

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on August 25, 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, Ms. Ellen Osborne, Ms. Judy Le, Mr. Graham Paige, Mr. David Oberg, Dr. Kate Acuff, and Student Representative Anda Armond.

**ABSENT:** None.

**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; Mr. Jay Thomas, Executive Director of Secondary Education; Ms. Kasaundra Blount, Principal of Burley Middle School; Ms. Meagan Maynard, Lead Coach; Mr. Kley Todd, Assistant Director for Technology Integration; Ms. Neeley Minton, Lead Coach; Mr. Miles Nelson, Coordinator of Mental Health & Wellness; Ms. Laura Gaskins, School Counselor; Mr. Brian Eberly, School Counselor; Mr. Ross J. Holden, School Board Attorney; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

**Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.** None.

**Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.** None.

**Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.**

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Paige, Chair, called the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board 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, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

**NAYS:** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 3.0. Consent Agenda**

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 COVID-19 Status Update
- 3.3 For Action: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.4 For Action: VDOT Easements – Walton Middle School
- 3.5 For Information: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.6 Personnel Action
- 3.7 Minutes
- 3.8 Review and Approval of 2022-23 School Crisis Manuals

Dr. Acuff 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, Mr. Oberg, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

**NAYS:** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 4.0. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda.** None.

**Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.**

Dr. Haas provided an update on the opening of school.

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

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with an enrollment update for the Division. She noted that the Board will receive 10-day enrollment at its September business meeting.

Dr. Keiser provided the Board with a hiring update. Dr. Acuff asked when the last time a market study was completed for school nurses.

Ms. Callsen said she has many concerns about student transportation. She noted that the Board should make transportation a priority. It is unacceptable where it is now. Dr. Acuff noted her concern about the notices and the lateness of them being sent out. Ms. Le asked about the scope of the issues with transportation. **There was Board consensus to provide a transportation update on future consent agendas for information.**

Dr. Haas thanked AEA president Vernon Lehti for bringing to his attention the expiration of COVID-19 Leave for staff. He then asked that the Board approve 10 days of COVID leave for staff and 10 days of COVID leave for new hires. This leave will be reviewed during the fourth quarter of the school year to see if it will extend beyond June 30, 2023.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to grant 10 days of COVID leave for employees and 10 days of COVID leave for new hires. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. Mr. Oberg said that the Board may want to consider allowing the Superintendent to grant additional leave on a case by case basis. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

**NAYS:** None.

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

Mr. Oberg asked that staff bring to the Board a recommendation to grant additional leave if necessary.

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

Ms. Sarah Harris is a parent. She spoke to the Board about making menstrual products available in schools.

Mr. Kayden Wright is a student. He spoke to the Board about transportation issues as it relates to equity. He also spoke in support of public sector collective bargaining.

Ms. Marcella Brideson is a teacher. She spoke about the need for COVID leave for staff.

Mr. Vernon Lehti is president of the Albemarle Education Association. He thanked the Board for voting to grant 10 days of COVID leave for employees. He also spoke about how there are staff who did not benefit from the COVID leave granted from July 1, 2022 until August 25, 2022.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to amend the motion on COVID leave to be retroactive to July 1, 2022. Ms. Callsen **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded votes:**

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

**NAYS:** None.

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

**Agenda Item No. 8.1. Middle School Advisory.**

Mr. Thomas, Ms. Maynard, Mr. Todd, and Ms. Minton provided for the Board's consideration an overview of the middle school advisory curriculum. The purpose of the advisory curriculum is to support the whole child by building skills that empower students to fulfill their highest potential as collaborative, thoughtful, caring, and successful individuals and contributors to their school and larger communities.

Specifically, the goals are as follows:

To ensure that each student is known well at school by at least one adult who is that student's advocate (advisor);

To guarantee that every student belongs to a peer group;

To help every student find ways of being successful within the academic and social options the school provides;

To provide a structure for students to examine their developing identities as well as learn about those different from them;

To support students in finding their voice and listening to the voices of others;

To develop as citizens who make authentic contributions to improve their school community, larger community, and society;

To develop safe and ethical digital citizens;

To have fun.

