

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on September 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Albemarle County Office Building, Lane Auditorium, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

**PRESENT:** Ms. Katrina Callsen, Mr. Jonno Alcaro (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), Ms. Ellen Osborne, Ms. Judy Le, Mr. David Oberg, Dr. Kate Acuff, and Student Representative Anda Armond.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Graham Paige.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debora Collins, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Katina Dudley, Lead Coach; Ms. Lindsay Snoddy, Director of Building Services; Mr. Matt Wertman, Assistant Director of Building Services; Mr. Ross J. Holden, School Board Attorney; Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

**Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.**

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

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

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Paige and Mr. Alcaro.

**Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.**

**Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.**

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

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Paige.

**Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.**

**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. No. 2.1. 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, Mr. Oberg, and Ms. Callsen.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Paige

**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 For Action: Policy Review and Revisions
- 3.4 For Information: Artificial Turf Replacement – High School Fields
- 3.5 COVID-19 Status Update
- 3.6 Advanced Placement Test Fee Report
- 3.7 Personnel Action
- 3.8 Transportation Update

Ms. Osborne asked that Item 3.8 be pulled for discussion.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda minus Item 3.8. 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, Mr. Oberg, and Ms. Callsen.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Paige.

**Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.**

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

**Transportation Update:** Ms. Osborne noted that the information in the transportation update was difficult to understand. Ms. Schmitt then provided the Board with an overview of the information contained in the chart as reported in the update.

Ms. Osborne asked how many students are impacted by late buses or double-backs.

Dr. Acuff asked about ridership numbers.

Ms. Callsen said that transportation remains a concern and updates should be provided to the Board at each meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.**

Student Representative Anda Armond said we talk a great deal at our meetings about our strategic plan, *Learning for All*, which lists, among our school division values, Family and Community. Specifically, we say that we will engage with and share responsibility for student success with family and community partners. *Learning for All* returns to this value when it includes, among our goals, the Affirming and Empowering of Communities. The plan adds that we are committed to strengthening the social context of the environment in which we exist as well as the ties that bind us together. At one level, the school division reaches out through surveys, community forums and meetings to benefit from what we can learn from those we serve. This is helpful in designing policies and programs that are responsive to needs and that prepare students for lifelong success. On another level, one is reminded of a story that Sen. Robert Kennedy used to tell, about the impact of throwing pebbles into a lake and

watching its ripple effects. Individuals, more than organizations, can make a significant difference in binding the ties that hold us together as a community. This evening, we recognize two campaigns that are bringing us closer to one another. The first is represented tonight by Lucy Akers-Allen, who is informally known at our Community Lab School, as its Dean of Students. Ms. Akers-Allen is the inspiration and guiding force behind the school's Community Cares Program, a collaborative that brings middle school students together to serve those who live outside the school's walls. Students are filling a wide variety of needs in the homes and lives of their neighbors and they are learning highly valuable and enduring lifelong skills in the process. Community Cares, similar to programs in many of our schools, is creating greater engagement, enthusiasm and accomplishment among students, and is a powerful learning experience. Also, with us tonight, is someone perhaps best described as a sole contributor, a Monticello High School, Lily Simpson, who with her sister, Lindsay, has collected more than 7,000 pairs of socks to support children in hospitals in Charlottesville and Richmond. Lily and her sister also have contributed to homeless shelters, the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. It is a remarkable story of leadership, compassion and perseverance. She asked Ms. Akers-Allen to share with us some thoughts on the impact Community Cares is having in the Community Lab School community and within its students, followed by Lily Simpson and her remarkable community connection program.

### **Agenda Item No 5.2. Announcements.**

Mr. Oberg said September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month across the country. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is highlighting "Together for Mental Health," a campaign that brings caregivers together to advocate for better mental health care. Here in our school division, with the support of a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, we have instituted ASIST, the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Program. Designed by Living Works, a national organization that trains volunteers for regional crisis centers. Locally, this program is a collaboration with Charlottesville City Schools and has included the police department and the EMT community. ASIST enhances the strategies and techniques used by our school counselors and administrators to talk with and support a student in crisis and connect them with mental health professionals. After years of advocacy, 988 is now available nationwide as the new number to contact for mental health, substance use and suicide crises every day and at any time of the week. Across the country, a person in need can [Call](#) or [text](#) 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. As one caregiver, *New Directions*, reminds us, "You Just Might Save a Life."

### **Agenda Item No. 6.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.**

Dr. Haas recognized the principals that were in attendance at the meeting.

Dr. Haas announced that the next school to have its name reviewed would be Meriwether Lewis Elementary School.

### **Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.**

Ms. Liz Koenig spoke in support of public sector collective bargaining.

Mr. Tyler Gifford is a parent. He spoke about transportation issues and the impact that it has on low income communities.

Ms. Maggie Morris is a retired teacher. She spoke about transportation issues. She noted that there needs to be an equity audit on routing practices and changes need to be made immediately.

Ms. Katy Morgan spoke about transportation issues.

Ms. Heidi Gilman-Bennett is a parent. She spoke about the Division's need to be transparent with data and achievement gaps.

### **Agenda Item No. 8.1. Building Services Updates: Summer 2022 Construction.**

Ms. Snoddy and Mr. Wertman provided for the Board's consideration an overview of summer construction and maintenance projects within the Division.

Dr. Acuff asked if new roofs on schools are equipped to install solar panels.

Mr. Oberg said that the Crozet Elementary Addition is gorgeous.

Mr. Alcaro said that Building Services staff does a wonderful job.

Ms. Callsen asked what happens to the trailers when removed from a school campus.

**Agenda Item No. 8.2. 2022/2023 Enrollment Update.**

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an enrollment update. The update included tenth day of school enrollment numbers, a comparison with last year's enrollment with projections for the current school year, and a breakdown of enrollment by school and grade. Enrollment is formally reported to the state twice during the school year utilizing September 30th and March 30th ADM (Average Daily Membership).

**Agenda Item No. 8.3. Family Life Education Review and Updates.**

Ms. Collins and Ms. Dudley provided for the Board's consideration updates to the Division's Family Life Education curriculum. Annually, each school division is required to appoint a community involvement team to assist in the development of the program and to promote community involvement regarding Family Life Education. The Board of Education guidelines were written to assure that parents have opportunities to review the FLE program annually and to opt their children out of all or part of the program.

During the 2021-22 school year, The Family Life Education Review Team met on April 25, 2022. Participants included families, students, family life educators, school nurses, division leaders, and school leaders. This team met via zoom to provide feedback and input regarding the standards, structures, and procedures included in the Family Life Education Curriculum. The committee received a copy of The ACPS Family Life Curriculum, access to the VDOE Family Life Curriculum, and the ACPS Opt-Out Form.

Mr. Oberg asked if there was a reason that the upper grades could not have an option for gender specific classes.

Dr. Acuff asked who teaches Family Life in schools.

Mr. Alcaro asked when during the semester is Family Life Education taught.

Ms. Callsen asked if the information was available for public review.

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

Ms. Callsen said that Transportation issues are very concerning. She would encourage changes quickly. Ms. Osborne said that Southwood needs to be served.

**Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.**

At 8:01 p.m., hearing no objections, Ms. Callsen adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk