

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on August 11, 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, and Dr. Kate Acuff.

ABSENT: Mr. Graham Paige and Mr. David Oberg.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Charmane White, Director of Transportation; Mr. Dan Redding, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mr. Anthony Bassette, Assistant County Attorney; Ms. Anda Armond, Student Representative to the School Board; 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., Ms. Callsen, Vice-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.

Dr. Acuff 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, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg and Mr. Paige

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 3.0. Consent Agenda

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

Dr. Acuff pulled Item 3.4 for discussion. Ms. Le pulled Item 3.5 for discussion.

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda minus Item 3.4 and Item 3.5. Mr. Alcaro **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, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Oberg and Mr. Paige.

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

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

Item 3.4. COVID-19 Update: Dr. Acuff asked how the Division would be addressing the changes from the CDC that were released this afternoon as it relates to COVID. Ms. Schmitt said that staff will be reviewing the information from the CDC tomorrow. The policies and practices will be communicated out next week. Mr. Alcaro asked for any updates to be provided to the Board.

Item 3.5. For Information: Policy Review and Revision: Ms. Le asked about Family Life Education and when the Board would see information about all students together during Family Life Education.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Student Representative Anda Armond said it is an honor for me to introduce this evening's recognition. Often at this meeting, our focus understandably is on numbers. Whether it's budget, enrollment, test scores, the numbers tell us where we are when it comes to performance. Two numbers I would like to highlight are 82 and 26,060. There are 26,060 public high schools in the nation that are surveyed by Niche, the national education assessment organization. Niche uses millions of bits of data to arrive at their findings. 82 is where Western Albemarle's student athlete program is ranked. That places the school in the upper third of the top one percent of all programs in the country. Two other Niche numbers to consider are 1 and 536. Western's student athlete program is first among 536 public high schools in Virginia. Recently, the school's principal, Jenn Sublette, and its athletic director, Steve Heon were notified that for the 15th time, the school will receive the National Guard Cup. This is an honor awarded to the school with the best state-level athletic program in its division. Over the past five years, student athlete teams from Western have won an astounding 32 state championships. To help us understand how this is possible, Kate Pugh and Jordan Stone are with us tonight. Kate teaches upper level Spanish and she also coaches Varsity Girls Cross-Country. Her teams have won two state championships in the past three years and the boy's team, by the way, have won five consecutive state titles. Jordan has starred on the team for four years and by the way, is a student in Kate's Spanish class. I'll mention that in addition to receiving an A-plus for the quality of its athletic programs, Western also received an A-plus from Niche for the quality of their academic programs. Kate and Jordan will share with us the strong link connecting academic and athletic high performance, the lifelong skills students gain from competition and I hope they will offer a little insight into how individual excellence becomes a championship team.

Agenda Item No 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Keiser provided the Board with an update on the New Teacher Academy.

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

Dr. Keiser provided the Board with a hiring update for the Division. The Board asked for an update next week.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with an enrollment update.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Nathan Alderman is a parent. He expressed support for Family Life Education that does not separate students by gender. He also asked that curriculum not be altered for political reasons.

Ms. Lucia Omand is a student. She said that the Board's policy on bus ride length is not fair. Her bus ride to what should have been her new school would have been one hour and 20 minutes when she lives fifteen minutes from another school.

Mr. Kayden Wright is a student. He encouraged the Board to adopt public sector collective bargaining.

Ms. Marcella Brideson is a teacher. She spoke in support of public sector collective bargaining.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Employee Voice.

Dr. Keiser, Mr. Redding, Ms. Lori Beck, and Mr. Derek Frazier provided for the Board's consideration a proposal to increase employee voice within the Division. In May, the School Board directed staff to explore meaningful meet and confer options and other alternatives for mutual interaction between management and staff to be established by School Board Policy to provide staff a resonant voice in the operation of the ACPS. Since that time a Steering Team comprised of teachers, support staff, and administrators has been working to develop a process that will allow for such a structure.

Ms. Le said that she would like to know what other Board members feel the role of the School Board should be in this process. Ms. Callsen said that she feels there needs to be accountability and the role of the School Board needs to be developed and defined.

Mr. Alcaro said that he would like information brought to the Board more than once a year. He also asked how much more time was needed to develop and implement a process for employee voice.

Dr. Acuff asked how many members of the current committee would serve on the future committee.

Ms. Le asked again about the School Board's role in the process. She asked what the current committee sees as the role of the School Board in the process.

Dr. Acuff said that many discussions will feed into the operations area such as budget items.

Mr. Alcaro said that it is important to share where revenues come from and what is fixed in that process.

Ms. Callsen asked how the current committee members were chosen. How will future representatives be chosen?

Ms. Callsen asked how Ms. Beck and Mr. Frazier felt about the ability to speak freely and the current work being done.

Ms. Callsen asked what the role of the Albemarle Education Association has been in the development process.

Ms. Callsen asked about the look of the invitation to participate.

Ms. Callsen asked if there has been follow-up communication about the current process.

Ms. Callsen said that a deadline should be established to get the work started.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Transportation Update.

Ms. Schmitt and Ms. White provided for the Board's consideration a transportation update. The update included the current state of the Transportation Department and plans for the 2022/23 school year.

Ms. Le asked about the training process for an individual who may be interested in being a bus driver.

Dr. Acuff asked if the Division asked parents to drive their children to school again this year given the shortage of bus drivers.

Mr. Alcaro asked about walk zones for students. He asked if parents walk students to schools and about the safety of the walking routes.

Dr. Acuff said that she knew the Division had a grant for two electric buses. She asked about the funding for the additional two electric buses.

Ms. Callsen said that she is interested in the 8-hour dual job and asked about what it may look like for an employee.

Ms. Callsen asked if you can drive your own children.

Ms. Callsen asked about bus ride times and if there are guidelines for route designs.

Ms. Osborne asked if there was a way to “spread the pain out” when it comes to busses arriving late at school. For instance, is there a way to alternate which routes/busses that are late so the same students are not losing instructional time daily.

Ms. Callsen asked about researching variable school schedules since there is a driver shortage.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. School Board Retreat Update.

Dr. Acuff provided the Board with an overview of the work that she and Ms. Callsen have been working on in preparation for the School Board Retreat on December 9, 2022.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 8:11 p.m., hearing no objections, Ms. Callsen adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk