

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on August 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., Media Center, Albemarle High School, 2775 Hydraulic Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

PRESENT: Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Dave Oberg; Mr. Jason Buyaki; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; and Mrs. Pamela Moynihan.

ABSENT: Mr. Jonno Alcaro.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Matt Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Rosalyn Schmitt, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning; Ms. Debbie Collins, Executive Director of Student Learning; Mr. John Blair, Deputy County Attorney; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk of the 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., Dr. Acuff, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Minutes
- 3.3 For Action: Crisis Plan Certifications
- 3.4 Donations and Reimbursements to School Division FY16 – 4th Quarter
- 3.5 Personnel Action – Athletic Coaches
- 3.6 Personnel Action
- 3.7 For Information: Policy Review and Revision
- 3.8 Religious Exemption
- 3.9 Religious Exemption

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Mr. Tistadt provided the Board with an update on enrollment. Enrollment is at 13,622, which is a slight decrease from projections.

Ms. Collins provided the Board with an update on the professional development that took place over the summer along with an update on summer enrichment activities for students.

Mr. Blair introduced Ms. Amanda Farley as the new Senior Assistant County Attorney. Ms. Farley will now be representing the School Division. Dr. Moran then thanked Mr. Blair for his work with the School Division.

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

Dr. Moran noted that opening day of school was smooth. Dr. Haas noted that executive cabinet members have a system of visiting schools during the first week and then report back if there were any issues needing to be addressed.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Awareness and Education Plan for General Obligation Bond Referendum.

Ms. Lee Caitlin, Assistant County Executive for Public Relations, said that during discussions regarding the proposed General Obligation Bond Referendum, the Board of Supervisors and School Board underscored the importance of clearly explaining to County voters both the upcoming bond referendum process, and the specific projects to be included in the referendum. During the July 6, 2016 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved the referendum question and adopted a resolution to request a special election to conduct the referendum. At that time, staff noted that they would bring a draft public awareness and education plan, including estimated budget impacts, to the Board of Supervisors for discussion at the August 3 Board meeting.

Virginia Code § 24.2-687 authorizes a local governing body to provide for the preparation and printing of an explanation for each referendum question to be submitted to the voters of the locality to be distributed at the polling places on the day of the referendum election. The following expenditures are permissible and form the basis of the draft public awareness and education plan that has been developed by a staff team from the School Division and Local Government:

- The County Attorney is required to prepare any explanation of the referendum. The explanation is required to contain the ballot question and a statement of not more than 500 words, is to be written in "Plain English," using non-technical, readily understandable language and common everyday terms, is to be "neutral," and may not present arguments by either proponents or opponents of the referendum. Because the referendum question involves the issuance of bonds by the County, the explanation is required to state the amount of the proposed bonds and the uses of the bond proceeds, and the County is required to provide for the printed explanation.
- The Board is permitted, at its discretion, to have the explanation published by paid advertisement in a newspaper with general circulation in Albemarle County. This advertisement can be published one or more times preceding the referendum.
- Virginia Code § 24.2-687 also permits the County to prepare and distribute other neutral materials about the referendum, as long as the materials do not advocate the passage or defeat of the referendum. In 2003, the Virginia Attorney General issued an opinion regarding the extent of a county's ability to disseminate neutral information about a bond referendum and the prohibited expenditure of public funds for advocacy.

Given the foregoing guidelines, staff has developed a draft public awareness and education plan that combines the use of existing local government and school division communications channels with additional expenditures permissible under Virginia Code § 24.2-687 to ensure that voters are aware of and fully informed about the upcoming general obligation bond referendum process and the specific projects that have been identified for this funding mechanism.

Specific objectives have been identified as follows:

- Encourage maximum participation from County voters
- Provide neutral, non-advocacy materials that explain the bond referendum process and the specific projects proposed for financing

- Communicate potential fiscal impacts to taxpayers
- Respond accurately and in a timely fashion to inquiries from the public
- Maximize the use of existing engagement and communication channels
- Ensure a consistent message and a broad-based and inclusive Plan

On August 3, 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved a total budget for the Plan of \$42,000 to be split as follows: Schools 40%, Local Government 40%, and Registrar's Office 20%. As a result, the total budget impact to the Schools is \$16,800. Budget amounts for the Plan's major elements have been identified as follows:

Advance Voter Awareness/Educational Materials - Mailing to registered voters, including fact sheet and postage (approximately 48,000) - \$25,000 - Printing of additional fact sheets/brochures (approximately 15,000) - \$2,000 - Advertising (two rounds of paid media advertising to coincide with voting deadlines plus public meeting schedule) - \$10,000 - Publication of required legal notice of the election on the referendum in a newspaper of general circulation (at least one time) - \$1,000.

Polling Location Materials - Neutral referendum explanation hand-outs (approximately 60,000, assuming 1 per voter at 80% turnout rate) - \$2,000 - Neutral referendum posters (approximately 100, assuming 2 posters for each polling location and 1 in each school) - \$2,000

Total Budget Impact - \$42,000 with costs anticipated to be shared between the School Division (40%), Local Government (40%), and the Registrar's Office (20%) Staff Time - Implementation of this campaign will require staff time from the Community Engagement Office and the School Division, along with some support from the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Facilities and Environmental Services. It is expected that those tasks will be accomplished within the regular ongoing responsibilities of involved staff and will not require additional resources.

Staff recommended that the funds come from the School Board reserve with a plan to replenish the reserve from fund balance as part of the year-end budget process. The item will be placed on the September business meeting for approval.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. FY18-27 Capital Improvements Program Request.

