

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debbie Collins, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ross Holden, School Board Attorney; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Strategic Planning; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Christine Diggs, Chief Technology Officer; Student Representative Elizabeth Albarren; Ms. Jasmine Fernandez, Project Advisor; Ms. Christine Thompson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 5:45 p.m., Ms. Callsen offered a **motion** that the 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 8 for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Ms. Le **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, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

At 6:30 p.m., Ms. Callsen 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: Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Le, Mr. Oberg, Ms. Osborne, Ms. Callsen, Dr. Acuff, and Mr. Paige.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint the following individuals to the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB): Melissa Sabol (Jack Jouett), Brenda Doremus-Daniel (Rio), and Gayle Burt (Samuel Miller). Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint the following individuals to the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC): Jon Bruneau (Jack Jouett), Alexis Mason (Rio), Kurt Burkhart (Rivanna), and Sathish Anabathula (Samuel Miller). Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint the following individuals to the Accountability Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES): Joshua Grizzle (Jack Jouett), Kate Asquith (At-Large), Keith Boisvert (Rio), Rebecca Duff (Rivanna), Elliott Rothman (White Hall), Christine Hirsh-Putnam (Scottsville), and Greg Swanberg (Samuel Miller). Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Paige, Chair, called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Paige 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. 1.4. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item. No. 2.1. Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.0. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 For action: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.3 COVID-19 Status Update
- 3.4 For Information: Warehouse Space Lease Renewal
- 3.5 For Information: Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Quitclaim Deed
- 3.6 Personnel Action: Athletic Coaches
- 3.7 Personnel Action
- 3.8 For Information: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.9 Textbook Selection Process for Preschool Curriculum: The Creative Curriculum
- 3.10 Final VDOT Agreement for Use of the Remaining Limited-Access ROW for Fiber Project

Mr. Oberg asked that Item 3.8 specifically Policy IGAI be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as amended. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

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

Policy IGAI: Mr. Oberg said that he would like for staff to the rewriting of the policy. He feels that it can be done better.

Ms. Callsen said that it may be helpful if staff provided a reason for the proposed changes in a policy.

There was Board consensus for staff to look at Policy IGAI and bring back to the Board on the next consent agenda.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Student representative Albarren said it is an honor to talk to our Board, especially during School Board Appreciation Month. It was in 1995 that the National School Board Association declared the first such occasion and I only can say, what took so long? I think it was President John F. Kennedy who said, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education." And here, in Albemarle County, our progress has been in good hands. You have made so many impactful policies and programs possible, starting with where I am here tonight. A student representative on the School Board. As students, we are grateful that in your words, "you have established a direct link between us." We are deeply appreciative for your commitment to all families, that our educators and support staff will know every student.

Tonight, we are going to hear a little bit about how you have made a difference in the lives of our students. The addition of social and emotional counselors in every single one of our schools. If our schools are to fuel the progress of our nation, every student must be ready to learn at their full potential. You have helped to ensure that this will happen for every student in every school. At no time have you been called upon to make more important decisions than you have been during this two-year pandemic. You have kept us safe and you have created learning environments that meet the theme this year of School Board Appreciation Month in Virginia.

Building the Future of Public Education. We see that work going on in the classrooms, hallways, labs, libraries and in the portfolios of every students and it starts right here. In these meetings and through your actions. You are not just building the Future of Public Education, you are leading us to a Better Future, a more inclusive one, a more exciting one, a more rewarding one. And it starts with supporting the most basic and important needs of students—their social and emotional well-being, their confidence, their readiness to learn. On this note, it is my privilege to introduce Miles Nelson, from our Student Services department, who will introduce you to some of the remarkable professionals you have put into our schools.

Mr. Nelson thanked the Board for their work. He then introduced Alanah Horning, Bre Lundgren, Summer Puopolo, and Juliannah Vining. Staff gave an overview of the impactful social emotional work they do in the schools. The Board asked that they receive a longer presentation on the work of the social and emotional counselors in the schools.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Haas thanked the Social Emotional Learning Team for their presentation. He reiterated how impactful and important their work is in our schools.

Dr. Haas also thanked the following principals for attending the meeting: Stephanie Carter, CATEC; Chad Ratliff, Community Lab School; Nancy McCullen, Red Hill Elementary School; Josh Walton, Walton Middle School; and Rick Vrhovac, Monticello High School.

Dr. Haas shared with the Board that he visited with Mr. Bonham at Albemarle High School this week. Based on attendance numbers, staff rallied together and reconfigured the schedule with an intervention period at the beginning of the day. This has reduced tardiness across the board.

Dr. Haas said he attended the Brownsville Chess Club on February 8. It was a wonderful time visiting with the Elementary kids.

Dr. Haas said he had a wonderful time when he attended the Spelling Bee's on Feb 8 & 9 – with winners Lyla Thiede (Mountain View) – 5th grade and Henry Mathewes (Henley)- 8th grade.

Agenda Item No. 6.0. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Dr. McLaughlin provided an update on plans for calendar adjustments. There is now a work day on May 20, with a full day for students. If another day is needed (snow day) March 18 will become a full day as well. In addition, if more time is needed, staff has been looking at how virtual instruction can be used to make up missed instructional hours. All information will be shared in a communication on February 11 to families and staff.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Tracy Betsworth lives in the Rivanna magisterial district. She expressed concern about middle school changes such as deleveling of English and Math classes. She also expressed concern about alternative discipline practices.

Mr. Kirk Bowers lives in the Rivanna magisterial district. He extended his appreciation to the Board for all the great work that has been done over the past years. He would like to see the great work continue.

Mr. Moe Al-Darsani lives in the Scottsville magisterial district. He said that the County has failed to provide consistent transportation. The bus is very late daily or does not show with little to no communication. His child is missing instruction.

Mr. Simon Davidson lives in the Rivanna magisterial district. He expressed concern about the unleveling of classes in middle school next year.

Mr. Christopher Seaman lives in the White Hall magisterial district. He spoke in support of indoor masking in schools along with the other COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Mr. Kellen Squire lives in the Rivanna magisterial district. He expressed his thanks to the Board for their work.

Mr. Tim Hickey lives in the Samuel Miller magisterial district. He thanked those who work in schools for the work they do for our children. He feels the division does well with transparency, autonomy and professionalism in treating staff, and the health and safety of children.

Ms. Amy Keenan-Amago lives in the White Hall magisterial district. She expressed gratitude to the Board and staff for keeping children and staff safe during the pandemic.

Ms. Amanda Alger lives in the Rio magisterial district. She hopes that mental health is considered a top priority for ACPS.

Ms. Paula Gately lives in the Jack Jouett magisterial district and is a teacher. She thanked the Board for their work. She thanked the Board for keeping COVID-19 mitigation strategies in place.

Ms. Laurel Gillette lives in the Samuel Miller magisterial district and is a teacher. She thanked the Board for supporting and recognizing the value of all. She spoke in support of the masking policy.

Ms. Desi Smith is a student who lives in the Jack Jouett magisterial district. She thanked the Board for offering virtual school. She appreciates the teaching of black history and injustice in schools.

Ms. Laura Neu lives in the White Hall magisterial district. She expressed gratitude for the Board's policy on COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Ms. Jared Govan lives in the Jack Jouett magisterial district. He expressed appreciation for the hard and thoughtful efforts of the Board and staff.

Ms. Celeste Chilton lives in the Jack Jouett magisterial district. She supports the masking policy in schools.

Ms. Erin Wise-Ackenbom is a teacher. She is the recipient of social and emotional counseling in her class and it is really good. She also asked that the Board to continue masking in schools.

Mr. Parker Miller is a student. He is happy to be back inside with friends. Thank you for keeping all of us safe and having us wear masks. Thank you for teaching us black history. My teachers are doing a great job.

Dr. Lauren Carter lives in the White Hall magisterial district. She expressed support for the Board and their work. She is grateful for her child's teacher. She is proud of the anti-racism policy and culturally responsive teaching.

Mr. Nick Nacey lives in the White Hall magisterial district. He expressed support for universal masking in schools. We need to be careful with eliminating universal masking when it happens.

Ms. Kristin Smith lives in the Rivanna magisterial district. She expressed concern about unleveling of classes in the middle school. She asked that the Board re-evaluate the restructuring of classes at all levels.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding the Naming of Broadus Wood Elementary School.

Dr. Haas and Ms. Fernandez provided for the Board's consideration the superintendent's recommendation regarding the naming of Broadus Wood Elementary School. The superintendent recommended retaining the school's name, Broadus Wood Elementary, based on the following criteria: 1) Broadus Ira Wood's contributions align with the division's values and the school's guiding principles (He advanced education opportunities for African American and rural students.), and 2) The committee took into consideration all stakeholders' voices, in particular, the votes of alumni and current students. The majority of the students voted to retain the name after learning about Broadus Ira Wood's service and involvement in the community.

Dr. Acuff said that she is amazed with the student engagement at the school with the renaming process.

Mr. Alcaro said that Broadus Wood Elementary is a special school with a wonderful community.

This item will be placed on the next agenda for approval.

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

Dr. Acuff requested that Dr. Haas add a section to his funding request to include the 5-year overview of the Capital needs of our schools.

There was Board consensus for a section on the Capital needs of the division to be added to the Superintendent's funding request.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 8:20 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Paige adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk