

A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on April 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Jonno Alcaro; Mr. Stephen Koleszar (6:05 p.m.); Mr. Graham Paige; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. David Oberg; and Mr. Jason Buyaki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Matthew Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Debbie Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Kevin Kirst, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Director of Planning and Budget; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk to the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Alcaro 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 to discuss and consider: Prospective appointments to the Long Range Planning Committee, and the performance and assignment of administrative personnel; subsection 3 to discuss and consider: Possible lease of property owned by another party, the acquisition of which would be for a public purpose and the discussion of which in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and subsection 7 to discuss and consider: Consultation with legal counsel regarding actual litigation pending on a contract matter; such discussion in open session would adversely affect the negotiating or litigation posture of the Board. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Koleszar absent.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. 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. Buyaki **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Callsen, Mr. Oberg, Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Paige, and Mr. Koleszar.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Alcaro offered a motion to authorize Albemarle County School Board Chairwoman Acuff to execute the settlement agreement with Republic Franklin Insurance Company. Mr. Buyaki seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Dr. Acuff, Chairman, called the meeting back 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.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Carl D. Perkins Local Plan for Career and Technical Education
- 3.3 Algebra Readiness Grant FY17/18
- 3.4 Personnel Action
- 3.5 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 3.6 Religious Exemption

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Oberg **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.**

Mr. Oberg said that this evening, we are recognizing three extraordinary accomplishments. During the morning of March 27, our central office received a very unusual telephone call. It was from a grandfather who wanted us to know that the day before, one of our employees saved the life of his grandchild during a medical emergency. Our school nurse at Scottsville Elementary School did exactly what she was trained to do in a time of crisis. The child was unresponsive and in an obvious condition of stress. Rather than simply have the child lie down for a few minutes, the nurse immediately called 911 and accompanied the student to the hospital, where she met the parents. The child had a blood clot removed from his brain and, thankfully, is well on the road to recovery. The Chief of Pediatric Neurology at UVA was unequivocal—the calm, immediate and perceptive actions of our nurse saved the life of this young child. Tonight we have the privilege of saying thank you to that medical professional—Vivian Fewell. Vivian, now in her 20th year of service as a nurse at Scottsville, is joined this evening by principal, Sharon Amato-Wilcox.

Also with us this evening are two remarkable students whose accomplishments at the 37th annual Piedmont Regional Science Fair were mind boggling. Let's start with the titles of their award-winning works. Best in Show was Jee-Ho Kim for her project, "Examining Manufactured Esterification, Homemade Esterification and Non-Corroding Coating as Viable Solutions to Fatberg Formation." We also have with us, the runner-up to Best in Show, Mriganka Mandal, whose project was "MRI-Based Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Risk Assessment Aid Using Machine Learning." I know both of these projects have something to do with solving significant environmental, health and cost challenges not only in the U.S. but around the world. Here to translate for us are Jee-Ho and Mriganka. Both will be competing at the state science fair this weekend in Roanoke. As a Best in Show winner, Jee-Ho also automatically has qualified for the International Science Fair in Pittsburgh next month. I would like to ask Jee-Ho and Mriganka to join us at the podium to share with us, some information about their incredible public service projects and their potential benefits.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Ms. Collins provided the Board with information on the launch of the division's community speaker's series.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Scott Williams is a Physical Education teacher in Albemarle County. He runs a summer camp. He asked that the Board reconsider the rental rate increase for facility usage. The increase makes it impossible to run these camps in schools because fees to attend the camps are increasing.

Mr. Rojo Mata is an Albemarle County parent. He said that the Board needs to consider building another elementary school in the Pantops area.

Mr. Julian Waters is a resident of Albemarle County. He encouraged the Board to consider the comments made by Mr. Williams. He also spoke to the Board about the Bond Referendum projects.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Dr. Moran said that she attended the Jack Jouett Middle School faculty meeting. At the meeting there was a panel of 18 AVID students who shared their stories about what AVID has done in their lives.

Ms. Collins noted that the division has received a Title IV grant. The funds will be put into the Title II grant, which was previously reduced.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Board Member Reports. (Heard prior to Public Comment)

Mr. Koleszar said that he and Ms. Callsen attended the National School Boards Association Conference. He shared some information with the Board on sessions that he attended.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report.

Mr. Kirst and Ms. Jennifer Schaffer, chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee, provided the Board's consideration the Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report. The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) submits an annual report and recommendations regarding the needs they have identified that relate to the education of children with disabilities. The SEAC reports these needs to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board.

