

November 10, 2022, School Board Meeting

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on November 13, 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, Dr. Kate Acuff, and Student Representative Brisa Caballero-Chigo.

Absent: Mr. David Oberg

Staff Present: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Mr. Ross J. Holden, School Board Attorney; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Planning; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Maya Kumazawa, Director of Budget and Planning; Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1 Closed Meeting:

At 5:45 p.m., Mr. Paige called the meeting of the Albemarle County Public School Board to order.

Ms. Callsen offered a **motion** that the Albemarle County Public 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 3 for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or 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 a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion was passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.2 Closed Meeting Certification:

At 5:45 p.m., Mr. Paige called the meeting of Albemarle County School Board to order.

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, October 13, 2022, Business Meeting 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: Ms. Le, Ms. Osborne, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

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Agenda Item No. 1.3 Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Ms. Callsen, Vice – Chair, called the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board back to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item 2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.0

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Donations and Reimbursements to School Division FY 2021-22-4th Quarter
- 3.3 Donations and Reimbursements to School Division FY 2022-2023-1st Quarter
- 3.4 COVID-19 Status Update
- 3.5 Mountain View Elementary-Nutrient Credit Purchasing Contract Approval
- 3.6 For Action: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.7 Transportation Update
- 3.8 Personnel Action
- 3.9 Personnel Action-Athletic Coaches
- 3.10 For Information: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.11 Minutes
- 3.12 Appropriation for State Portion of Bonus Payment
- 3.13 Waterline Easement
- 3.14 VDOE Required Inclusion Survey Results

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

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Agenda Item No. 4. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None

Agenda Item No.5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Student representative Caballero-Chigo spoke about extensive research and how a student's learning environment can influence their ability to learn at their highest potential. Ms. Caballero-Chigo focused on a strategic plan called Learning for All and how it emphasizes the importance of engagement, health, wellness, and community and how well our school division sends out its and objectives. She states there is no lack of enthusiasm and support for innovative ideas that bring our communities together. She explained the new concept that Burley Middle School is spearheading on an anti-bullying program and its historical impact as a model for anti-bullying.

Once again Burley Middle School is leading with a new program created by their principal, Ms. Blount, called This Is How We Do It. The foundation of this program is to establish school-wide behavioral expectations using approaches as reinforcing positive behavior through their school's many support systems such as their emotional counselor, student safety coach and posters and signage throughout the school's theme song and daily communications. The program's goals concentrate on improving attendance, language and interpersonal communications using six core values that govern peer relationships. These values include love, trust, fairness, support, accountability, and safety. The School Board members then heard from Burley Middle School's social and emotional counselor, Mark McCoy and School Safety Coach, Ivan Orr. Burley's team sets goals they identify with the program and all students will have clear understanding of the expectations for successful participation in the Burley learning community. The teachers have a clear understanding of their roles in supporting student expectations. Mr. Ivan and Mr. McCoy split the program into two separate program strands. Mr. Orr focuses on both attendance and tardiness while Mr. McCoy focuses on respect, attention, time, enthusiasm, and best effort. He works on peer-to-peer relationships and student-teacher relationships as well. They discuss cyber bullying, and how to conduct oneself on the buses, in the hallways and the restrooms. They were able to review and walk everyone through the daily demonstrations and answered a few questions from the School Board.

Agenda Item No.5.1 Announcements.

Dr. Haas recognized Mr. Josh Walton from Walton Middle School and Ms. Kasaundra Blount from Burley Middle School for being in attendance.

Agenda Item 6.0 School Board/Superintendent Business

Ms. Callsen shared that she and Dr. Acuff got up at 6:00 a.m. and traveled my routes with the busses that morning and found it informative and the students a joy to ride with. She commented on how well the drivers work as a team and how vital that is to meet all the transportation needs and obstacles.

Ms. Le commented on how impactful and informative the Mental Health First Aid training taught by Miles Nelson and Region Ten. This is offered by the county and is about 4 hours long.

Chair Paige met with James Pierce and spoke about the new Boys and Girls Club this is scheduled to open in mid-February. There was a discussion on collaborating with them and their counselors to train on the Mental Health First Aid training.

There was a reminder of the Veteran's Day event taking place the following day in the Lane Auditorium.

Agenda Item 7.0 Public Comment

7.1 Public Comment

Nancy Moore from the White Hall District voiced her concerns over the policy regarding parent's rights to review exceptionally explicit instructional material.

