An Organizational Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Jon Stokes; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Brian Wheeler; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly; and Mr. Ronnie Price.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Joseph Letteri, Director of Building Services; Ms. Kimberly Suyes, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Larry Davis, County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No.1. Call to Order.

At 6:34 p.m., Dr. Moran called the Albemarle County School Board meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Item No. 3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 4. Agenda.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the agenda and noted that the Policy Review and Revision is an action item. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Koleszar; Mr. Stokes; Mr. Price; Mrs. Mouly; Mrs. Moynihan; Mrs. McKeel; and Mr. Wheeler.
NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 5. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers.

Dr. Moran summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office. She then opened nominations for Board Chairperson. Mr. Price asked for clarification on any code with the role of Chair and Vice-Chair and the re-election process. Mr. Davis said that there is no legal prohibition of a member of the Board serving as Chair or Vice-Chair if that member is up for re-election; the only qualification is they are a member of the Board and they have the time and energy to fulfill the function of the role. Mr. Price **nominated** Mrs. Moynihan for Chair. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the nomination. Mr. Koleszar **nominated** Mr. Wheeler for Chair. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the nomination. Dr. Moran closed nominations. **Roll was called for the first nomination of Mrs. Moynihan for Chair. The nomination failed by the following recorded vote:**

AYES: Mrs. Moynihan; Mr. Price; and Mrs. Mouly.
NAYS: Mr. Wheeler; Mrs. McKeel; Mr. Koleszar; and Mr. Stokes.

Motion failed by a 3:4 vote.

Roll was called for the second nomination of Mr. Wheeler for Chair. The nomination passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Stokes; Mr. Wheeler; Mrs. Mouly; Mrs. McKeel; and Mr. Koleszar.
NAYS: Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Price.

Motion passed by a 5:2 vote.

Dr. Moran then turned the meeting over to Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler commented that he is looking forward to working with the Board, Dr. Moran, Dr. Benson and the all of the staff as they move forward in 2009.

Mr. Wheeler opened nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Mrs. McKeel **nominated** Mr. Price for Vice-Chair. Mr. Wheeler closed the nominations. **The nomination passed unanimously.**

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to appoint Jennifer Johnston as Clerk and Pauline Meehan as Deputy Clerk of the School Board. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**.

Agenda Item No. 6. Appointments to the PREP and CATEC Boards.

Mr. Wheeler summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to offer up the remaining year of his term for another Board member to serve. He suggested that Mrs. McKeel serve the remaining year since she is currently the chair and her term expired. Mrs. McKeel said that it has been suggested that the organization of the CATEC Board be made during January instead of July. A CATEC Policy change will need to take place in order for this to happen.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. McKeel to serve the remaining year of his term on the CATEC Board. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**.

Mrs. Mouly said that she is interested in the CATEC Board but not this year.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Wheeler to serve the three-year term on the CATEC Board. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**.

Mr. Wheeler opened nominations for the PREP representative. Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Price as the PREP representative. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. McKeel as the alternative representative to the PREP Board. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**.

Agenda Item No. 7. Discussion of Other Board Appointments.

Mr. Wheeler summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office. He then opened nominations for the CIP Oversight Committee; the Audit Committee; the Charlottesville-Albemarle Fund for Public Education; and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Commission on Children and Families. Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to reappoint all current members to their perspective positions. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item. 8. Establishment of Meeting Time, Place, and Date.

Mr. Wheeler summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office. Mr. Price offered a **motion** to approve the meeting calendar as presented. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item No. 9. Consent Agenda

9A. Minutes: February 7, 2008 Budget Work Session; October 21, 2008 Joint Meeting with CATEC Center Board and Charlottesville City School Board
9B. Superintendent's Designee to Attend Board Meetings in Her Absence
9C. Donation to Albemarle High School
9D. Donation to Stone Robinson Elementary School
9E. Donation to Monticello High School

9F. Donation to Western Albemarle High School
9G. Donation to Broadus Wood Elementary School
9H. Donation to Hollymead Elementary School
9I. Donation to Brownsville Elementary School
9J. Amended Donation to Western Albemarle High School
9K. Financial Reports for July 2008 through November 2008
9L. Joint Support Services Complex and Vehicle Maintenance Facility Project Architect Selection
9M. School Principals Appreciation Week Proclamation
9N. Reappropriation of funds to Executive Services
9O. Reappropriation of Fund Balance
9P. KOVAR Grant Fund Balance 07-08
9Q. Carl Perkins Grant – Fund Balance FY 07-08
9R. Personnel Action

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

Mr. Wheeler recognized Principal Appreciation Week and conveyed the Board's appreciation to all the principals of Albemarle County Public Schools for all their hard work.

Agenda Item No. 10. Announcements.

2010 School Calendar: Dr. Moran announced that the 2010 school calendar will be coming forward to the Board for approval. Dr. Benson said that the Joint Calendar Committee will be meeting again to review the feedback received on the proposed calendar for next year and the calendar will be brought to the Board in February for their review.

Early School Closing Notice: Dr. Benson informed the Board that there was a two-hour delay notice sent out to all parents on Monday evening due to the inclement weather forecast for Tuesday morning. He said that a few parents called with concerns and with conversation with the parents the concerns were alleviated.

Parent Notification System: Dr. Benson informed the Board that there were some challenges with the parent notification system with duplicate calling. The problem has to do with how the data is submitted to the service provider. He assured the Board that the problem will be resolved.

Agenda Item No. 11. Public Comment.

Ms. Susan Newman spoke on behalf of the Albemarle County School bus drivers. She voiced her concern of the budget cuts in the Transportation Department affecting the safety of the students and staff.

Mr. Lamar Lewis spoke on behalf of the Albemarle County School bus drivers. He voiced his concern of the budget cuts in the Transportation Department affecting the safety of the students and staff.

Mr. Peter Wurzer commented on the Brownsville Elementary School proposal presented on the agenda. He urged the Board to look at the proposal on a needs basis.

Ms. Margie Shepherd, teacher at Henley Middle School, commented on compensation for teachers. She suggested instead of there being no increase in compensation for teacher, the Board should look into compensating teachers with time or future promises. She said that the teachers would like it put into writing that when things improve, increases will be restored forthwith and not years later.

Agenda Item No. 12. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Second Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Moran stated that in building the budget proposal for the 2009-2010 school year with the elimination and consolidation of Central Office positions, a second superintendent position has been created. She announced that Dr. Bruce Benson has moved into the position as Assistant

Superintendent of Operations and Systems Planning effective July 1, 2009. The division will be filling the Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning as of July 1, 2009.

Parking Fees: Dr. Benson summarized information on high school parking fees, which is on file in the School Board Office. Mr. Stokes noted an article in the Washington Post stating that Loudon County had increased their parking fees from $25 to $150 to offset their budget woes.

WINA: Dr. Benson noted a Board member has not been assigned to appear on WINA for January 15th. Mr. Koleszar said that he would appear. Mr. Wheeler added that he will have an opportunity to appear on WINA on January 14th to preview the Tele-Town Hall Meeting. Mrs. McKeel stated her concern with the programming change on WINA and said that she hoped the School Board can maintain their appearances at the station. Mr. Wheeler commended the Board and staff for their participation.

Other Committees: Mr. Price asked if there should be a Board member on the Quality Council Committee. Dr. Moran said that there are other committees where it has been discussed but have yet to be put on a formal list. She said the appointments usually come through her or the Board and added that the Quality Council and Access Albemarle are at the Superintendent level. Mr. Price offered to be on the Quality Council.

Agenda Items No. 13. Brownsville Elementary School Project – Additional Appropriation.

Dr. Benson and Mr. Letteri summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mr. Koleszar asked if these additional renovations are the highest priority with all the different maintenance and enhancements that are needed throughout the school division. Mr. Letteri said from an operational standpoint these renovations are not at the top of the list, but for a learning environment atmosphere they rank fairly high as some of the classrooms have not been renovated since 1960.

Mr. Price asked if there is more included in the $100,000 under corridor upgrade than paint and signs. Mr. Letteri responded yes and added that there will be lighting enhancements as well.

Mr. Stokes asked for the cost savings of doing it as a renovation rather than doing it at a later time. Mr. Letteri said it is not known if there is a significant savings by not taking it out to bid as an independent project. Dr. Moran stated that if the work is not done now and is brought back to the Board later, the comparison would be an increase, in terms of construction work, from what it is presently. Mrs. Moynihan asked if this is important now then why was it not important when the project was originally brought to the Board. Mr. Letteri said that they felt that they were constructing what they could afford. Mrs. Moynihan said that if renovations were needed then it should have been brought to the Board in the original request.

Mr. Stokes asked where the money was coming from. Dr. Benson responded that it is coming from savings in the CIP. There have been a number of school projects that have come in under budget by $2.8 million. $2 million is being returned to CIP to reduce what local government has to borrow next year to reduce debt service. He said that the division is hoping to use $800,000 to make the improvements at Brownsville Elementary. Mr. Stokes asked if the funding for this is a local government decision. Dr. Benson said it will depend on what the Board's decision is on this agenda item.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the improvements to make the stage handicapped accessible are included in the cost. Mr. Letteri said that the cost of the improvements of the stage would be $30,000 - $50,000, but it is not included in the current proposal. Mrs. McKeel asked what the cost included. Mr. Letteri said that one of the improvements required would be a chair lift similar to the one in the Board meeting room.

Mr. Letteri said the purpose of this request is to renovate Brownsville Elementary now and not need to return to do renovations in the near future.

Mrs. Mouly asked if it is not approved do the monies go to reduce debt services. Mr. Davis said that this is borrowed funding and will be used for school purposes. If it is not spent on this project it could be used to reduce next year's borrowing. Dr. Moran noted that the project brought forward is standard operating practice that occurs every time the division has built additions onto older buildings. The list of renovations is important as it not only ties the old and new school together but also having a school that the infrastructure fits into 21st century schools.

Mr. Koleszar said that it is important in this economy that there is local stimulus in Albemarle County. This could be looked at as a stimulus.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** that the School Board requests from the Board of Supervisors an additional appropriation of $800,000 to the Brownsville Elementary School project to accomplish the additional renovations to reconfigure classroom spaces to more suitable match student age levels, improve transition areas, and create a level of parity in the oldest classrooms in the school. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion. Mr. Wheeler asked for discussion. Mrs. Mouly asked why it is an action item. Dr. Benson said that it is going to appear on the Board of Supervisors' agenda at their upcoming meeting. Mr. Davis stated that it is tentatively scheduled to be on the Board of Supervisors' agenda at their next meeting depending on the School Board's decision. Mrs. Mouly asked if the timing is with construction or with the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Benson said the timing is critical in order for the division to have access to the funds. The Board of Supervisors would have to do a reappropriation order for the school division to take advantage of the construction work presently going on**. The motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan voting no.**

Agenda Item No. 14. Policy Review and Revision.

Dr. Benson summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mrs. McKeel asked if it had been reported that the division would come out ahead if twelve people accepted the retirement incentive. Ms. Suyes said that what was reported referred to twelve frozen positions in local government and is not connected to this item.

Mr. Stokes asked if there was discussion referencing the ability of receive the stipend and the need for an agreement to come back. Ms. Suyes responded that this is not about the stipend; it refers to the medical contribution. There are two pieces of the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program (VERIP); one is the stipend which is a cash amount, and the second piece is the medical which is five years or age sixty-five, which ever comes first. She informed the Board that the stipend piece will brought forward at a later date. Dr. Moran added that it has been communicated to employees that it is anticipated the stipend will change within two years. Ms. Suyes said that information sessions are planned to make sure employees have all the information needed for them to make decisions.

Mr. Stokes asked if the cash equivalence of two additional years of Board contribution towards health insurance paid in one or more installments is at the discretion of the employee. Ms. Suyes responded that it is at the discretion of the employee.

Mr. Price asked what was the average cost of the medical coverage per employee. Ms. Suyes stated the Board contribution is just over $7,000 a year. Mr. Price asked what an individual would pay per month for medical insurance without the Board's contribution. Ms. Suyes said it is a significant cost for them which makes them choose to stay with the County's benefit plan; this is good for the employee because of the County's group rate. If the employee is over sixty-five they would not be able to be on the County's health plan. Ms. Suyes said that it would be a significant cost.

Mr. Stokes asked what occurs when a teacher receives medical insurance through their spouse. Ms. Suyes said that if an employee is eligible under the VERIP plan, they are eligible for the cash equivalent for the medical coverage.

Mr. Price asked if once you switch to other medical coverage is it possible to come back to the county's coverage. Ms. Suyes said that the employee has to be currently employed and there has to be a qualifying event.

Mr. Wheeler asked for clarification on the communication plan. Ms. Suyes said that after the School Board and the Board of Supervisors approves this item, Human Resources staff will be available to answer employee questions. There are four opportunities for communication: the information sessions, letters, and phone calls. Dr. Benson said that there will be a web site with general information, frequently asked questions and responses, a section to ask general questions, and who to contact for personal situations. Ms. Suyes added that the frequently asked questions have been developed. Mr. Wheeler asked if that applied to the broader initiative within the budget related to retirement incentives. Ms. Suyes said the existing policy is being evaluated in response to current market data and findings from the 2007 survey of the school divisions. No conclusions have been reached at this time it is anticipated that fundamental changes to the VERIP policy will be made, however, future changes will not impact employees currently participating in the VERIP program.

Mr. Stokes asked what staff's thoughts are in communicating proposals that are put forward to the School Board and Board of Supervisors. Dr. Moran said the communication is in place with "The Compass", a bi-weekly newsletter sent to staff and the budget web site. Mr. Stokes expressed concern with past transparency issues from not getting information out to staff and suggested distinguishing that the information is a proposal until it is approved by both boards. Ms. Suyes said that with the time constraints of the approval process it was not feasible to get the information out to staff. Mr. Stokes suggested that after the information is announced in the Superintendent's budget request, there should be separate communication made directly to the employees. Dr. Moran stated that it was communicated through the division's "The Compass".

Mrs. Mouly commented that she regrets the division has to encourage seasoned teachers to leave the division earlier than they planned.

Mr. Price said that the question is how the division continues to use these teachers in other capacities other than full-time teaching. He suggested that there be a model in place to allow the wealth of that knowledge to be retained within the division. He asked if there is any consideration for employees who may move to their spouse's medical plans and getting compensation with respect to VERIP. Ms. Suyes said that they would receive the cash equivalent to the medical contribution. Dr. Moran noted that if the employee is not taking medical benefits for the five-year period on VERIP, the division will not pay the employee's the cash medical benefit; they will receive the stipend. Mr. Davis said they would receive the cash benefit for the health insurance along with the stipend for five years or until age sixty-five. Ms. Suyes stated that this was implemented for the purpose of extending the medical coverage.

Mr. Stokes said he sees it as an evening out tool of eventual retirements because we have a bubble approaching retirement and with the financial crisis and retirements losing value they are making the decision to retire. Ms. Suyes stated that the division is talking to employees who want to retire and now are saying they can not retire because of the economy. This is helping these employees meet their requests.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** that the School Board adopt the amended Personnel Policy GCPC-AP as presented. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion. Mr. Wheeler asked for discussion. Mr. Koleszar stated that this is a big disadvantage of commonality. The Board of Supervisors acted and the is compelling the School Board to act because of that. **The motion passed unanimously.** (There was a break from 7:58 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 15. Budget Update.

Mr. Zimmermann summarized the Superintendent's budget proposal, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mr. Wheeler suggested that the tax rate be presented as the assumption being seventy-seven cents with two and one half cents going into reserve. Mr. Zimmermann said that the assumption is the division is receiving operational funds based on seventy-four and half cent rate; what happens to the other amount does not affect the school division's operating budget. Mr. Stokes suggested that there be a footnote stating seventy-seven cent tax rate which is a seventy-four and half cent affective tax rate for the school division. Mr. Zimmermann said that there will be something devised on that further in the future.

Mr. Zimmermann informed the Board of the update on the division's tentative revenue stream. He said the Governor's proposal includes more money from the State than what was assumed in the Superintendent's proposal. He summarized the assumptions of the Governor's proposal with the Board.

Dr. Moran noted that in discussion with Mr. Tucker is had been said that it will be mid-February before the revenue picture is known.

Mr. Zimmermann said that the capping of SOQ positions is a concern. He said presently there are 365 positions that are SOQ eligible; the proposal is a reduction of 133 of those positions not being eligible to be reimbursed. Mr. Stokes asked if these are positions in Albemarle County. Mr. Zimmermann said that these are categories but a lot of the positions exist in Albemarle County. Mr. Stokes asked if the positions being presented are in Albemarle County. Mr. Zimmermann said that the data being presented are for Albemarle County positions eligible to be funded by SOQ. Dr. Moran added that the division will receive only the share of funding the State provides for 232 positions in 2009/10. Mr. Stokes asked if this is included in the $48.37 million proposal. Mr. Zimmerman responded that was correct.

Mr. Wheeler asked given the 133 positions how did the State number end up coming in above what the division expected. Mr. Zimmermann said the sales tax numbers are associated with this. The sales tax number is changing to a degree which the county has never seen before which leads to some concern whether the numbers are real. Dr. Moran added that some of the State's projections may be inflated in areas that would put more money in other categories. Mr. Wheeler asked if it is the Governor's proposal to change the State sales tax rather than an assumption about how much revenue will be generated. Mr. Zimmermann responded that was correct, but sales tax has a ripple affect through basic aid. He said the projection is the sales tax number increasing to $1 million.

Mr. Stokes asked if the Governor's proposal would reduce sales tax by $1 million. Mr. Zimmermann said that triennial census will increase the distribution of sales tax revenues to the county. Mr. Stokes asked if the $1 million is an accurate number. Dr. Moran said that the division questions whether it is being estimated at the level that it will eventually be. Mr. Zimmermann stated that there is variability that could be part of the revenue stream that is provided at the State level. The concern is that there is a proposal on part of the Governor to permanently cap SOQ support positions in such a way that the State is no longer committed to provide the basic level of funding and staffing that has been traditionally required by the State and is provided in general by all localities across the State.

Mrs. McKeel stated the General Assembly is not only pushing transportation back to the localities but they are now backing away from their support of public education through the SOQ support. Mr. Zimmermann said that would be the end result. Dr. Moran said that this is a significant deviation from the 55/45 split that has occurred between the State and localities in regards to the funding that comes to the school division. There are concerns with removal of construction funds as it will have long term impact with the division. She noted that there are no plans of the State decreasing the new SOQ requirements, new programs, or new regulations.

Mr. Zimmermann continued to summarize the Superintendent's budget proposal.

Mr. Koleszar suggested that one of the work sessions be centered on the instructional coaching model. Mr. Zimmermann said that will be part of the January 15th work session. **There was Board consensus that discussion on the instructional coaching model be a part of the January 15th work session.**

Mr. Wheeler asked if feedback from the Board is needed for the budget calendar. Mr. Zimmermann said if the Board agrees with the calendar, staff will move forward with planning based upon this calendar. Mr.

Wheeler reminded the Board that questions can be submitted in advance to Mr. Zimmermann related to the budget. He encouraged them to submit them sooner rather than later so the Board can benefit from the answers. Mr. Wheeler suggested that there be work session discussion on retirement incentives. He asked at what meeting that may be discussed. Mr. Zimmermann stated that discussion could be at the work session with the administrative departments.

Dr. Moran noted that discussion with the Transportation Department on January 13th may have to be rescheduled. There was Board discussion on the scheduling of the budget work sessions. The Board suggested that the departments scheduled to be discussed at the January 13th work session be moved to January 15th and the departments scheduled for January 15th be moved to January 13th. Mr. Zimmermann said that the dates would be changed.

Mrs. McKeel asked for clarification on the custodial growth and maintenance workers under the school based additions and reductions. Mr. Zimmermann said that is an addition and an offset in order to make the reductions that are part of the Superintendent's proposal. Dr. Moran added that if the formula had not been shifted to cover less square footage there would be more growth.

Mr. Price asked what the difference is between maintenance workers and maintenance growth. Mr. Zimmermann said that resolves back down to the reductions required of departments. In order to make the number that Building Services was required as part of the Superintendent's proposal they reduced maintenance staff but the additional square footage and facilities being added on required additional staff.

Mrs. McKeel asked for clarification on what the public speakers were referring to in regards to transportation. Dr. Moran said there are trainers in Transportation and there are efforts being made to reorganize in order to be more efficient.

Mr. Stokes asked why bus drivers are listed under central staffing. Mr. Zimmermann said it is because they are not allocated directly to a facility and may be serving multiple facilities. Dr. Moran said that when staff speaks of Central Office it consists of Building Services, Transportation, Food Services, Human Resources, Instruction, Finance, and Assessment/Information Services. Mr. Stokes stated that it is misleading to say that staff at Central Office has been reduced by twenty-two with eight of them being bus drivers. Dr. Moran said that it should read Centralized Services not Central Office and the language will be changed.

Mrs. Moynihan asked for clarification on the safety issues in reducing the Transportation staff as mentioned in Public Comment. Dr. Moran said that there would have to be discussion with Dr. Hastings and her staff about what the concerns are. Mrs. Moynihan said the concern is that reducing the number of bus drivers is going to be a safety hazard for students. The objective with this budget is to not to impact the students directly. Dr. Moran stated that all of the buses have required standards for how many students can be transported. She said that it would be in violation if the capacity was exceeded.

Mr. Wheeler suggested Board members put any additional questions they may have in writing and submit them to Mr. Zimmermann.

Mr. Stokes thanked Mr. Zimmermann for the July through November financial reports. He reminded Mr. Zimmermann that he did not need to wait until a Board meeting to submit the reports and suggested that he email them to Board members. Mr. Zimmermann stated that staff wanted to make them available to the public and one way of doing it is providing it on the consent agenda. Mr. Koleszar said that the consensus was that the reports would be emailed to the Board and put on the consent agenda. Mr. Zimmermann said that he will do that in the succeeding months. Mr. Stokes asked if they are to be posted on the web site. Mr. Wheeler said that was correct and all reports will appear on the ElectronicSchoolBoard web site.

Agenda Item No. 16. Discussion of Future Work Sessions.

Mr. Wheeler summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Dr. Moran said that staff is looking forward to providing work sessions that the Board thinks would be of interest in supporting the division's strategic goals.

Mr. Koleszar suggested having several work sessions on various areas of the achievement gap. He said that is the part of the strategic plan that the division is failing to accomplish.

Mr. Stokes asked if there is a need to follow up on the work sessions that have already been discussed. Mrs. McKeel stated that it would be interesting to find out what the year has brought about with the International Baccalaureate (IB) work. It was in the budget to see what background work needed to be done with IB. Dr. Benson said that there has been background work done and the committee has put together a proposal that will be reviewed by an oversight committee to look at cost implications. There could be an update on a variety of specialty centers, including the new Charter middle school. Mr. Stokes said that did not have to be done if the budget discussion is going to make the whole thing mute. Mr. Price suggested combining a session on specialty centers and SPQA and obtain an update on the implementation of the Baldrige criteria. Mrs. McKeel said given the budget year it would not have to be timely and in time for a budget vote.

Mr. Stokes suggested that there also be discussion on distant learning with some of the savings that comes with it. Mr. Wheeler asked if the division is working with Virtual Virginia. Dr. Benson said there is also a product being used in the division called APEX Learning. Mr. Price said that it would be interesting to see the statistics with the students using online courses. Dr. Benson stated that it is making a difference for many of the students in the division; they are able to recover credits. Mrs. McKeel asked if freeing up the students time is what is meant by making a difference. Dr. Benson said that it not only frees up there time but also gives the students an alternative that is not tied to a specific schedule.

Mr. Price suggested that the "Going Green" topic be considered for a work session. Mr. Wheeler said that the only way to capture transportation demand management with the parking fees was going green.

Mr. Wheeler discussed other options for work sessions topics such a performance appraisals at all levels. Mr. Koleszar suggested that some of the topics being revisited may be appropriate as a report from staff and not necessarily another work session.

Mrs. Moynihan said that it is important that there be discussion on athletic discipline and revisit the issue of the athletic training rule/pledge to see how well it working. Mr. Stokes said that he would be interested in continuous improvement in athletics.

Mrs. McKeel said that she is receiving feedback from teachers and parents that the video based Spanish instruction in the elementary schools is outdated which is resulting in the students not receiving it well. She suggested the Board look at it again after the budget cycle. Mr. Stokes suggested looking at it during budget cycle to see how much it is costing and if it is effective.

Dr. Moran said that she would like to see a work session on the quality movement in the school division in looking at Goals 4 and 5 to make sure the division is not losing site of their work to implement process and strategy to help improve communication with stakeholders and feedback from customers and clients.

Dr. Benson suggested looking at the achievement gap at the February 26th work session. If there was consensus on this a schedule could be worked on based upon the Board's interests in other areas for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Wheeler said that it has been discussed to take the ideas from this meeting and have an online survey with all the potential proposals. The Board then could rank them and make a decision on the topics to be discussed at work sessions.

Mr. Price asked if there is any legal items that should be added to a work session. Mr. Davis said that he was not prepared to answer that question. He will consult with Ms. Kim for ideas from her observations in the past year.

Mrs. Mouly suggested having a discussion of No Child Left Behind and the impact it has on the budget and how it affects the division's decisions academically; also keeping track of federal programs in general. Mr. Wheeler suggested she send the Board an email with what she would like discussed.

There was Board consensus for the Achievement Gap to be discussed at the February 26th work session.

Mrs. McKeel said that some of the items could be presented to the Board through a staff report through *Superintendent's Letter*. Mr. Koleszar suggested the Board look and see where the baseline is to determine if a work session is needed.

Agenda Item No. 17. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Capital Allotment for Swimming Pools: Mrs. Mouly asked if the School Board was going to address the issue of capital allotment for swimming pools for the athletes. Mr. Wheeler said that it was discussed in pre-agenda back in December and since then the Board of Supervisors received an informational update. He asked Mrs. Johnston to email a link to the Board with the update attached. Mr. Davis said that it was on the Board of Supervisor's consent agenda. He noted that part of the informational update was an expectation from the Parks and Recreation Director that the School Board would provide input on whether or not the competitive swimming needs were something that the School Board felt needed to be addressed in the way that was being recommended. Mr. Wheeler asked if there was a sense from the pre-agenda meeting on how soon the Board would be able to have it as an agenda item. He said that he had a sense that it was the first business meeting in February. Dr. Moran responded that was correct. Mr. Stokes asked how that timeframe is going to match up with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Davis stated that the expectation of the decision would be part of the CIP process which would mean that the School Board's date in February would work.

National Board Certified Teachers: Mrs. McKeel noted that she received an email from a teacher saying that the State of Virginia has cut funding for the National Board Certified Teachers and asked if that was accurate. Mr. Zimmermann said for the past couple of years the State has passed on the funding to localities. Three budget cycles back the State paid the teachers directly, therefore they fully paid the employer's share of FICA at the State level. Now the State no longer transfers the payment plus the employer's share of FICA, they just transfer the payment and it is up to the localities to communicate that to their employees. Mrs. McKeel asked if that has been done. Mr. Zimmermann responded that it has been done. Mrs. McKeel suggested the information be put in *Superintendent's Letter*.

Emily Couric Leadership Forum: Mrs. McKeel stated that she received the Emily Couric Leadership Forum information and that the high schools should be nominating students for this award. The scholarship for this year is $15,000 with a nominee receiving a $1,000 scholarship. She said that it would behoove that the high schools make sure they have applicants. Dr. Moran noted that every high school has had a nominee in the past and said that it is the most prestigious local award that is given to a female in the community.

VSBA/NSBA Federal Relations Network: Mr. Price asked for clarification on the email received from Mr. Frank Barham in reference to the VSBA/NSBA Federal Relations Network. Mr. Wheeler said that in the past Board members were appointed to attend this conference. He has been appointed for this year to attend the conference. The conference is a National School Board Association (NSBA) conference held in Washington focused on lobbying Congress. The email was sent out to all School Board members asking them if they would like to attend. Mr. Koleszar asked what the dates were. Mr. Wheeler responded that it is February 1 – 3, 2009 and all Board members interested in attending need to contact Mrs. Johnston.

Public Hearing on the Governor's Budget: Mr. Wheeler informed the Board that he and Dr. Moran attended the public hearing on the Governor's budget.

Visits with Legislators: Dr. Moran, Mrs. McKeel, Mrs. Mary Huffard Kegley Smith met with Congressman Perriello in December. The discussion was on Albemarle County Public Schools and education. Dr. Moran said that there is a meeting being scheduled with Senator Emmett Hanger as well.

Agenda Item No. 18. Closed Meeting. None.
Agenda Item No. 19. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 20. Adjournment.

At 9:16 p.m., Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

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Chairman

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Clerk