

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on June 18, 2020 2:00 p.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. Christine Diggs, Chief Technology Officer; 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 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Alcaro asked that the Board observe a moment of silence.

Mr. Alcaro said that the minutes of this meeting should reflect that: (1) this 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; (2) the meeting is being communicated to the public electronically through Zoom and streamed live on the Albemarle County Public School's website; and (3) public comment may be offered through the Zoom waiting room feature in accordance with the School Board's protocol or by written submission.

Mr. Alcaro then said that tomorrow, June 19, is the oldest national celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On that day in 1865, a General Order was read to the people of the last slave-holding state in the union, in Texas, which said in part, "All Slaves are now Free." The order proclaimed that this action involved the absolute equality of rights between former slaves and their owners. History has not agreed. Over the past 155 years, slavery's disgraceful legacy separated those rights, consistently destroying lives and families and causing incalculable damage to our nation. It still is doing these awful things today. Public schools were not established for such purposes. They were established to be the place where all children would receive equal opportunities to be safe and cared for and to learn and develop at their highest potential. We are not yet in such a place. Earlier this week, Governor Northam said, "Slavery is not just the history of our Black communities—this is everyone's shared history." Our anti-racism policy promises, "we are committed to establishing and sustaining an equitable community that achieves the School Division's equity mission to end the predictive value of race and ensure the success of each individual student and staff member." To appropriately embrace this unity of purpose, it is imperative that our school division join the state and our county in designating June 19, Juneteenth, as a time of personal reflection and renewed commitment to racial justice and equality for all, a day that stands in tall fulfillment of the four values of our school division, to serve all of our students all of the time, to partner with all the members of our community, to respect all, and to achieve excellence in our relationships with all. It is appropriate to celebrate that which is the true place of public education in our communities and in our nation, and so I call upon my colleagues on the Board to approve, effective immediately, that every June 19 be a day of honor, a time of personal reflection and renewed commitment to equal opportunity and justice for all, set aside as a paid holiday for school division employees.

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to approve the Juneteenth statement placing our County in alignment with County and State guidelines as outlined by Governor Northam. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

**NAYS:** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 1.2. Approval of Agenda.**

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

**NAYS:** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 2.1. COVID-19: Update on School Operations.**

Ms. Schmitt, Dr. Keiser, Ms. Collins presented an update on the current school operations during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. In addition, recommendations of the Return to School Task Force were presented. At the direction of the superintendent, the Return to School Task Force includes 12 members representing a cross-functional team of division, school and department leadership. The broader work of the Task Force hinges on facilitating four complementary work groups, each operating as one part of a whole to produce guidance focused in a particular area. The four focus areas addressed by the work groups include healthy environments, healthy staff, healthy students, and healthy learning.

The product of this work is the “Return to School Planning Guide,” which aims to provide a framework to guide the division’s ongoing and comprehensive planning efforts to safely and successfully reopen our schools, in alignment with guidance we receive from public health officials and the state department of education. The guide establishes a starting point from which ACPS can begin to navigate the various challenges involved in reopening schools while supporting specific priorities, including a safe and healthy physical environment for all; the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff; and high-quality teaching and learning. In total, 81 ACPS staff members offering diverse expertise and representing a wide range of our schools and departments have collaborated to create this foundational guidance.

The planning guide is organized by the four focus areas of our work groups—healthy environments, healthy staff, healthy students, and healthy learning.

Ms. Callsen asked what constitutes a qualified employee under the Family Medical Leave Act. She also asked if staff was worried about teacher shortages.

Mr. Paige asked if Check and Connect was being used with anyone with internet services.

Ms. Le asked what the expectation is for mask wearing for returning to school.

Dr. Acuff asked how robust were the summer course offerings.

Mr. Oberg asked if there was discussion about going back to in person meetings.

Mr. Alcaro said that the guide was extraordinary.

Mr. Oberg said that there may be different first days of school for students if we do a hybrid schedule.

Dr. Acuff asked if there were concerns about the availability of masks and disinfectants.

Mr. Oberg asked if parents refuse to have their children wear masks if they are required to return to school.

Ms. Le asked if the response to COVID survey results have been shared with the Board. She also asked for more information on scheduling.

Mr. Alcaro asked if with virtual school will there be interactivity.

Dr. Acuff asked if there were some classes that could not be taught virtually. She also asked how we have been doing with the English Language Learners.

Ms. Le asked if there was a leave guideline for teachers who has COVID.

Ms. Callsen asked if we were thinking of having half day instruction.

Dr. Acuff asked if there were special options for staff in a high-risk group.

Mr. Oberg said that it would be good to have a common definition for “reasonable accommodation”.

**Agenda Item No. 2.2. 2020-2021 School Calendar.**

Dr. McLaughlin provided for the Board’s consideration the draft 2020-2021 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 preliminary results of that survey and were asked to act at the Board meeting on June 26.

Dr. Acuff asked if the survey comments would be posted.

Mr. Paige asked if there would be allowances for teachers since they would have more professional development days.

Mr. Alcaro asked how many responses were in Spanish on the phone survey.

Ms. Osborne asked if the original start date was offered in the survey as an option.

Ms. Le asked why we were looking at alternative start dates.

Ms. Le asked if the survey data could be broken down by respondents.

**Agenda Item No. 2.3. School Resource Officer Program Review.**

Ms. Gellner provided for the Board’s consideration a program review of the School Resource Officer program. The board by consensus directed the student services group to initiate a program review of the School Resource Officer program as currently constituted. This presentation will outline current plans for completion of the requested review.

Mr. Alcaro asked what is the decision that the Board needs to get to on July 9.

Mr. Paige asked if the survey will include questions about comfort with SROs. He would also like to see a question about building relationships with students.

Ms. Callsen asked what we are going to get from the data from the survey.

**Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.**

Ms. Callsen asked for information on how banning confederate imagery through the Superintendent's directive. She would like to see the Board pass a resolution. Ms. Osborne asked if we could pass a resolution today. Mr. Oberg said that we do not have a resolution drafted to vote on.

Staff said that a draft can be provided prior to the July 9 meeting for consideration.

Mr. Alcaro said that our first student representative will be starting on July 9, 2020.

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

At 3:57 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Alcaro adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

---

Chairman

---

Clerk