

MINUTES

WORK SESSION OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD Thursday, October 26, 2023

A work session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on October 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Albemarle County Office Building – 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA [Meeting Recording](#)

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Kate Acuff, Mr. Jonathan 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 Dr. Matthew Haas, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Clare Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Patrick McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Daphne Keiser; Chief Operating Officer Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt; School Board Attorney Mr. Ross Holden; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chandra Hayes; Chief Technology Officer Dr. Christine Diggs; Public Affairs and Communications Officer Mr. Phil Giaramita; Director of Professional Development Ms. Megan Wood; Director of Instruction Dr. Craig Dommer; Director of Special Projects and Program Evaluation Ms. Jamie Gellner; and Clerk of the School Board Ms. Christine Thompson.

Agenda Item No. 1.0 CLOSED MEETING

At 5:15 p.m., Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** 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

1. 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. The purpose of this item in the closed meeting is to conduct a hearing on the Superintendent's petition for revocation of the license issued by the Virginia Board of Education for former Employee A; and
2. 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 the interim appointment to the School Board and a resolution for public sector collective bargaining. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dr. Berlin*.

Motion carried by a 5:0:1 vote.

*Dr. Berlin arrived shortly after the closed meeting began.

2.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES

Agenda Item NO. 2.1 CLOSED MEETING CERTIFICATION

At 6:30 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. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** that the Albemarle County School Board recommend to the Virginia Department of Education that Employee A, have their teaching license revoked. Mr. Paige seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 2.2 Call to Order

At 6:32 p.m., Ms. Le called the meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item No. 2.4 Moment of Silence

Agenda Item No. 3.0 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: Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Berlin, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Le.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried by a 6:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda, pulling item 4.4 for review at the November 9, 2023, meeting. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Dr. Berlin, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, 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 Personnel Action
- 4.4 Proposed FY 25 CIP Request
- 4.5 For Information: Policy Review and Revision
- 4.6 For Information: 2024 Legislative Agenda

Agenda Item No. 5.0 ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.4 Proposed FY 25 CIP Request – for review at the November 9, 2023, meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Haas shared with the Board a new program that grew out of our mission statement, *"We will know every student"*. In his weekly *Check In*, Dr. Haas names an ACPS student and asks staff to email Dr. Irizarry to state how they know the student. As a next step, the first staff member to email Dr. Irizarry will meet with the student and ask what his or her favorite book is, and the front office will order it for the staff member to gift to the student. This has been a popular and fun program for both staff and students.

Agenda Item No. 7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul McArtor lives in the Scottsville Magisterial District. He spoke to the School Board about the Superintendent's recent amendment to his contract. He stated that he didn't believe the board listened to public comments, doesn't do their due diligence, and should have more focus groups and listen to them.

Agenda Item No. 8.0 SCHOOL BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS - None

Agenda Item No. 9.0 SCHOOL DIVISION WORK SESSION

Agenda Item No. 9.1 Tiered Supports for ACPS

Agenda Item No. 9.2 Bellwether Updates

Staff provided updates to four Bellwether projects to include the Framework for Adult Learning, Instructional Coaching, Quarterly Assessments, and Algebra 1 updates. Afterwards, there was a work session on Theory of Change where a review of Bellwether's recommendation, a review of what a Theory of Change "is," and staff then went through a protocol to collect feedback about the ACPS Theory of Change from the Board.

Bellwether Themes - [Pre-reads](#)
Protocol & Research - [Work Session Material](#)

Coming out of the work session, the Board discussed some of their answers to the following questions:

- 1) As a School Board member, what are the most important things that I can do to help students achieve in ACPS?
 - a. Setting bold expectations and having accountability and recognition for achieving them.
 - b. Achieving milestones and creating sustainability of things that work
 - c. Accountability for follow through on goals.
 - d. A simple vision that can be communicated in ways that stakeholders would understand.
 - e. Being present in the work.
 - f. Role of oversight and setting expectations.
 - g. Advocacy both to the community and to our colleagues on the Board of Supervisors.
 - h. Working hard to get the funding in place so we can do what we need to do, both in terms of creating learning spaces, and supporting the staffing that we need to get the work done.
 - i. Increasing the transparency of our decision making.
 - j. Having more robust discussions about funding.

- 2) What do I need from my Superintendent (and central office) to make this happen?
 - a. Open access for the board and staff to have interactions.
 - b. Consistent communication and follow through.
 - c. Central staff supports all staff.

- 3) How can I engage my magisterial district stakeholders to best represent the students in my district?
 - a. Taking every opportunity to have conversations with students and to listen deeply to what they're talking about and what concerns them.
 - b. Offering information, when appropriate, that would empower them.
 - c. Make it easy for parents or stakeholders, to engage.
 - d. Inviting parents into the schools – let them know they are welcome.
 - e. Engaging the broader community, and the alumni.
 - f. Engage in some of the work that is going on in schools, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, college day, etc. Tapping into some of that great work and being a part of some of it. Understand it and represent and celebrate students who are.
 - g. Hear and represent all our students.

Agenda Item No. 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 10.1 Other Business by Board Members and/or Superintendent – None

Agenda Item No. 10.2 Closed Meeting – None.

Agenda Item No. 10.3 Closed Meeting Certification – None.

Agenda Item No. 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., hearing no objections, Ms. Le adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chair

Clerk