

An Organizational/Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Albemarle County Office Building – 402 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

PRESENT: Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Jonathan Alcaro; Dr. Rebecca Berlin; Ms. Katrina Callsen; Ms. Ellen Osborne; and Mr. Graham Paige.

ABSENT: Ms. Judy Le.

Agenda Item No. 2.2 Call to Order

At 6:32 p.m., Dr. Matthew Haas called the Albemarle County School Board to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.3. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Haas asked the audience and the School Board to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 2.4. Moment of Silence.

Dr. Haas asked the audience and School Board to recognize a moment of silence. He asked all to remember Jennifer Wingfield Johnston, Albemarle High School Graduate and the Clerk of the Albemarle County Public Schools School Board for more than 20 years. Jennifer passed away on December 18, 2022. My strongest thoughts are for her family and their well-being. Thank you, Jennifer.

Agenda Item No. 2.5. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers.

Dr. Haas opened the floor for nominations for School Board Chair. Dr. Acuff nominated Ms. Callsen for School Board Chair.

Hearing no further nominations, Dr. Haas closed nominations.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to appoint Ms. Callsen as chair. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

Absent: Ms. Le.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Chair Callsen pointed out that she was the first minority woman voted in as Chair of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chair Callsen asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Alcaro nominated Ms. Le for Vice-Chair. Hearing no further nominations, Chair Callsen closed nominations.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint Ms. Le as Vice-Chair. Ms. Osborne **seconded** the motion.

The motion passed by the following recorded votes:

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

Absent: Ms. Le.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 2.6 2023 Committee Appointments

CATEC: No new members for 2023; Current members: Ms. Osborne and Chair Callsen term expires 12/31/2023; Ms. Le term expires, 12/31/2024.

PREP: Dr. Berlin offered to serve on the PREP Board. Mr. Alcaro offered to serve as the alternate.

Audit: Ms. Osborne offered to continue to serve on the Audit Committee.

Communications: Ms. Le and Mr. Paige offered to serve on the Communications Committee.

Legislative: Chair Callsen and Dr. Berlin offered to serve on this committee.

New Board Member Orientation Committee: Mr. Alcaro offered to serve on this committee.

Public Education Foundation of Charlottesville-Albemarle: There will be no appointments for 2023.

School Board Discipline Committee: Mr. Paige, Mr. Alcaro and Ms. Le offered to serve on this committee and Dr. Berlin will serve as an alternate.

TJACE: Ms. Osborne offered to serve as the representative on this board.

Accountability Committee for Environmental Sustainability: Dr. Acuff and Chair Callsen offered to serve on this committee.

Albemarle Education Foundation: Dr. Acuff and Dr. Berlin offered to serve as representatives on this foundation.

Capital Improvements Program Committee: Dr. Acuff and Mr. Alcaro offered to serve on this committee. The Board will keep this as an ad hoc committee during the 2023 calendar year.

Agenda Item No. 2.7. Establishment of Meeting Time, Date and Place.

Ms. Osborne offered a **motion** to approve the meeting calendar. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion. The motion was **amended** by Chair Callsen to add a retreat date of February 3, 2023, 10:00 AM. The amended motion agreed upon by the motioner and seconder, **roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

Absent: Ms. Le.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to appoint Christine Thompson as the interim School Board Clerk until a permanent clerk can be appointed. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Berlin, Dr. Acuff, Mr. Alcaro, Ms. Osborne, Mr. Paige, and Ms. Callsen.

NAYS: None.

Absent: Ms. Le.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Chair Callsen – I have a statement to make about Ms. Johnston and her unfortunate passing. It was very unexpected and very tragic, and we are all heartbroken. Jennifer did not like being in public, but it’s important – she was a wonderful employee, she graduated from Albemarle High School, and went on to attend Virginia Tech. She started in Albemarle County as a deputy clerk in early 2000’s, she served as board clerk for more than 20 years, she is what made us all work, and she is sorely missed. Outside of her work she was all about her family, she took a lot of joy from her family. Jennifer was a mother, daughter, wife, and grandmother, and during the pandemic she would watch her granddaughter, Peighton at her home and she would talk to us about that – she was such a caring and wonderful woman. A little story about how kind she was. When I went to get my vaccine, she was in the parking lot and I had my kids with me, and I thought I would just run in and leave the kids in the car. She called me and said, “Katrina, I don’t think you know what you’re walking into. I’m going to watch your kids while you go in and get your shot.” Jennifer watched my kids for an hour while I went in and got my shot. That’s the kind of person she was. She is survived by her husband William Johnston, four children, Meghan, Brandon, Haley, Carson and granddaughter Peighton. She is going to be missed and she was a wonderful person.

Agenda Item No. 3.0. Approval of the Agenda.

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 4.0. Consent Agenda

- 4.1 For information: Policy Review and Revisions
- 4.2 COVID-19 Status Update
- 4.3 Program Evaluation: Center I
- 4.4 Human Resources Annual Report
- 4.5 Personnel Action
- 4.6 SPED Program: Leased Space Agreement
- 4.7 Personnel Action - Athletic Coaches
- 4.8 Transportation Update
- 4.9 State Growth Testing Update

Mr. Osborn offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion. Chair Callsen asked to pull item 4.3 Program Evaluation: Center I – Motion was amended pulling the item. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No. 5.0. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

4.3 – Program Evaluation: Center I

Chair Callsen asked a little attention brought to the demographics of Center I, there was an area the Board had expressed concern on in the past. There was an infographic that was a little hard to read, and would like a follow-up on how its comparing general student demographics and how we are meeting our targets.

Staff will prepare the information and send it to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 7.0. Announcements (Moved up in the Agenda)**7.1 Spotlight on Education** – School Board Student Representative Ms. Sanuthi Amarasinghe announced the evening's Spotlight

This evening's recognition is especially meaningful to me given the privilege I have to serve as the student representative on our School Board. Tonight, we are honoring the concept of student voice as recently practiced at Journey Middle School. Twice each year, all schools in the division conduct a student survey that is anonymous and that provides administrators with feedback on such topics as:

School climate, safety, cultural awareness and action, the value of school and every student's sense of belonging. This input is used to enhance the services and opportunities that are provided to students. It's an important part of one of our values as a school division--to provide every student with the level of support necessary to thrive.

At Journey last month, Principal Ashby Johnson took the idea of student voice one step further, bringing together focus groups of students, who analyzed the data from their peers. Students talked among themselves in groups that focused on each category, such as climate or safety. They discussed what the data revealed about their school, and more important, they proposed actions that addressed the survey's findings and enhanced the school's ability to ensure the success of every student.

These ideas were presented to the principal and shared with the school's leadership team. And they will be the basis for future improvements. Here this evening to talk about this approach, which empowered students by not only collecting their opinions but welcoming their ideas, is Ms. Johnson.

With the principal is Mary Kathryn Thompson, a school counselor, and four eighth grade students who contributed to the focus group discussions, Yuri Radcliffe, Sophia Aylor, Joey Coleman, and Humberto Gonzalez.

Ms. Johnson, we're eager to hear about why you chose this approach, what most impressed or surprised you about the focus groups and how the school will benefit from the specific recommendations of our students.

Agenda Item No. 6.0. Public Comment.

Mr. Ricardo Mateus lives in Albemarle County and spoke about the transgender ideological indoctrination that he believes is being practiced in our schools.

Ms. Lara Harrison lives in the Rio district and spoke about the safety of children in ACPS. As a division we must address the holistic needs and not be led by misinformation as a response to fear. Examples of what the division should do; increase trauma informed training for staff, community engagement with folks who are most impacted by police, partner with local organizations that address mental health, sexual assault, etc; train your administrators and staff in transformative justice; build a culture of restorative justice. Refuse to participate in a school to prison pipeline.

Ms. Sam Peacoe lives in the Rio district and spoke about SROs in ACPS. Questions for the board to consider. What needs are not being met at present that are causing dysregulation in schools? How is a SRO supposed to fill those needs? The police purpose is used to defend property and to carry out and collect people to receive punishment. What service does that provide for our students? An SRO is also going to need a line item in the budget, so why isn't that money being used to resolve the root causes of the dysregulation among our student body?

Ms. Amanda Moxham lives in the Rio magisterial district. She read the statement made by the School Board on June 2020 about racial justice and equality. And went on to speak about the school-to-prison pipeline. She said the culture and leadership of our schools is the problem. The anti-racism policy cannot live alongside having SRO's in our schools. There are extra police officers in the back – every time there is a conversation where race is involved, we have to bring police in. I would like to see a statement from the board confirming that you do align with the anti-racism policy and that you do agree that we are not going to have SRO's back in the

schools if you continue to not address it and continue to allow Dr. Haas to continue to meet with parents and telling them that this is what's going to happen then its going to cause a lot of mistrust from the community.

Mr. Brandon Linday spoke from Zoom and he is from the Samuel Miller district. He wanted to share his experience as a committee member of the Meriwether Lewis Elementary name evaluation committee and the process. It was not a name evaluation committee. We were a name change committee. During two different survey's over 400 people were surveyed and 90 of those participants came back and said that they wanted to keep MWL as the name. During the public comment there were absolutely nobody who had a negative comment about the MWL name. There was only an issue when the committee came back with a 9-3 vote for Meriwether Lewis Elementary. The committee was then directed to come back for a second vote. We then received training and instruction on diversity and the anti-racism policy was read to us. After an hour of that training we were asked to re-vote. There are no representatives here tonight from MWL or committee members here. There is a lack of trust with the committee and community members.

Agenda Item No. 8.0. School Board / Superintendent Business

Dr. Haas thanked the Woodbrook Elementary School staff and students and families for having him and Dr. Acuff for a visit on Tuesday. He was impressed with the business atmosphere, the students having fun, a lot of focus on reading, the fundamentals around phonemes and students building words, math focus, and just the overall climate of the school, very positive and supportive of student. I want to commend Ms. Williams and her staff, they just do an outstanding job over at Woodbrook.

It was highlighted in the media today about his recommendation having a School Resource Officer or what he would refer to as a Lambs Lane Community campus police officer. There are other measures we're working on at the school to address what's happening. One of the things we started out the school year in banning cell phones. It was a major issue for teachers and kids. Stress is caused by the use of cell phones. we just hired a dean of students, whose focus would be to actually pull in services to the school for students that are having the most inappropriate behaviors at school, focusing on restorative practices, restorative justice. Working in the realm of behavior intervention so that the students who have difficulties rather than just simply saying to the students, your out. We are working with the students. We have hired Jason Lee, who is well known to the Board and our community. He is there to work with students to make sure they can stay there and get what they need.

He is also recommending the restrooms on the first floor of Albemarle High School be redesigned. We are using some of our capital dollars to install single occupancy bathrooms, and looking to do it on the second floor as well and have a duty station outside each one. We are also looking to have vape detectors installed. We have a great deal of vandalism in restrooms. When we have a student, who has inappropriate behavior they are going to come back in the summer and work with our custodians so they can understand the hardships they create.

Chair Callsen added that over the break there was quite a few incidents of pipes bursting and things like that in some of our schools. Our building services department went in on Christmas Day and took care of it and wanted to give them a shout-out. Thanks to them.

Agenda Item No. 9.0. School Division Business

9.1 School Year 2023-2024 Calendar Development

Ms. Jamie Gellner, Director of Special Project and Program Evaluation presented the 2023-2024 Calendar Development. This calendar has been drafted by the County Calendar Committee. The committee is comprised of teacher, parents, and school and central office administrators. A first and a second draft of the calendar, along with a survey was posted to the public in December. Highlights of the draft 3 calendar include:

- 176 instructional days for students
- 1,056 instructional hours
- Dedicated time for division PLCs
- More time for professional learning
- Dedicated time for teacher work days

- Moved DPLC day from September 18th to September 29th to avoid holidays
- Put January and March DPLC/PD and teacher work days together to preserve more 5-day weeks
- Removed April DPLC/PD day to restore 1 student day

Dr. Acuff said it looked like the committee took a lot of things into consideration and came up with a good calendar.

Mr. Alcaro asked about snow days and days of instruction. Staff stated we have 66 hours over the required amount.

Ms. Amarasinghe thought it looked good. She liked having the extra day for college visits.

Chair Callsen echoed the comments from Dr. Acuff. The first proposal she was worried about us having removed the instructional days – to improve student outcomes. She thinks we have a good balance.

Dr. Acuff asked about a summer school calendar. Details will be coming – it is typically four weeks in July.

Staff recommends the Board adopt the draft calendar at the next School Board meeting on January 26, 2023.

9.2 Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding Naming of Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Ms. Karen Water, Director of Community Education presented the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the naming of Meriwether Lewis Elementary School. Ms. Waters served as the project manager of the renaming committee. The committee of 12 consisted of three ACPS staff and four parents of MWL students and five community members with no students at the school. They held two community meetings and distributed two online surveys, reviewed all email public comments, and participated in four closed online meetings. Since they were unable to come to an agreement online, per the policy, the committee recommended three names for consideration by the Superintendent. The three suggested were; Ivy, Owensville and Meriwether Lewis Elementary. The Superintendent is recommending Ivy Elementary School. Ms. Waters closed out her remarks with a quote from Booker T. Washington "A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by a majority".

Dr. Acuff asked what kind of information was included in the community survey. How representative are the survey results. I think it engenders some distrust for the process.

Ms. Osborne commented that she is not sure that we're not clear on our renaming policy. Her understanding was we preferred geographic locations, concepts or values and having something named after a person is an exception. It would be the rare exception that something is named after a person. She doesn't think our renaming policy emphasizes that enough, and wondered if we can fix that in our policy so people who are on these committees don't assume that keeping the same name is a default choice. Asked that we fix this policy before last six schools get named.

Dr. Haas commented that when we distributed the first survey, we ask them what should the school be named after, and the majority of the community said a geographic location. We have tweaked the policy a couple times, we can certainly go back and tweak it again. We want to thank the committee members. They put a lot of time and effort into it.

There was a consensus of the Board to make a change to the renaming policy – it would go through the normal policy change process.

Ms. Waters congratulated Chair Callsen - she did a quick search and found that Chair Callsen is indeed the first woman of color to be elected as the Chair of the School Board.

Dr. Acuff offered a **motion** to accept Dr. Haas' recommendation to rename Meriwether Lewis Elementary to Ivy Elementary. Ms. Osborne **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

9.3 Break

9.4 4th Quarter 2021/22 and June 30 2022 Unaudited Financial Report

Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, School Finance Officer presented the unaudited year-end financial report representing April, May and June 2022 for the Board's consideration. The report provided detailed information regarding quarterly expenses and revenues. It also provided information on the budgeting and expenditure of funds by state category, and the changes that both the Board and staff made during the year that affect these categories.

Revenues: Local – Schools revenue collections increased, primarily due to strong state revenue performance and strong local revenue sharing from our local government.

March 31 Average Daily Membership (ADM), upon which state revenues are calculated is 13,313.81. This is 22.10 students less than originally budgeted.

State revenues increased substantively primarily due to strong revenue performance for sales tax and enrollment hold harmless provisions enacted. State revenues are nearly \$1.7M above budgeted. State revenues collected totaled slightly more than \$61M.

Local transfer revenues were as expected.

Federal revenues were very slightly less budgeted.

Expenses: Compensation and benefits expenses were greater than budgeted by more than \$1.9M.

Operational expenses were less than budgeted.

Overall reductions in operational expenses across the division were more than \$5.1M.

Balance of Revenues over Expenses: Expenses exceed revenues by more than \$1.8M, drawing down existing fund balance as anticipated.

Staff recommended the Board receive the 4th quarter FY 2021-22 financial report.

Mr. Paige offered a **motion** to accept the 4th Quarter 2021/22 and June 30 2022 Unaudited Financial Report. Mr. Alcaro **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

9.5 First Quarter FY 2022/23 Financial Report

For the Board’s consideration, Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, School Finance Officer presented first quarter financial reports representing July, August, and September 2022 for the Board's consideration. This report provided information on the budgeting and expenditure of funds by state category, and the changes that both the Board and staff made during the year that affected these categories. R

Revenues: March 31 Average Daily Membership (ADM), upon which state revenues are estimated, is projected to be 13,489. Overall state revenues are anticipated to remain strong. Local school revenues are anticipated to be less than budgeted due to the continued effects of the pandemic. Federal revenues are estimated to meet budget. Local transfer will meet budgeted amounts.

Expenses: Compensation and benefits expenses have not been estimated for this report.

The second quarter financial report will include estimates of year-end compensation.

Balance of Revenues over Expenses: Reported September 30 revenues exceed expenses by nearly \$16M. Reported state revenues collected totaled slightly more than \$10.7M. School Fund Balance: Fund balance use in FY22-23 is budgeted to be ~\$9.8M

Staff recommended the Board receive the First Quarter FY 2022-23 Financial Report.

Dr. Berlin offered a **motion** to accept the **First Quarter FY 2022-23 Financial Report**. Ms. Osborne **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Chair Callsen commented to Mr. Zimmermann, that when we do the School Board evaluations, which we are trying to use with more vigor, there is always a section on your financial reports. I always feel so confident and we get the highest score every time because you guys always do a wonderful job. Thank you.

Agenda Item No. 10.0. Other Business - None

Agenda Item No. 11.0. Adjournment

At 8:31 p.m., hearing no objections, Chair Callsen adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chair

Clerk