Through advisory, students will engage in intentional learning experiences that allow them to gain awareness of theirs and others' identities, interests, strengths, passions, and areas of growth; become more aware of issues that are impacting their communities; affirm their own and others' identities, interests, strengths, passions, and areas of growth; and exercise their agency to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their individual goals and improve their communities.

Dr. Acuff asked if this will be imbedded across all courses at the middle school or is it a separate class.

Ms. Le asked about how students find positive role models who mirror students given the current make up of staff.

Mr. Alcaro asked about YPAR and what sixth graders are not getting in seventh grade in the second year.

Ms. Callsen asked about availability of curriculum for parental and community review.

Ms. Callsen asked who will be teaching advisory and when will it be taught.

Ms. Callsen asked is there a way to tie this advisory into the ninth grade Freshman Seminar.

Dr. Acuff asked if there was a more active way to get information out about digital citizenship.

**Agenda Item No. 8.2. Break.**

There was a break from 8:01 p.m. until 8:11 p.m.

**Agenda Item No. 8.3. Social and Emotional Health Services.**

Mr. Nelson, Ms. Gaskins, and Mr. Eberly led the Board in a work session on social and emotional health services provided in Albemarle County Public Schools. Social and Emotional Services are provided in ACPS in a variety of ways. Some services, social and emotional development, are provided each and every day by classroom teachers, guidance counselors, and other support staff. Other needed services are provided by guidance counselors, SEL coaches and outside agencies. During this presentation, school board members will understand the different tiers of social/emotional development student supports as well as how students access services.

Dr. Acuff asked how much do mental health counselors in the schools interact with school nurses.

Mr. Alcaro asked for more information on those who receive services.

Dr. Acuff asked about how the Division works with Region 10.

Ms. Callsen asked about mental health first aid.

Mr. Alcaro asked who provides the training for mental health first aid.

Ms. Callsen and Mr. Oberg asked for clarification on the data collected at Tier 1.

Dr. Acuff asked what staffing looks like in terms of the need.

Dr. Acuff asked does the Division reach out to Hispanic students and families.

Ms. Callsen said that she would like to see the Division get accurate student survey results in order to obtain better data. She also asked for more information on what is in place at schools. Finally, she asked if there were budget needs to maintain and increase mental health first aid in the Division and is there an initiative to maintain these positions or increase positions in the upcoming budget.

Ms. Le asked why CATEC has such a high rate of teacher training for mental health first aid.

Dr. Acuff said that she would like to see schools use differentiated staffing for instructional purposes rather than support staff for mental health counselors.

Dr. Acuff asked if school safety officers were trained in mental health first aid.

Mr. Paige asked if a student displays aggressive behavior does staff have a connection to send to Region 10 for assistance.

Ms. Armond asked if there was a way for students to continue connections made in Freshman Seminar in order to support mental health. She also noted that it would be good if counselors could be more visible to students.

Ms. Le asked if staff has seen an uptick in referrals for mental health assistance since the pandemic.

Dr. Acuff asked if there seemed to still be a stigma with mental health counseling.

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

Dr. Acuff said that she visited the Boys and Girls Club project on the Lamb Lane Campus. She noted that the facility is impressive.

Mr. Paige noted that he visited Red Hill Elementary School, Walton Middle School, and Scottsville Elementary School.

Ms. Osborne said that she attended a professional development session at Mountain View Elementary on helping teachers on talking about race.

Mr. Alcaro said that he attending the Back to School Bash at Ting Pavilion on Saturday. He noted that the event was great.

Ms. Le said that she feels aware of high priority issues that the Division is working on.

Ms. Callsen said that the convocation was a great event.

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

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

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

At 9:16 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk