

An Organizational Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Ms. Ellen Osborne; Mr. David Oberg (arrived at 6:30 p.m.); Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Jonathan Alcaro; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; and Ms. Judy Le.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Matthew Haas, Superintendent; Ms. Debora Collins, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Clare Keiser, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Sheila Hoopman, Capital Projects Manager; Ms. Maya Kumazawa, Director of Planning and Budget; Ms. Michele Castner, Director of Elementary Education; and Mrs. Christine Thompson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:16 p.m., Mr. Paige 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. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Oberg absent.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Oberg.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Oberg abstained because he did not attend the closed meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order

At 6:31 p.m., Dr. Haas called the Albemarle County School Board to order. He welcomed Judy Le and Ellen Osborne to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence

Agenda Item No. 1.6. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to open nominations for the 2020 School Board Chair. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mr. Paige nominated Mr. Alcaro for School Board Chair. The nomination for Mr. Alcaro to serve as the School Board Chair passed unanimously.

Mr. Alcaro thanked the Board for their confidence in him.

Mr. Alcaro asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Oberg nominated Mr. Paige for Vice-Chair. Ms. Callsen seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to reappoint Jennifer Johnston as Clerk of the School Board. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 1.7. Establishment of Meeting Time, Date and Place. (approved after the consent agenda)

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to approve the meeting calendar. Dr. Acuff seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 1.8. Appointments to PREP and CATEC Boards/Appointments to Other Boards and Committees.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Mr. Paige to serve as the representative to the PREP Board. Ms. Le seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg nominated Ms. Le to serve as the alternate on the PREP Board. Mr. Paige seconded the nomination, and the nomination passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Dr. Acuff to serve a three year term on the CATEC Board. Ms. Callsen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Osborne to serve on the CATEC Board for one year completing the term of Mr. Alcaro. Dr. Acuff seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Dr. Acuff and Mr. Alcaro to serve on the CIP Advisory Board. Ms. Le seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Osborne to the Audit Committee. Mr. Paige seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Mr. Paige to serve on the Public Education Foundation Board. Ms. Le seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Callsen to serve on the School Board Discipline Committee. Dr. Acuff seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mr. Paige and Mr. Oberg serve on this committee as well.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Callsen and Mr. Alcaro to the Legislative Committee. Dr. Acuff seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Osborne to serve on the TJACEP Board. Dr. Acuff seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Dr. Acuff offered a motion to appoint Mr. Oberg to serve on the School Board Orientation Committee. Mr. Paige seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Oberg offered a motion to appoint Ms. Le and Dr. Acuff to the Communications Committee. Mr. Paige seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Approval of the Agenda.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Le **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 For Information – Learning Resources Selection and Adoption
- 3.3 Religious Exemption
- 3.4 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 3.5 Personnel Action
- 3.6 Superintendent’s Designee to Attend Board Meetings in His Absence
- 3.7 Boys and Girls Club New Facility Design

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Acuff **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Ms. Le said that it was nearly a year ago, on January 24, 2019 to be exact, that this Board adopted a new policy for the naming or renaming of schools. One major improvement was the addition of our four school division values as part of the criteria—young people, excellence, respect and community.

By direction of this Board, all schools named for individuals were to be reviewed and tonight, we’re reached the conclusion of the first school to complete this process - Cale Elementary School.

We’re going to hear from the Chair of the Cale Advisory Committee in a moment regarding the new name being recommended for the school.

As this process unfolded, one of the most extraordinary developments was that our four values not only governed the recommendation of a name but it they were modeled by the process, by the Cale school community itself. Teachers, parents and students came together with enthusiasm and engagement to reach a goal our superintendent described as relatively unique in public education—the opportunity to name their own school. Young people were at the center, with more than 1,000 name suggestions--300 from a student suggestion box and another 800 from a school survey. And, it was a valuable learning opportunity. Students gained insight into respect for one another’s views and the strength of a community coming together. So, we had young people, respect and community. Excellence came from the result. The advisory committee quickly made the school’s choice its unanimous choice as well. And they did that well ahead of schedule. The explanation from the advisory committee chair was “The school community has spoken.” There was nothing else to say.

This first school wide experience with our new policy was the best, as Principal Cyndi Wells would say about her school. It should be a model for all future school renaming reviews.

She thanked the Cale Advisory Committee Chair, Mr. Dennis Rooker and all committee members for their outstanding service and ask Mr. Rooker to share with us the committee’s recommendation and his thoughts about this process. Following Mr. Rooker, Anna Balazs will join us with a special guest to tell us a little bit more about what made this experience so special for students.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements. None.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Aubrey Israel Hampton welcomed the new board members. She asked that the Board consider removing Columbus Day, George Washington's Birthday, and Yorktown Victory Day from the School Division Calendar.

Ms. Amanda Moxham is a parent. She spoke to the Board about research she has been doing to make meetings a safe and inclusive such as providing childcare and snacks. She encouraged the Board to look at more than one school for renaming at a time.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Board Member Reports. None.**Agenda Item No. 7.2. School Board/Superintendent Business.**

Mr. Alcaro asked that the next agenda include a discussion on the process for getting a student representative on the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. FY 2018/2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Josh Roller of Robinson, Farmer and Cox provided for the Board's consideration a review of the FY2018.2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Albemarle County operates under the County Executive form of government, one of two such counties in the Commonwealth. With this particular form of government, the School Division is considered a component unit of the overall County. Therefore, each year a single audit is completed that encompasses the financials of all aspects of County operations, including our School Division. Our auditor will present the completed CAFR and provide some highlights of the document and the overall financial condition of the entire organization.

The Board received the report for information.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Red Hill Addition Design Development.

Ms. Hoopman and Mr. Jim Henderson of Mosley Architects presented for the Board's consideration the Red Hill Elementary design development. Per School Board policy, the Board must approve the schematic and design development plans of major construction projects. A schematic design of the Red Hill Addition and Renovation was approved on October 10, 2019. Attached are the proposed design development plans for the School Board's review.

On April 25th 2019, the School Board elected to move forward with Phase II of the Red Hill Addition & Renovation project, scheduled to be complete and occupied in August 2021. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2016/17. Phase 2 of the Red Hill upgrades has a total budget of \$5.3M. The addition will add 6,300 square feet, comprised of a new gymnasium and support spaces such as staff offices and storage space. The current gym at Red Hill will be renovated and re-purposed into a new media center. Site work will include additional parking and outdoor learning areas. Existing spaces to be renovated include the cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways, and kitchen equipment. Architectural firm Mosely Architects were selected in July to design the addition. Attached is the proposed design development plan for the Board's consideration.

Funding for the Red Hill Addition & Renovations, including design funding, is part of the 2019/2020 Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Paige asked about enhancing the lighting in the gym area. He also asked if there would be access to the gym from the parking lot area.

Dr. Acuff asked in the former media space, are the dividers between the classroom movable to make the space flexible. She also asked if there was already a stage in the school either in the old gym or cafeteria.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break.

The Board did not take a break.

Agenda Item. No. 8.4. 2016 Bond Referendum Update. (Heard after the scheduled break.)

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an update on the 2016 approved bond referendum projects. In November 2016, Albemarle County voters approved a referendum to issue general obligation bonds to fund school construction projects. The four key projects were School Security Improvements, the Woodbrook Addition, Learning Space Modernization Program, and the Western Albemarle Science Lab Addition.

Dr. Acuff asked what was the budgeted amount for each of the K-2 classrooms.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. For Information: Draft School Year Calendar for 2020/2021. (Heard prior to the scheduled break.)

Ms. Castner shared for the Board's consideration the draft school year calendar for 2020/2021. This calendar is the result of two joint City/County Calendar Committee meetings in November and December. The committee is comprised of teachers, AEA leadership, parents, and school and central office administrators.

A first draft of the calendar along with a survey was posted to the public in November. Survey participants were asked to rank their satisfaction with the proposed calendar on a scale of one to five with one indicating "very dissatisfied" and five indicating "very satisfied." A total of 1200 responses were received with 92.2% of respondents scoring their satisfaction with the calendar at a score of three or higher. In addition to the ranking scale, survey participants were invited to give open suggestions for improvements to the calendar. Nearly twelve hundred comments were received. The most common themes that emerged from the written comments were satisfaction with the calendar draft, half-days being a challenge for parents, and the start of the school year seems to early. Respondents appreciate the length of winter break, the various clustered breaks, the PD and flex days. Respondents requested Federal Holidays off (ex. Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11, 2020), George Washington's birthday (Monday, February 15, 2021)).

Survey results are attached. A link to the calendar development page can be found here.

Based on feedback from our recent calendar survey, we have made the following changes to the initial draft of the 2020-21 school year calendar:

- We moved the school-based PD day from Monday, March 1, to Monday, February 15, in observance of George Washington's birthday (a Virginia state holiday); and
- We moved the teacher workday from Tuesday, March 2, to Monday, March 1.

Ms. Callsen asked if staff worked with Charlottesville City Schools in the development of the calendar.

Mr. Paige asked if schools would be in session on election day.

This item will come back to the Board at the next meeting for approval.

Agenda Item No. 8.6. FY 2020/21 Budget Development Updates.

Ms. Kumazawa provided for the Board's consideration updates regarding the development of the FY 2020/21 School Fund budget, including the incorporation of the Governor's Proposed budget funding for ACPS.

Mr. Alcaro asked if local government had any state funded positions.

Dr. Acuff asked if the Board approved at 2% pay increase last year. She asked for staff to provide information on the last five year of raises provided to staff.

Ms. Le asked how many staff members are impacted by the increase in minimum wage.

Dr. Acuff asked when the University of Virginia's minimum wage goes in to affect.

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

Mr. Alcaro asked if the Board would like to discuss the renaming of Cale Elementary School or if they would like for the information to be brought to the next meeting.

Dr. Acuff said that the Board did not ask for a name change but for a review of the name to see if it fit with the current values of the Division.

Mr. Paige said that Mountain View is a great name for the school.

Ms. Le said that she appreciated the inclusivity in the process for the renaming.

There was Board consensus to place the renaming on the next consent agenda for approval.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 8:10 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Alcaro adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk