field Improvements project. She then introduced Mr. Ben Allen and Mr. Jeff Burton who provided details of the project. The Burley Varsity Club, H3 Baseball, and the UVa Equity Center are leading a collaborative effort to build a Walk of Fame adjacent to Burley's original football field, which now is used as a baseball field. Student collaboration, design renderings, and future plans will be shared by the project leaders. The Walk of Fame and field improvements are collaborative efforts with many community donors.

Dr. Acuff asked what the timeline is for next steps.

Mr. Alcaro liked the brick idea for students. He asked if consideration was given to opening up the ability to buy bricks to support the project.

Student Representative Mason asked if the research for the project could be incorporated into the curriculum at the school to get students involved.

Ms. Callsen commended the group for their work on the project.

Mr. Paige asked where the slate would be placed on the entrance.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Report.

Mr. Kirst introduced Ms. Nicole Group, chair of the special education advisory committee, who then presented for the Board's consideration the special education advisory committee annual report. The Special Education Advisory Committee submits an annual report and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board. This report will be presented by the Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Committee. A copy of the report is attached.

Any recommendations made by the Special Education Advisory Committee that have fiscal implications would be pursued and developed based on direction of the School Board. Any significant redirection of resources would be brought forward through the budget procedures established during the development of the 2023-2024 school budget.

1. Increase special education training for all teachers: We are recommending this support again because studies show "96% of students with disabilities spend at least part of their day in general education classes, and general education teachers serve as the teacher of record on students' Individualized Education Programs," and "Less than 1 in 5 general 1 education teachers feel 'very well prepared' to teach students with mild to moderate learning disabilities, including ADHD and dyslexia, according to a new survey from two national advocacy groups." We request that the training be offered during work hours and not on evenings or weekends.

2. Improve teacher retention: While every division employee is valuable, our teachers are our greatest asset. As a division, we spend a substantial sum attracting and training all teachers, especially those in special education. The pandemic, standardized testing, reporting requirements, staffing shortages, and increased mental health challenges have all accelerated teacher burnout. Typical teacher attrition has been about 8%, but recent studies have shown that up to 20% of teachers “have left or are actively considering leaving teaching.”
3. Enhance accessibility: Albemarle County schools need more wheelchair ramps, more elevators, and additional accessibility supports. For example, Murray needs a ramp at the front of the building so students with disabilities don’t have to enter from a different door than their typically-abled peers. Several schools need additional elevators so students do not have to travel the length of the building to change classes and so there are alternate elevators in case of malfunctions. We ask that an internal accessibility audit be conducted and that accessibility be a top priority for future construction and renovations.
4. Reduce school transitions for special education students: Currently, in Albemarle County, some students are being transported to schools outside their neighborhoods when service programs change. Parents have expressed concerns that their children with disabilities are being sent to different schools, sometimes as often as annually, as services shift throughout the county. When possible, we feel students would be better served in the schools attended by their siblings and neighbors. More importantly, we ask that families be included in the discussion of moving a student to a school away from their home. We request a standardized transition process be put in place to ensure consistency and fairness in the procedure when this change is necessary.

Mr. Alcaro said that recommendation number 4 needs more conversation with staff.

Dr. Acuff said that the SEAC has had on the recommendations for the last few years more professional development for regular education teachers. She asked if the Division tracked how many teachers took advantage of such professional development. She also noted that she spoke with Mr. Redding, Executive Director of Human Resources, about turnover of special education teachers.

Mr. Paige asked about the type of questions that parents ask in SEAC meetings.

Ms. Callsen said that there was not a lot of mention about COVID in the report. She asked if there was discussion in the Committee about COVID and if there were recommendations.

Ms. Le asked how the membership in the Committee is determined. She asked if there was a way to make the group more reflective of the demographics of special education students.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Special Education Annual Plan for School Year 22-23.

Mr. Kirst provided for the Board’s consideration the special education annual plan for school year 2022-2023. 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 consist of the following components:

1. The Annual Plan document, that 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.

The approved version of the Annual Plan is expected to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education on or before May 10, 2022.

This plan was reviewed, as required by Virginia Regulations, by the Special Education Advisory Committee on March 8, 2022.

This is a Federal Flow Through Grant - the funds are Federal that flow through the Virginia Department of Education to Albemarle County Public Schools.

Mr. Alcaro asked about the funding for summer school and whether that is part of the plan for this year.

Ms. Le asked why special education students can be moved throughout their education in the Division. She also asked if specialty programs move from school to school.

Ms. Callsen expressed concern about the overidentification of minority students. She suggested that the Board receive a deeper dive into special education services at a future meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. June 13 School Board Retreat.

Dr. Haas provided for the Board's consideration a recommendation for a committee to be formed to develop the agenda for the Board retreat in June. Characteristics of effective school boards include a commitment to high expectations for all, clearly defined goals for success, development of a unified team with board members and the superintendent, and building shared knowledge, values and commitments. One way in which the Board is supported in developing these characteristics is through our annual school board retreat. Tonight, the Board will engage in discussion to help determine areas of focus for the 2022 ACPS School Board retreat.

The ACPS School Board will hold its annual retreat on Monday, June 13th. During tonight's meeting, the Board is asked to identify two members who will work with staff as a subcommittee to plan the retreat and report the plans to the whole Board at the May 12th Board meeting.

Staff also request that the Board engage in a discussion about topics for the retreat.

There was Board consensus for Dr. Acuff and Ms. Callsen to serve on a subcommittee with staff to develop the Board retreat agenda.

Ms. Callsen asked for staff to provide agendas from the last several Board retreats for reference.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 7:49 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk