

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, September 28, 2023

[Meeting Recording](#)

ROLL CALL - UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS - Dr. Kate Acuff, Mr. Jonno Alcaro, Dr. Rebecca Berlin, Ms. Judy Le, Ms. Ellen Osborne, Mr. Graham Paige, and Student Representative, Ms. Opal Kendall

ABSENT - None.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE - Superintendent Matthew Haas; School Board Attorney Ross Holden; Assistant Superintendent Clare Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Patrick McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent Daphne Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Chandra Hayes; Chief Operating Officer Rosalyn Schmitt; Chief Technology Officer Christine Diggs; Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Officer Phil Giaramita; and Clerk of the School Board Christine Thompson.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.0 CLOSED MEETING

At 5:00 p.m., Mr. Alcaro 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 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. The purpose of this item in the closed meeting is to discuss alternative sites for the ACPS Building Services Department.

2. Subsection 7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. The purpose of the item in the closed meeting is to discuss the lawsuit Ibanez, et al v. Albemarle County School Board; and

3. 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. The purpose of the item in the closed meeting is to discuss legal issues in connection with a resolution for public sector collective bargaining and a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Charlottesville City Schools establishing certain operating procedures for CATEC.

Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES

Agenda Item No. 2.1 Call to Order - At 6:30 p.m., Chair Le called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.2 Closed Meeting Certification

At 6:31 p.m., Mr. Alcaro 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. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 2.3 - Roll Call

Agenda Item No. 2.4 - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item No. 2.5 - Moment of Silence

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item No. 3.1 Approval of Agenda - Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **Voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Osborne offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Berlin **seconded the motion**. **Voice vote was called, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

- 4.1 - Approval of Consent Agenda
- 4.2 - Approval of the Minutes
- 4.3 - Architectural Selection for Southern Feeder Pattern Elem School [Info Only]
- 4.4 - High School Center II
- 4.5 - For Information: Policy, Review and Revision
- 4.6 - For Action: Policy, Review and Revision
- 4.7 - Adoption of Middle and High School Instructional Resources
- 4.8 - School-Based Crisis Management Plan
- 4.9 - School Crisis Management Plan
- 4.10 - Exemption from Compulsory Attendance
- 4.11 - Religious Exemption
- 4.12 - Religious Exemption
- 4.13 - Religious Exemption
- 4.14 - Religious Exemption
- 4.15 - Personnel Action
- 4.16 - Personnel Action - Athletic Coaches
- 4.17 - School Naming Review

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.0 ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA - None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Haas shared with the Board that he attended a field hockey game at Monticello High School Tuesday night and was able to witness history being made. Ava Barnes, a Monticello High School Student goalie, recorded her 500th save. According to the Virginia High School League, Ava is the first student in Virginia High School League history to record 500 saves in field hockey.

Dr. Daphne Keiser briefed the Board of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) recommendations and best practices for high impact tutoring and the All-In VA to high academic tutoring divisions. After analyzing the 2023 statewide data, the VDOE highlighted the persistent learning loss that Virginia students continue to experience due to the impact of COVID-19. In response to the 2023 Standards of Learning test results, the VDOE has implemented an evidence-based approach called All In - A high intensity program aimed at helping students accelerate in reading and math. The fully state funded program will provide students with hours of additional instructional time. According to research, high intensity academic tutoring increases achievement, and found an additional three to 15 months of learning, in addition to tutoring also resulted in greater engagement and higher grades across all classes. School divisions have been charged to use the VDOE's playbook. Currently, ACPS division leadership are in the process to determine scheduling and staffing, and the department of instruction will present a detailed draft plan to the board for review and feedback at the next school board meeting.

Dr. Acuff asked if there was any other financing the school division would need to cover. - The funding would come from the state.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sabrina Feggans lives in the Rivanna district. She spoke about policy whereby students who do not live in Albemarle County are not allowed to attend Albemarle County Public Schools. Ms. Feggans does not believe staff should put safety above policy.

Ms. Melissa Brown lives in the White Hall district. Ms. Brown spoke about the need for collective bargaining and asked the board to treat employees as professionals. She asked for contracts that are different for elementary teachers and middle school teachers and high school teachers because they don't all have the same duties. She asked the board to come to a compromise and agreement with the Albemarle Education Association.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.0 SCHOOL BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS – None.**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.0 – SCHOOL DIVISION BUSINESS****Agenda Item No. 9.1 – School Naming Review Update – Karen Waters**

The presentation is for information and approval of recommended next steps. A follow-up presentation regarding the school naming committee's reports and recommendations for the remaining schools will occur later in the first semester. [Presentation](#)

Staff recommendation

Retain the name of Leslie H. Walton Middle School

Additional research needed for Agnor-Hurt Elementary School

Agenda Item No. 9.2 – High School Center II Update – Lindsay Snoddy

The programming for High School Center II is nearing completion. The Center is planned to serve 400 students per day at a size of approximately 60,000 SF. [Update](#)

Dr. Acuff asked if at the same time staff are looking at designing Center II if they are looking at the Academy space within Albemarle High School and coordinating any necessary updates. – Staff have not looked at those rooms specifically, but with the modernization funding, projects were completed this past summer at Western and Albemarle.

Agenda Item No. 9.3 – Summer School Report for 2023 – Daphne Keiser

Staff will provide an overview of the summer school program for the summer of 2023. Staff is considering extending the duration of summer school for 2024. This will require local funding. [Presentation](#)

Dr. Berlin asked when we typically start sharing the summer school dates and times with the community. – During early spring. This year it will be sent out earlier.

Dr. Acuff asked what percentage of students who were invited to participate in the summer program did and were there variations across the schools, particularly the elementary schools. She was pleased to see the Title I school participation increased over

the last year. – The data is available, and staff will get it to the board. The percentage of students that accepted and came is 62% with the national average being 60%.

No. 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 10.1 Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent

Chair Le announced the Center Board and Joint Board meeting are scheduled for October 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Mr. Jonno Alcaro will attend.

Dr. Rebecca Berlin volunteered to work with Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt on work session planning for the year ahead.

Agenda Item No. 10.2 Closed Meeting – None.

Agenda Item No. 10.3 Closed Meeting Certification – None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.0 ADJOURNMENT - At 7:51 p.m., hearing no objections, Chair Le adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chair

Clerk