Ms. Schmitt said that the process to prepare Albemarle County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) starts in September. The County's CIP review process is a biannual process. This is an amendment year, so new project requests will be limited and their timing needs to be justified. Project requests from all submitting entities will be reviewed and prioritized by the Technical Review Committee and the Oversight Committee in the fall before a recommendation is made to the Board of Supervisors. In preparation, staff must submit the School Board's CIP requests in the coming weeks.

The Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) presented their final report at the School Board meeting on July 14th. Staff prepared a recommendation based on the School Board's previous request and the work of the LRPAC.

Dr. Acuff asked about the alternates and whether the Board needed to vote on adding the alternates.

Dr. Acuff asked about the length of time it has taken to put air condition in the school kitchens.

Mr. Oberg asked about the technology alternate. He does not feel it is necessary to change something that is three years out.

Mr. Buyaki asked what technology would be added to classrooms using the technology funds.

Dr. Acuff noted that it would be better to include new technology when discussing modernizing a classroom.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to modify the current CIP to include the alternate regarding technology. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion. Dr. Acuff asked for discussion. Mr. Oberg expressed concern about why this needed to be added now when it could be added next year after the Board knows the outcome of the bond referendum. Mrs. Moynihan asked if technology was included in the bond referendum as it relates to modernization. She noted that it was her understanding that technology was already on a replacement cycle. She then asked what the \$1.7 million would buy the division in detail. Mr. Scheivert said that he could provide a detailed list. Dr. Acuff asked when the CIP needed to be approved and could amendments be made later. **Mr. Koleszar then withdrew the motion.**

Mr. Oberg offered a **motion** to add the kitchen air conditioning update acceleration to the CIP. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion. Dr. Acuff asked for discussion. Mr. Oberg said that the money has already been budgeted by the Board, and the action just accelerates it. **The motion passed.**

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the CIP as amended. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion. Dr. Acuff asked for discussion. Mr. Buyaki expressed concern about the location of the high school in the CIP. He feels that it is putting the cart before the horse. **The motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 7.3. Break.

There was a break from 7:41 p.m. until 7:50 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 7.4. High School 2022 Planning Process.

Dr. Haas said that Albemarle High School is over program capacity and is projected for future growth. Simultaneously, changes in the high school model are stirring across the Commonwealth. Virginia House Bill 895 High school graduation; graduation requirements, which was passed with additional recommendations of from the Governor into law this past spring is summarized as follows:

Board of Education; high school graduation requirements. Removes existing provisions related to standard and advanced studies diplomas and standard and verified units of credit and requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to (i) develop and implement, in consultation with stakeholders representing elementary and secondary education, higher education, and business and industry in the Commonwealth and including parents, policymakers, and community leaders in the Commonwealth, a Profile of a Virginia Graduate that identifies the knowledge and skills that students should attain during high school in order to be successful contributors to the economy of the Commonwealth, giving due consideration to critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship; (ii) emphasize the development of core skill sets in the early years of high school; and (iii) establish multiple paths toward college and career readiness for students to follow in the later years of high school that include internships, externships, and credentialing. The bill also sets forth the procedure for the establishment of such graduation requirements. The bill specifies that such graduation requirements shall apply to each student who enrolls in high school as (a) a freshman after July 1, 2018; (b) a sophomore after July 1, 2019; (c) a junior after July 1, 2020; or (d) a senior after July 1, 2021.

The Albemarle County School Board has discussed the future of high school on more than one occasion and most recently at the Board retreat on June 23, 2016. There is a shared understanding among Board members as to why high school needs to change. In response to rapid changes in technology, an increasingly global economy, and automation in the U.S. workforce, there is a national conversation about the American high School and whether the current system truly prepares students to be lifelong learners and adaptable workers. Virginia is setting the stage for changes to the high school experience as early as the entering ninth grade class of 2018. Moving forward, the VDOE will identify what skills students need to learn in high school and then change statewide graduation requirements to allow the maximum flexibility for students to show they meet those competencies.

The question before the Board is not why, but rather how we will enact the changes in high school needed to meet our one, student-centered strategic goal: All Albemarle County Public Schools students will graduate having actively mastered the lifelong-learning skills they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens.

We are presenting a timeline for the Board to consider to address three related, key questions: 1. How will we change our high school model to enact design principles to be adopted by ACPS? 2. How will we ensure parity of programming so that all four of our high school programs are modernized? 3. How will we deal with high school capacity needs as well as a change to our model through program changes and / or facility additions and renovations?

During the work session, staff requested the Board to react to some operational questions about how the high school program will need to change moving forward. Staff was seeking more questions and challenges from Board members so that they can begin to answer design questions with concrete, actionable answers. Further, based on the questions and challenges heard, staff will draft design principles for the modernized ACPS High School Model.

On August 17, 2016, inspired by an excerpt from Wagner and Dintersmith's book *Most Likely to Succeed* (2015), a group comprised of strategic cabinet members, lead coaches, and DART staff brainstormed several questions and selected the following eight for the Board's reaction:

In High School 2022,

- What is a credit? How do we define/redefine a credit? How will a student earn a credit?
- What learning opportunities will faculty offer in this scenario?
- What is the role of grades?
- What does transcript look like?
- In the new paradigm, what evidence will we, the student, parents have that students learned the curriculum? How will students know they have earned their diploma?
- How do we ensure equity of opportunity for work- and field-based experiences?
- How will we instill confidence in the parents? How do we show the community students will be successful?
- What is the daily role of the student?

The Board then broke out into several small groups with staff and discussed the above-mentioned questions.

Following the breakout sessions Board members returned to share their initial thoughts on the discussion.

Mrs. Moynihan noted that at the VSBA Annual Conference she remembers a video shown regarding students being workforce ready. There was Board consensus for Mrs. Johnston to try to obtain a copy of the video.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Public Comment. None.

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 9:13 p.m., Dr. Acuff, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk