

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, July 13, 2023

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

**BOARD MEMBERS** - Dr. Kate Acuff, Mr. Jonno Alcaro, Ms. Judy Le, Ms. Ellen Osborne, and Student Representatives; Opal Kendall, and Weining Ding

**ABSENT** - Dr. Rebecca Berlin, Ms. Katrina Callsen, and Mr. Graham Paige

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** - Superintendent Matthew Haas; School Board Attorney Ross Holden; Assistant Superintendent Daphne Keiser; Assistant Superintendent Chandra Hayes; Chief Operating Officer Rosalyn Schmitt; Chief Technology Officer Christine Diggs; Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Officer Phil Giaramita; and Clerk of the School Board Christine Thompson

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.0 CLOSED MEETING

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** that the Albemarle County Public 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 discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment and the assignment, appointment, promotion, appointees, 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 review and discuss the Superintendent's self-appraisal of his performance; and 2. Subsection 8 for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the School Board 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 a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Albemarle regarding a school resource officer and the transfer of the School Boards' interest in CATEC to the Charlottesville City Schools. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion**. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Dr. Berlin, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.0 OPENING ACTIVITIES

**Agenda Item No. 2.1 Call to Order** - At 6:30 p.m, Vice Chair Le called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

## Agenda Item No. 2.2 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. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion. Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: Dr. Berlin, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige  
**Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.**

At 6:32 p.m., Ms. Le offered a **motion** that the School Board of Albemarle County, Virginia, agree to convey its undivided interest in all property of the Vocational-Technical Education Center, otherwise known as CATEC, to the School Board of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia for the sum of Five Million Three Hundred Thousand (\$5,300,000) Dollars in accordance with the Agreement between these parties, dated October 1, 1969. She further moved that Katrina Callsen, Chair, on behalf of the School Board of Albemarle County, Virginia, shall be authorized to execute all legal documents for this transaction. Mr. Alcaro **seconded the motion. Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: Dr. Berlin, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.

## Agenda Item No. 2.3 - Roll Call

## Agenda Item No. 2.4 - Pledge of Allegiance

## Agenda Item No. 2.5 - Moment of Silence

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Agenda Item No. 3.1 Approval of Agenda** - Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Dr. Acuff seconded the **motion. Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: Dr. Berlin, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Osborne offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Acuff **seconded the motion. Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Alcaro, Dr. Acuff, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Le  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: Dr. Berlin, Ms. Callsen, and Mr. Paige

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote.

- 4.1 - Approval of Consent Agenda
- 4.2 - Approval of the Minutes
- 4.3 - Establishment of Meeting Time, Date and Place
- 4.4 - Approval of K-5 Learning Resources to Support Social Studies
- 4.5 - For Information: Policy, Review and Revision
- 4.6 - For Action: Policy, Review and Revision
- 4.7 - Personnel Action

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.0 ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA** - Policy GS, Political Activities was pulled under item 4.5; and will be brought back for review at the August 10, 2023, School Board meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Agenda Item No. 6.1 Spotlight on Education** - Presented by Student Representative Opal Kendall.

This past May, something happened to one of our students that has not occurred for more than a generation. Maybe longer than that. This student, a sophomore no less, earned an award at the Regeneron International Science Fair, held in Dallas this year. More than 1800 student finalists from 75 countries compete each year for international recognition, showcasing their ingenuity, their research skills, and their ability to serve millions of people from around the world.

Our student, Vidya Ambati, received a second-place award in the Translational Medical Science category for her research into the treatment of a disease that affects millions of people around the world. For Vidya, the work was also very personal. Among those with her targeted disease, rheumatoid arthritis, was her grandmother. There is no known cure for this very painful and debilitating illness. Until maybe now.

Working with a UVA scientist mentor, Vidya developed a computer program that enabled her to screen countless drugs in the FDA's approved database, searching for any

drug that had potential to combat rheumatoid arthritis. She eventually discovered one, a drug that is approved as a treatment for mental illness. She ran scenarios that indicated this drug could interact with the immune system to block inflammation, suggesting a possible treatment. Since then, UVA has obtained two patents, listing Vidya as an inventor, and is planning to conduct clinical trials. It's possible this could lead to an approved treatment within a few years. Vidya's journey to the honor she earned in Dallas began right at home. She was a Grand Prize Winner in the Piedmont Regional Science Fair in March, instantly qualifying her for international competition. A month later, although not required to participate in the statewide science fair, Vidya won the Leidos Virginia STEM Young Researcher Award at the Virginia Science Fair.

Vidya is with her family out of town but is with us this evening via Zoom. I'd like to welcome her to our meeting and ask her to talk about her interests in this project, her findings, what her experience was like in Dallas and share some thoughts about what's next for her.

Ms. Ambati said that these findings are exciting because "we could potentially prevent millions of people from suffering from arthritis." She enjoyed the experience to win a grand award and found it exhilarating to meet students from around the world and make new friends. She enjoyed talking to and learning from many scientists, and the experience overall rekindled her interest to continue doing science to help humanity.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Rachel Treesh lives in the Jack Jouet district. She spoke about stacked bus routes. In general, stacked routes seem like a great idea; a single bus can pick up two routes of kids, a great solution when we're facing a driver shortage. Everyone she has talked to about stacked routes assumes that the kids who are picked up first in the morning are dropped off first in the afternoon. That is not the case. For the last two years, her son has ridden on a stacked route. His bus has picked him up earlier than it did in kindergarten and 1st grade and dropped him off at home later in the afternoon. Every day of school he begged her to be driven to school or to be picked up, so he didn't have to sit in the cafeteria for extra time before and after school. The most recent update from transportation said that stacked bus routes would be used next year, and children would be dropped off at school no more than 15 minutes before the start of the day and picked up no more than 15 minutes after dismissal. Transportation is telling students who ride stacked routes to extend their school day by 30 extra minutes every day. It is not equitable, to ask the same children to wait both in the morning and the afternoon. She thanked the Board for their attention to her comments and for their continued dedication to transportation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.0 SCHOOL BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS**

Ms. Osborne announced that she and Dr. Acuff attended the Annual VSBA Conference on Education in Richmond, and our school division was very well represented. Two of our lead coaches, Katrina Dudley and Megan Maynard were part of the program presenting on our divisions' career and learning communities. School Board members from across the Commonwealth had the opportunity to hear from Katrina and Megan about how the program was conceived, developed and is now being rolled out.

Attendance from other school board members and administrators from throughout Virginia was very strong at the sessions Katrina and Megan held and she was told our program brochure was nearly sold out. There are about 150 high school students enrolled in these fields of study, which are closely aligned with career paths. She thanked both Katrina and Megan for their leadership. Also at today's conference, one of our students, Alice Thompson, who attends Monticello, received one of two awards in the VSBA's annual Student Essay competition. Alice wrote movingly and eloquently about a very prominent and relevant issue in our discourse today, the importance of Civility. She read this for us today at the luncheon. Ms. Osborne provided an excerpt. ... "When we look at our generation, it's sometimes hard to find the inspiration to do good, even though we have the tools right in front of our faces. Children are taught that kindness is like a pebble in a pond. Person A gives a flower to Person B, who in turn helps Person C with their math homework, who in turn is inspired to start a tutoring business. Children are taught that civility is like a ripple in the water, growing and growing and never stopping. They are taught to throw the pebble, so why don't we continue to do so? It's my belief that everything you say and do is in your own hands. There are plenty of pebbles on the shoreline but not many make it into the water. There are so many words we could say, but instead we walk past, letting them crunch under our feet. Civility is picking up the pebbles on the ground or the thoughts in your head and throwing them out into the world. Always with kindness and understanding, as Alice would say." Ms. Osborne and Dr. Acuff enjoyed meeting Alice, her dad and grandfather at the luncheon today. And appreciated the presentations and offer congratulations to Katrina, Megan and Alice for their contributions on a statewide level today.

Dr. Haas announced his actions in waiving tuition costs for a student for the 2023-2024 school year. It is our policy that out-of-district students must pay tuition; however, we have one international student who has no recourse other than to be in our schools for just one more year. Normally the tuition would be rather exorbitant, given the fact that the student doesn't have years and years in our school system we would use a sliding scale where we lower the tuition. This is not addressed in our policy. I decided to waive the child's tuition. I have directed staff to look at the policy and figure out how to revise it so that we can deal with these situations in the future. It doesn't require a vote, but he needed to let the Board know about the situation.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.0 SCHOOL DIVISION BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item No. 9.1 School Naming Review Update** - The presentation was submitted to the School Board for information and approval of recommended next steps. A follow-up presentation regarding the School Naming Committee's reports and recommendations for the remaining schools will occur later in the first semester.

Dr. Acuff likes the new process. Her bias is not for naming for people because even if they have very stellar records, they don't have the salience of a different type of name, but she would go forward with this policy.

Dr. Haas thanked Ms. Waters for the work she has done on this project. Several times just, this last week when he was leaving the office, Ms. Waters was just getting started in the conference room. This is challenging work. Karen, thank you so much. Dr. Haas continued that this is about the future of the students. When you come back to the board, we want to keep the anti-racism policy front and center because some of the areas where we run into issues are around stuff that currently would be considered in violation of that policy. He thanked everyone for their time, attention, and support.

**Agenda Item No. 9.2 Fall 2023 Redistricting Study Proposed Scope** - This presentation is in response to current overcrowding at Baker-Butler Elementary and planned developments along the 29N corridor, a new elementary school is planned. Based on the timing of available funding, the school will open for the 2029-30 school year. In the meantime, Baker-Butler will need more immediate capacity relief. With more than 750 students, it is the second largest elementary school in the division and is projected to continue to grow. In addition to Baker-Butler, two other northern feeder pattern schools are also experiencing enrollment challenges: Woodbrook is modestly overenrolled; Stony Point is under enrolled and is currently the smallest school in the division. To take the most comprehensive approach, the entire northern feeder pattern should be studied for potential boundary changes. This item will be on the August 10, 2023, Consent Agenda for action.

Dr. Acuff asked if the Committee would hold at 26 members, and would the meetings always be with the full Committee or would they be broken up into smaller group meetings. – 26 would be the maximum number of committee members. There could be some opportunities for subcommittees, we plan on being flexible. All meetings will be open to the public with minutes being posted afterwards.

Mr. Alcaro asked why in phase one objectives is there no increase in Broadus Wood. – The adjacent schools to Baker-Butler are Broadus Wood, Hollymead, and Stony Point and all have available capacity. And are likely contenders for taking students from Baker-Butler. It's not an objective because right now yes, it has capacity, but their enrollment is not creating any issues.

Mr. Alcaro also commented that this seems like a big and comprehensive study and wondered what conversations are had around high school and redistricting at the high school level? – This is comprehensive, but it is only in this version elementary and middle school.

Ms. Le asked what the 16 and eight trailers looked like in terms of capacity. – What we can do is bring a little history and recap of what we've studied previously, what the capacity would be if you included the mobile units, and then options of how this would or would not work well with this other study. We can bring some more data to have that conversation.

Dr. Acuff asked for a comparison of the two potential school sites that will come on board within the next six years. The school board has two preferred sites, one in North Point, which is north of Profit Road on 29, and then one in Brook Hill just north the Polo Grounds Rd. Do some preliminary boundaries of what the new school looks like, in which

boundaries can phase. She thinks that will inform which site, but those are the two options under consideration.

**Agenda Item No. 9.3 Break** – the Board took a break from 7:45-7:55 p.m.

**Agenda Item No. 9.4 High School Center II Programming** - The programming for High School Center II is underway, and the design of the facility will begin soon. Quinn Evans Architects is designing HS Center II and is engaged in the programming effort for this new facility. The center is planned to serve 400 students per day at a size of approximately 60,000 SF. This presentation reviewed career learning communities, CTE integration, and programming for HS Center II.

Dr. Acuff asked about rezoning. – We are working with the county for another road. We are still working through that study so it will be where we put the school and will account for that future loop road.

Mr. Alcaro commented that staff has given us a lot of possibilities and a lot of the different options that could go into the building depending on what's going to be there in terms of curriculum or various curricula. He was also curious as to when we anticipate those decisions to be finalized so that they can start to move forward with the design. – Based on our timelines, we would be looking at this fall for sure.

**Agenda Item No. 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Le welcomed new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Dr. Chandra Hayes. The Board is looking forward to getting to know and working with her. Dr. Hayes commented that she is excited to be here and happy to join the Albemarle County Family.

Ms. Le also welcomed Student Representatives; Opal Kendall, and Weining Ding. She hopes they feel free to speak up at any time they have questions or comments and reminded them that they are here to work for the students and the board members are here to work for them and thanked them for their time.

**Agenda Item No. 10.1 Closed Meeting** – None.

**Agenda Item No. 10.2 Closed Meeting Certification** – None.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.0 ADJOURNMENT** - At 8:20 p.m., hearing no objections, Vice Chair Le adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chair

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Clerk