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Jordan Barr from the Rio District piggybacked on Ms. Moore's concern regarding parental rights and sexually explicit content in instructional materials. He is searching for a policy that allows parents the opportunity to review materials that teachers use. He also mentioned parents having the right to ask for alternative materials for their students without them feeling ostracized.

Caden Wright, student from Albemarle High School, asked the Board to reconsider the proposed Career Learning Communities Plan. He focused on transportation obstacles, the fact that schools are underfunded and understaffed. He also stated that removing students from schools only impacts the school's sense of community. He also feels that the plan was not communicated well to schools and students.

Meg Bryce, from the Samuel Miller District, spoke about the budget survey that was recently distributed, and felt the feedback options were limiting.

Randy Jackson, Samuel Miller District, voiced concern on the Board's response to the new Virginia Board of Education model policy relative to parental rights.

Christy Corman, Samuel Miller District, spoke on her concern over the recent budget survey and lack of online search results. She felt that the survey lacked authenticity and focused on Community Engagement.

Ms. Macintyre requested higher pay and stipends for the bus drivers.

Ms. Mary Emily, staff researcher and ARPA coordinator, provided some clarity over permissible uses of ARPA funding resulting from the October 27th meeting. She proposed giving bonuses to all fulltime ACPS employees.

Leslie Good, joined by Zoom, voiced concerns regarding transgender and sexual awareness in county schools without parental consent.

Agenda No. 8.0 School Division Business

8.1 ACPS State of the Division Report 2022

Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Planning, presented the division's annual State of the Division Report. The State of the Division Report is a look back at work completed in the 2021-2022 school year around their strategic Learning for All Plan. The plan is guided by the [School Divisions Goals and Objectives](#) and the vision that learners are engaged in authentic, challenging and relevant learning experiences becoming lifelong contributors and leaders in our dynamic and diverse society. The county's mission states that by working together as a team they will end the predictive value of race, class, gender and special capacities for all their children's success. They aim to achieve this through high quality teaching and learning for all. They seek to build relationships with families and communities to ensure every student succeeds. This plan is also guided by the division's values of Equity, Excellence, Family and Community and Wellness coincided by their [three strategic goals](#) of Thriving Students, Empowering Communities and Equitable, Transformative Resources. Dr. McLaughlin then explained that these three goals have a total of nine objectives and forty-seven strategies to meet the division's goals in 64 metrics to measure the progress. He went on to explain how there is a team that worked on making this data clear and easily accessible for the community by creating an interactive web presence for their annual report. This data and the reports can be found under the [State of the Division](#) page on the Albemarle County Public Schools website. Dr. McLaughlin then guided the school board and attendees through the interactive web site by clicking on the three objectives and showing how anyone can see the data collected and distributed by the division. Another item he showcased for the board was a division [Equity table](#) that looks at a few of the key metrics such as chronic absenteeism, SOL pass rates and students earning Advanced Studies Diplomas. He closed out his presentation with key highlights from the 2021-2022 year. Highlighted key points were the reopening of schools after the pandemic, ACPS Human Resources Department, Albemarle Foundation of Education, the Crozet Elementary edition, modern display technologies in all learning spaces, community forums (12), the community budget input process, Division PLCs and completion of curriculum frameworks, and 100% school participation mid-year common assessments.

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Dr. Acuff asked how we are exchanging feedback with the schools? -- the live documents that update frequently by a program the IT department has helped create. We also hold regular training sessions so educators know how to utilize and navigate the data.

Ms. Callsen reflected and shared her appreciation for the divisions constantly evolving in a positive direction. Ms. Callsen did feel that it was a challenge to locate the metrics and therefore it was harder to pull out some of the key pieces of information. Dr. McLaughlin stated that he would investigate additional search ability features with his IT team.

Mr. Alcaro shared he believes that the interactive website will be a baseline to build on and will be beneficial in the future.

Ms. Callsen would like to see the board's goals incorporated as well so the verbiage remains the same year after year.

Dr. Haas thanked everyone for their feedback and gave Dr. McLaughlin accolades for his team's challenging work in developing this process for the board, our educators, and the community. Dr. Haas also advertised that, at the upcoming Virginia School Board Association Annual Conference, Chair Paige and Dr. McLaughlin will present on the County's strategic plan. Dr. Haas also updated the board on upcoming events and meetings that the ACPS departments will be joining. He also spoke about his upcoming Listening Tour which includes visiting schools and meeting with students, parents, and staff members.

Agenda Item No. 8.2 Break

There was a break from 8:00 p.m. until 8:12 p.m.

8.3 5-year Financial Forecast and FY 24 Budget Development.

The purpose of this session is to receive information for the financial operating forecast for the next five years and to develop a balanced scenario in preparation for the joint work session with the Board of Supervisors on December 7th. The School Board will also have an opportunity to provide feedback and direction for the FY24 annual budget process.

In addition, the School Board will be asked to approve a 5-year total CIP Request and the 5-year balanced CIP Request, as discussed at the October 27 Work Session.

Approve the 5-year total CIP Request and the 5-year balanced CIP Request ([as presented](#)) for FY24-FY28.

Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer, highlighted the goals of this agenda and reiterated that this session is to review the 5-year financial forecast. This focused on long-range planning and budget development which is highlighted in Goal 3 of the Strategic Equitable Transformer Resources with the objectives of developing modern and environmentally sustainable facilities. After Ms. Schmitt's introduction into this evening's agenda, she introduced Maya Kumazawa, Director of Budget and Planning.

Ms. Kumazawa began her presentation with a follow up to the work session they had discussing the five-year CIP request. She recommended that they act on this request in preparation for the joint work session as previously discussed. She ranked the needs as requested in a previous meeting and reviewed them with the Board. Ms. Kumazawa addressed high school capacities, high school enrollment projections, highest priority CIP project scenarios, she then followed up by asking the Board if they had any questions and to vote.

Mr. Alcaro asked for clarification on which agenda item they were voting on this evening and Ms. Kumazawa explained they are being asked to approve two scenarios. One scenario being the full request that includes the renovations and the second scenario would be a baseline funding request.

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Ms. Callsen asked they will account for the projected increase in expenses for the high school funds. Ms. Kumazawa explained that they have the base amount allocated at this time but can move forward if that number needs to go up bringing it forward as part of next fall's CIP process. This should give them the timing they need to stay on schedule.

Ms. Callsen made a **motion** to approve the CIP request. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Paige made a **motion** to approve the CIP balanced project scenario request. Most Board Members had some reservations concerning the elimination of any renovation funding for schools due to the age of several of the schools. Mr. Alcaro shared the similar concerns as Dr. Acuff. He stated that by approving this motion it is giving money back that was approved last year for high school renovations. Mr. Paige share similar concerns as the other board members. They will further discuss this motion at the next meeting. Ms. Osborne **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion failed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg.

Motion failed by a 0:6:1 vote.

The meeting continued with the [5-year Financial Forecast](#) for the division's operating plan. These decisions will ensure long-term financial stability and it also serves as a planning tool to supplement the existing budget process. After listening to the presentation and reviewing the information presented by Ms. Kumazawa the board discussed moving the discussion to the next School Board meeting in December. Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to postpone the discussion on the 5-year financial forecast portion of this agenda item. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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. 8.4 2023 Legislative Agenda

Every year, the Albemarle County School Board adopts a legislative program to inform our state legislators and public of the division's positions on the legislative policy issues that are important to Albemarle County Public Schools.

Dr. Helen Dunn, Deputy Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Officer, presented to the board several items via Zoom. Ms. Dunn discussed hiring practices, local taxing authority, meetings of public bodies, onboarding bus drivers, swatting and transgender and gender-expansive model policies. She suggested updating the

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districts background checks when hiring and the expedition of new hires and getting them to work. Dr. Dunn explained that by supporting the local taxing authority initiative it could give Albemarle County the authority to levy an additional one-person sales tax that could add funding for division capital projects. She informed the Board about a Bill that was passed that allows VRS retirees to be able to come back to work full time, after a full year. A proposal that is now up for review is one that allows retirees to come back to work to help with the state’s critical

shortage positions. This would be extremely beneficial in assisting with our shortage lists. She talked about swatting, which involves a law enforcement response. She explained that we are in favor of adding legislation that provides law enforcement with additional tools to combat the act of making a false communication to 9-1-1 reporting an immediate threat to human life.

Agenda Item No. 9.0 Other Business

9.1 Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None

Agenda Item 10.0 Closed Meeting

Agenda Item No.10.1 Closed Meeting- None.

Agenda Item No. 11.1 Certify Closed Meeting. None

Agenda Item No.12.1 Adjournment.

At 9:07 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chair

Clerk