

A Board Retreat of the Albemarle County School Board was held on June 7, 2019 at 1 p.m., Center 1, 1180 Seminole Trail, Suite 225, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. David Oberg; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Ms. Katrina Callsen; and Dr. Kate Acuff.

ABSENT: Mr. Jason Buyaki.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Christine Thompson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call to Order

At 1 p.m., Mr. Alcaro, Chair, called the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Architectural/Engineering Selection Committee for Red Hill Addition & Renovations.

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration a recommendation for the architectural/engineering selection committee for the Red Hill Elementary School addition and renovations. On April 25th, the School Board agreed to move forward with the Red Hill Addition & Renovation project, scheduled to be complete and occupied in August 2021. Construction would begin in July of 2020. To ensure proper time for completion, design should begin in July of 2019.

Phase 1 of the project, including classroom and media center modernization, were completed in 2016/17. This will be Phase 2 of the Red Hill upgrades, and will include a gym addition, site work, and renovations. The total budget for this phase of the project is 5.3M. The addition would add 6,300 square feet, comprised of a new gymnasium and support spaces such as staff offices and storage space. The current gym at Red Hill would be renovated, converting it to classroom space. Site work would include additional parking, site improvements, and outdoor learning areas. Existing spaces to be renovated include the cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways, and kitchen equipment.

Based on School Board Policy FEA – Facility Design, an Architectural/Engineering Section Committee must be appointed jointly by the School Board and the Superintendent when the fee for such services will exceed \$100,000. A Request for Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services was recently procured for Albemarle County through the Purchasing Department. Four term contracts were awarded from the Request for Proposal. It is recommended that the Architectural/Engineering Selection Committee select an Architectural/Engineering firm from these contracts. The selection would then be presented to the School Board at later date for their consideration. The current project schedule is included in the enclosed documentation, as well as recommended members of the Architectural/Engineering Selection Committee.

Funding for the Red Hill Addition & Renovations, including design funding, is part of the 2019/2020 Capital Improvements Program.

Building Services Department staff recommend that the Architectural/Engineering Selection Committee noted in the enclosed be approved to meet and make a recommendation for the Red Hill Addition & Renovation project from the four existing term contracts.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the recommended architectural/engineer selection committee and for them to meet and make a recommendation from the Red Hill addition and renovation from the four existing term contracts. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 2.2. Retreat.

School Board Self-Evaluation

The Board reviewed its self-evaluation per policy BBA.

Smart Priorities I and II

Dr. McLaughlin said that the goal of the retreat is to transform our two remaining priorities in this way. When doing this we want to honor the feedback we have received from the board that you do not often get time to work together as a full board on topics such as this.

Identify and remove practices that perpetuate the achievement gap.

- By December 31, identify five classroom practices that perpetuate the achievement gap.
- By Sept. 30, staff will have evaluated and presented to the board the equity dashboard and present target achievement goals.

Create a culture of high expectations for all.

- By September 30, create a definition of high expectations or revise/strike the priority.

The Board worked together to change the above-mentioned priorities into SMART priorities.

Self-sustaining Programs Presentation and Discussion

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the Child Nutrition Program and the Extended Day Enrichment Program, both of which are self-sustaining programs. The presentation included an overview of the program budgets, the mission of each program, bright spots of each program, challenges and limitations of each program, and an overview of staffing.

Following the presentation Board members asked clarifying questions and discussed the programs.

Equity Report

Dr. Hairston provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the Equity Report. Beginning in January of 2017, the Superintendent of Albemarle County Public Schools and the division's entire senior leadership, including the School Board, made a commitment to the residents of the county when it titled its 2018-19 budget, "All Means All."

Contained within those documents were program investments to achieve an ambitious and morally compelling goal—to end the correlation between the predictability of student success or failure and a student's social, economic, or cultural profile.

During its May 23 work session this year, the Board was updated on the positive impact being made by one of the cornerstone programs authorized in 2017; the Social, Emotional and Academic Development team formed to serve the division's four urban ring elementary schools and eventually to inform improvements at all schools.

This current school year also has been noteworthy for the progress being made across several critically important fronts, fueled by the School Board's unequivocal directive that equal educational opportunity be more than a popular slogan. On this achievement list is the Board's adoption of Equity Education and AntiRacism policies, an equity checklist to govern all other policies and increased funding of culturally responsive teaching practices.

Progress is being made. Our 2019 Equity Conference more than doubled the number of educators who have been certified or have earned micro-credentials as Culturally Responsive Teachers. Each of those awarded certification presented evidence that their adaptive strategies and practices are closing the achievement gap in their classrooms.

Among the resources offering the promise of continued progress are:

- the Equity Advisory Committee, which brings together experts and public officials from the University of Virginia, the Board of Supervisors and the school division on a monthly basis;
- the Equity Dashboard, presented to the School Board last fall that provides the most comprehensive real-time analysis of performance data by student demographic groups, and
- this Equity Report, the first in three years, that will become an annual status report on current initiatives in the school division and continuous improvement recommendations. We are deeply appreciative to the Equity Advisory Committee and the leadership of Chairperson Dr. Joanna Williams, Vice Chairperson Dr. Russell Carlock, and Equity Leadership liaisons Ben Allen and Adrienne Oliver.

In revisiting the promise made in 2017, some may suggest our glass is half-full. The gains we have made over the past 12 months confirm that the glass is steadily becoming fuller. The paradigm shift towards achieving education equity for All Albemarle County public school students is very real.

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

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment

At 5:55 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Alcaro adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk