

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on June 26, 2020 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

**PRESENT:** Ms. Ellen Osborne; Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Ms. Judy Le; Mr. Graham Paige; and Mr. Dave Oberg.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debora Collins, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief Strategic Planning Officer; Ms. Jamie Gellner, Program Evaluator; Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney; and Ms. Christine Thompson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

**Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call Order.**

Mr. Alcaro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Alcaro 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. 1.2. Approval of Agenda.**

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

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

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.**

**Moment of Silence**

**Agenda Item No. 2.1. 2020-2021 School Calendar.**

Dr. McLaughlin provided for the Board's consideration a draft 2020-2021 school calendar. As the school division develops plans for a return to school following our COVID-19 closure one option that may be considered is a shift to the 2020-2021 school calendar to begin classes after Labor Day. Draft calendars were presented to the Board on June 11 and a community survey has been conducted. The Board received the results of that survey at their meeting on June 19. The Board was asked to adopt a calendar for the 2020-2021 school calendar.

Mr. Paige asked if teacher representatives were involved in the development of the calendar.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to have the school start date as September 8, 2020. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. Mr. Alcaro asked for discussion. Dr. Acuff asked if the calendar was developed with the same level of COVID transmission in mind. Dr. McLaughlin said that the calendar will need to be fluid. Ms. Le asked if Charlottesville City Schools were consulted about the calendar change. Dr. McLaughlin said yes. Ms. Le expressed concern about adding two more weeks to the school year. Mr. Oberg said that he understands concerns from some parents about delaying the school start date by two weeks. Mr. Paige said that there has been hesitation from teachers about signing contracts with all the unknowns. Dr. Keiser said that the deadline has been extended to return contracts until the calendar is set. Ms. Callsen said that she would support a September 2 start date

because it is still delayed and students will get in school sooner. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

**NAYS:** Ms. Callsen.

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

### **Agenda Item No. 2.2. Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia Lease Agreement.**

Dr. Acuff said that on June 13, 2019, the School Board agreed to lease a parcel of land adjacent to Jouett Middle School to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia (BGCCV). On the parcel, BGCCV will build and operate a free-standing Club facility to serve students ages 6 to 18. The center would operate after school during the school year and full day in the summer, serving as many as 300 students on a daily basis.

Prior to finalizing the lease, other locations were considered including the drivers range in front of Jouett Middle School. James Pierce, CEO of the BGCCV, will be attendance to discuss the location of the project again.

Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia (BGCCV) will be responsible for all construction, maintenance, capital and operating costs of the new facility.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to authorize School Board Attorney, Ross Holden, to work with the Boys and Girls Club to move the site to the preferred location of the driver's range and to come back to the Board at the next meeting with a recommendation. Ms. Callsen **seconded** the motion. Mr. Alcaro asked for discussion. Mr. Paige said that he understands the reasoning for moving. He hopes that staff will communicate with the Driver's Education Program as to the reasons why the change is being made. Ms. Callsen said that she fully supports this recommendation. Mr. Oberg expressed concern about the timing of the request. Mr. Paige agreed with Mr. Oberg. Dr. Acuff said that the driver's range was always the first choice. The Boys and Girls Club had hoped to get some of the shortfall from the Board of Supervisors to help with the project but that did not happen. Mr. Alcaro said that the other location was not a terrible location. There are other options for the driver's education program and it will continue to be successful. Mr. Oberg said that Dr. Acuff's statement seems as if the previous Board is being chastised for the original decision. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

**NAYS:** Mr. Oberg.

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

### **Agenda Item No. 2.3. School Resource Officers.**

Ms. Gellner and Mr. Holden provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the School Resource Officer program. Information related to the School Resource Officer program in ACPS is being provided to the Board to help them make an informed decision about the future of the program in the school division.

Mr. Oberg said that all the information is very informative. SROs end up being involved in discipline matters even though not the ideal person to deal with some issues. He is more troubled with the program after seeing the data. He does not the proposed resolution reflects the intention of the Board. Ms. Le provided a revised resolution which he feels gets to his intention of the motion last week.

Ms. Callsen said that she likes Ms. Le's proposed resolution. However, she does not like where it references "in light of recent national events" because it makes it feel like the Board is being responsive to a hot topic right now.

Mr. Oberg said that he would like to see how many discipline matters involved the SRO at the school.

Ms. Callsen said that she likes that the resolution states that the Board will look at other options to the SRO program.

Dr. Acuff said that she prefers the resolution prepared by Mr. Holden. She does not like the idea of rushing a decision on July 9. The Board needs time to review all the information. She did not feel that the motion was to remove the SRO program from schools.

Ms. Le said that she is okay with moving a decision date on the issue to later than July 9. She felt that there was good direction provided at the last meeting and would like to see the work continue. She feels that the research was telling that the positive statements on the program was inconclusive while the negative statements were conclusive.

Ms. Osborne said that she appreciates staff pulling the information together. She supports Ms. Le's resolution but not the July 9 date.

Mr. Paige said that he supports Ms. Le's resolution but not the July 9 date.

Mr. Alcaro said that he stands by the vote last week. He said that Mr. Paige had been interested in a parent survey. He does not believe that July 9 is too soon to take a vote. He got a lot out of the information provided. He said that he spoke with a senior police official and the biggest concern was that if they are only on an on-call basis then that means that you get the available officer. The responding officer may not have ever worked in a school environment.

Mr. Oberg said that there still needs to be a relationship with the police department.

Mr. Paige said that he would like to see a parent survey on the program.

Ms. Callsen said that she feels there is a misunderstanding of where the SROs are currently located in the Division.

Ms. Le asked what date would the Board like to decide on the SRO program.

Mr. Alcaro said that he would like for the last paragraph of the draft resolution remain.

Ms. Callsen said that she does not feel that taking out the paragraph would prohibit the Division from having a memorandum of understanding with the police department.

Mr. Oberg asked what date the item would come back to the Board. Dr. Haas said that he would like to discuss it with staff.

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

**Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment.**

At 11:00 a.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Alcaro adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk