

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2024**  
[Meeting Video Link](#)

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

**BOARD MEMBERS** - Dr. Kate Acuff, Ms. Judy Le, Ms. Ellen Osborne, Mr. Graham Paige, Ms. Leslie Pryor, and Ms. Allison Spillman

**ABSENT** – None

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE** - Superintendent Matthew Haas; School Division Counsel Josiah Black; Assistant School Division Counsel Erin Stone, Assistant Superintendent Clare Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Patrick McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent Daphne Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Chandra Hayes; Chief Operating Officer Rosalyn Schmitt; Chief Technology Officer Christine Diggs; Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Officer Helen Dunn; and Clerk of the Board Christine Thompson

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES**

**Agenda Item No. 1.1 Call to Order** - At 6:30 p.m., Chair Acuff called the Albemarle County School Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item No. 1.2 - Roll Call**

**Agenda Item No. 1.3 - Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item No. 1.4 - Moment of Silence** – Chair Acuff asked that the moment of silence be observed in memory of Hadden Shifflett, a Monticello High School senior whom the community lost this week.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Ms. Le offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Ms. Spillman seconded the **motion**. **A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

**AYES:** Ms. Le, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, Ms. Pryor, Ms. Spillman, and Chair Acuff

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Dr. Berlin

**Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Agenda Item No. 3.1 Spotlight on Education** - [ACPS Spelling Bee Winners](#)

**Agenda Item No. 3.2 School Board Superintendent Business**

Ms. Spillman shared that several Board members attended the annual Emily Couric Leadership Scholarship Luncheon earlier in the day. She described the event as deeply inspiring and noted the emotional impact it carries each year. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the scholarship program. Awards included \$18,000 for each of the ten finalists, \$38,000 for the second-tier recipient, and \$50,000 for the top scholarship. Albemarle County Public Schools were well represented, with scholarship awards going to

Margaret Lee from Western Albemarle High School, Seenan Dumor from Monticello High School, Gwyneth Caroline Cox from Community Lab School, and Vidya Ambati from Albemarle High School.

Ms. Spillman also highlighted her visit to Community Lab School’s Ivy Art Show, where she and Dr. Haas viewed student work. She praised the students’ creativity and effort.

Ms. Spillman shared that she visited Western Albemarle High School’s drama department during rehearsals for their production of *Legally Blonde*. She surprised the students with a personalized video message from Laura Bell Bundy, the original Elle Woods on Broadway, which was shared via division social media. The students’ enthusiastic reactions made it a highlight of her week.

Superintendent Matthew Haas read a [statement](#) clarifying misleading information from the *Crozet Gazette* (April 5, 2025). Which included a chart claiming Albemarle County Public Schools saw a **54% increase in “administrative”** staffing from 2018 to 2024.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** - Ms. Le offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Paige **seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with the following recorded votes:**

**AYES:** Ms. Le, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige. Ms. Pryor, Ms. Spillman, and Chair Acuff

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Dr. Berlin.

**Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote**

- 5.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 5.2 Approval of the Minutes
- 5.3 For Action: Policy Review and Revision

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.0 ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.0 – SCHOOL DIVISION BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item No. 7.1 [Special Education Annual Plan for School Year 25-26](#)**

Dr. Acuff asked how the development of the new center-based program for students with intellectual disabilities (ID), which will reduce reliance on external placements, would impact state funding. Katy Compel Director of Special Education explained that it will not significantly affect state funding, as some of the students will be served by teachers funded through existing grants. A separate funding stream supports students placed in public day schools, such as Ivy Creek.

Mr. Paige asked about A base services for students—specifically, whether students are transported to the nearest school with the appropriate program. Ms. Compel confirmed that students are transported to the designated site offering the services they require.

Ms. Le inquired about the status of the 15% set-aside previously required due to disproportionality and what the funding will now support. Ms. Compel explained that with the closeout of CEIS (Coordinated Early Intervening Services) requirements, the division can now allocate 100% of those funds toward special

education and preschool services. Previously, the set-aside had to be used only for general education interventions, limiting flexibility.

Ms. Osborne highlighted that the resolution of the disproportionality issue is significant and asked what changes led to the improvement. Ms. Compel shared that targeted professional development, deeper data analysis, early and inclusive decision-making by multidisciplinary teams, and a focus on equitable identification practices were key contributors.

Ms. Spillman asked about the status of B and C base services and why they were not included in the presentation. Ms. Compel explained that the federal funding supporting these services is limited and currently allocated to cover specific teaching positions, which is why detailed data was not included.

Dr. Haas expressed great appreciation to Ms. Compel and the Special Education team for their outstanding work supporting students across Albemarle County.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7.2 [FY 26 Budget Updates](#)**

Chair Acuff noted that the presentation was clear and that the Board's options moving forward were well outlined. It was confirmed that the plan will be brought back for approval at the May 8 meeting, assuming there will be no changes in revenue projections. Staff acknowledged the challenges of the current budget year but appreciated the opportunity to present the information. The Board thanked staff for their clarity and preparation.

#### **Next Steps:**

- **APRIL 24 THURSDAY** - School Board Work Session  
Changes to Funding Request  
Public Comment
- **MAY 8 THURSDAY** - School Board Business Meeting  
School Board Adopts FY 26 Budget

#### **AGEND ITEM 8.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item No. 8.1 Other Business by Board Members and/or the Superintendent**

**Agenda Item No. 9.2 Closed Meeting – None**

**Agenda Item No. 9.3 Closed Meeting Certification – None**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.0 ADJOURNMENT** - At 7:14 p.m., hearing no objections, Chair Acuff adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chair

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Clerk