Any recommendations made by the Special Education Advisory Committee that have fiscal implications would be pursued and developed based on direction of the School Board. These initiatives or a redirection of resources would be brought forward through the budget initiative procedures established during the development of the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school budget.

We are fortunate to have a talented, passionate Special Education community in Albemarle County. While our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is grateful for the tireless commitment of our Special Education faculty and staff, we have identified several areas worthy of attention in order to best support and serve our students.

1. Extend Professional Development on Special Education to All Teachers: Special Education students occupy many different educational settings over the course of their school day. We continue to advocate for providing professional development time to general education teachers, Specials teachers, and after-school program supervisors that will help to support them in the time they spend with special needs students. We would like to see a Special Education Orientation offered to all teachers and staff during the early part of each school year. This will provide faculty with information about the Special Education evaluation process and awareness of available support services. Additionally, bringing in Special Education teachers and staff to provide professional development on topics that benefit ALL students (Dyslexia Awareness, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, etc.) provides insight into challenges of the Special Education student population and strengthens connections between general education teachers and Special Education faculty. We feel that our Special Education students are best served when general education teachers are knowledgeable about support services and empowered to consult with specialists, thereby creating a collaborative team approach for every student.

2. Address the Special Education Achievement Gap: The Special Education Performance Report of June 2017 indicates an ongoing discrepancy between English/reading proficiency and math proficiency between Special Education students in our county and state targets - 42% vs. >66% and 42% vs. >65%, respectively. It should be noted that our county proficiency rates have improved (and the state targets increased) compared to the previous year. After delving deeply into some of the complexities of this topic, we also acknowledge that the importance of this statistic is perhaps less about the actual number and more about keeping a spotlight on which populations in our community are at greatest risk and most in need of support. We are grateful for the work of the Equity and Diversity Committee and our Special Education Department in researching and teasing apart the risk factors that feed into these disparities. Reducing disproportionate suspensions for Special Education students, prioritizing

early literacy, and ensuring consistency in application of Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) across the county are some meaningful areas of focus.

3. Promote Social Learning for All Special Education Students: We continue to support the implementation of a social learning curriculum for all Special Education students. Currently, Skills Streaming is incorporated into the B.A.S.E. classrooms, and some schools have embraced the Responsive Classroom model. Social skills competency is critical for success academically, in relationships, and in the workplace; and yet, many Special Education students struggle in this area. Since only a fraction of our special needs students access the B.A.S.E. classrooms, we recommend that a social learning curriculum be included in ALL school classrooms. Evidence suggests that broad implementation of social skills programs in schools leads to decreased incidences of bullying, decreased disciplinary referrals, and improved academic achievement.

4. Expand the Autism B.A.S.E., Behavioral B.A.S.E., and Curriculum B.A.S.E. Programs: The B.A.S.E. concept (Building Appropriate Supports with Evidence) was developed initially for students with Autism, to provide them with dedicated space to focus on their individual needs – specialized instruction, accommodations, or crisis intervention. This model has grown over the years and been modified for children with behavioral or learning challenges. We feel this successful model should be continued and expanded where needs are identified. Currently, we feel that a B-B.A.S.E. classroom should be added to serve the Northern Feeder Pattern. We would also like to see options that would allow students to access B.A.S.E. classrooms in different schools if that resource, or space, is not available in their own.

5. Create Special Education Orientation to Improve Parent Involvement: Our committee continues to see a need for better communication with and involvement of families in the Special Education process with their children. We believe that the journey from initial evaluation to negotiation and delivery of services is most productive when all parties are well informed. From that point, parents, teachers, and administrators can focus more efficiently on meeting the needs of each child. We recommend developing orientation seminars for families that might be new to the Special Education process, or those in need of review. The Director of Special Education, Kevin Kirst, will work to develop a basic Special Education Overview curriculum that can be presented in several locations in the county at the start of each school year. We recommend that language interpreter assistance be made available at these presentations, if possible, when requested.

The Special Education Advisory Committee appreciates the consideration of these recommendations in discussion of funding priorities and programming for the next academic year.

Mr. Koleszar noted that we need to continue promoting social learning for all students.

Mr. Alcaro asked if there was no B-based classroom in the northern feeder pattern.

Mr. Oberg said that he would like to see an orientation for the entire community.

Ms. Callsen asked how the division report compares to other school divisions. She also asked about minority data for special education.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Special Education Annual Plan.

Mr. Kirst provided for the Board's consideration the Special Education Annual Plan. Under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), the IDEA Federal Regulations, and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, local educational agencies are required to submit an annual plan and application for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities in order to secure Federal funds. Albemarle County Public Schools must ensure that its policies and procedures are consistent with the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs in Virginia, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and corresponding Federal Regulations. The Annual Plan consist of the following components:

1. The Annual Plan document, that includes the applications for Section 611 Flow-Through Grant (K-12) and the Section 619 Early Childhood Special Education (PK) Grant.

2. The Part B Set Aside Calculation and Plan is included. It outlines how a portion of the Federal funding was calculated, developed with consultation from private schools and parents and the resulting implementation plan. These funds are used to support children eligible for special education services that are unilaterally placed by their parents in home or private school programs located in Albemarle County.

The approved version of the Annual Plan is expected to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education on or before May 11, 2018.

This plan was reviewed, as required by Virginia Regulations, by the Special Education Advisory Committee on March 13, 2018.

Mr. Paige asked what do the provisions for jail services entail. He also asked how many of our special education students are enrolled in private schools.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Update on Construction Bids for Phase Two of Bond Referendum Projects.

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an update on construction bids for phase two of bond referendum projects. We would like to provide an update on the construction bids received for phase two of the 2016 bond referendum project.

The projects include:

Security Projects: Henley and Murray High School;

Additions: Western Albemarle High School Science Addition;

Learning Space Modernization: AHS Classrooms, WAHS Classrooms, Middle School Science Labs, Classroom furniture, Middle School Classrooms, AHS Science Labs, Middle School Media Centers and Daylighting improvements.

Dr. Acuff asked if there was signage at each referendum project thanking the community for support and indicating that the project was a referendum project.

Mr. Oberg asked if there was a completion date for the Henley Middle School controlled entrance.

Mr. Koleszar feels that there are more important items regarding student safety than controlled entrances.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. FY 2018/2019 Budget Update.

Ms. Schmitt provided for the Board's consideration an update on the FY 2018/2019 budget. The most up-to-date information will be provided during the meeting. Additional local funding has been proposed and state funding is still under discussion. Both local government and school staff recommend passing a school budget using the best available numbers by the April 26 meeting to issue teacher contracts and move forward with financial operations for next school year. Staff believes that the budget may be addressed in a single meeting on April 26. Local funding has increased. Staff may also recommend the use of fund balance over a 2-year period to offset the 2-year impact of the composite index. Other strategies may be presented as well.

Dr. Acuff asked about health care savings.

Mr. Oberg said that the Board made a commitment to Scottville and the Yancey parents. He has a tough time not having it included in the CIP budget. He also noted that there are many new developments going up in Crozet, and if the Board decides to wait on an addition at Crozet there are going to be issues.

Mr. Alcaro asked if a referendum is needed or is there another means to get to where the division needs to be.

Mr. Koleszar said that we should aggressively build while the bidding climate is favorable.

Dr. Acuff said that the approval of a referendum does not commit the money in that year. It is up to the governing body as to when and if that money is provided for the projects.

Mr. Oberg noted that he feels that a referendum should not be needed in order to take care of every day ways of doing business.

Mr. Paige asked what is included in Phase II of the Red Hill project.

Dr. Acuff said that she is in favor of advocating for the division's needs.

Mr. Koleszar said that the community is committed to providing a good education.

There was Board consensus for the chair to prepare a memo to the Board of Supervisors advocating for full funding of the School Division's original CIP request.

There was Board consensus for the board to cancel the April 19, 2018 tentatively scheduled meeting.

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

Mr. Koleszar said that the Thomas Jefferson Adult Continuing Education committee met. At the end of the year, a report will be provided on how many Albemarle County residents participated in the program and what the completion rate was for those students. There was also a discussion on how to get more participation in the program. It was suggested that they would pay for a mailing to all of Albemarle County's dropouts over the last ten years if the division would address and mail the postcards in order to eliminate FERPA issues. Is this possible?

Mr. Alcaro asked if the division had a good database with this information.

Mr. Buyaki asked about the legality of the request.

There was Board consensus for staff to provide an estimate of time and cost of the 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 8:14 p.m., hearing no objections, Dr. Acuff adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk