

Note: A full recording of the meeting is on file in the Clerk's Office and on the School Division website.

A Regular Board Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Room 241, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Mrs. Barbara Mouly; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Brian Wheeler; and Mr. Ronnie Price.

ABSENT: Mrs. Pamela Moynihan and Mr. Jon Stokes.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Executive Director of Division and School Improvement; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No.1. Call to Order.

At 6:04 p.m., Mr. Wheeler 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. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Koleszar, and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Agenda Item No. 5. Consent Agenda.

- 5A. Minutes: October 23, 2008 Regular Work Session; November 6, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- 5B. Proposed Revision of Personnel Policy GCN-R
- 5C. 2009/10 School Division Calendar
- 5D. Personnel Action
- 5E. Personnel Action
- 5F. Memo on Competitive Swimming Funding Requests

Mr. Wheeler said that Item 5C needed to be pulled for discussion. Mr. Price offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda minus Item 5C. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Koleszar, and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Dr. Benson stated that the wrong summer school dates were applied to the school division calendar which does not affect the actual days of school. Staff asked the Board to use the amended calendar that has the correct dates for summer school.

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to accept the 2009/10 Albemarle County School calendar. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Agenda Item No. 6. Announcements.

School Board Appreciation Month: Dr. Moran presented the Board with their Virginia School Board (VSBA) Academy Awards. These awards are based on VSBA academy points that Board members earn by attending conferences and serving on committees.

Artwork Display: Dr. Benson announced that there was a reception held to recognize the artwork displayed in the hallway outside of Room 241. The art work is a representation of students from Senior Photography at Western Albemarle High School (WAHS).

Mr. Wheeler said that it is important that the Division celebrate the arts and commended Mr. Andy Johnson, Fine Arts Coordinator, and Catherine Manis, Art teacher from WAHS, for their involvement in the new artwork display.

Agenda Item No. 7. School Board and Superintendent Business.

Principal Magazine Article: Dr. Moran informed the Board that Dr. William Sterrett, principal of Woodbrook Elementary School, had an article on a school-wide discipline plan published in the online version of *Principal Magazine*.

Stimulus Package Update: Dr. Moran informed the Board of a brief meeting with the congressional staff for Tom Perriello to discuss the stimulus package and how it is going affect local government and the school division.

Dr. Benson said the two different categories of funding that will be available to schools is a grant based application which is related to building infrastructure; there will also be formula driven monies associated with Title I in the amount of \$400,000 for the next two years and approximately \$1.5 million will be coming in through IDEA. He said that more information on specific guidelines on how the monies can be spent will be provided shortly. Dr. Moran noted that the monies are targeted towards Title I and Special Education and will not provide the Division with the focus on the needs in the regular operational budget.

Agenda Item No. 8. Proposed Revision of Personnel Policy GCPC.

Ms. Kim summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to adopt amended Personnel Policy GCPC. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Agenda Item No. 9. Eliminate the Achievement Gap Work Session.

Dr. Brown summarized the staff report and gave an overview of the topics being discussed in the breakout session, which is on file in the School Board Office. He reviewed with the Board the set-up for the work session and that there would be breakout sessions on three areas.

Board members then broke out into discussion groups on each focus area. At 7:54 p.m., the groups came back together to discuss the focus group discussions. The following are the highlights of the discussion.

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Other Specific Teaching Strategies

- There was a mix of high school, middle school and elementary teachers
- Relationship is important
- Collapsing of levels in the high schools is successful
- Work towards challenging students on higher level of Blooms
- Use of a variety of assessments
- Majority of high school students do not know about the achievement gap
- Middle school procedure of a student mastering a level of Blooms includes students who are allowed to choose the level and can not repeat a level once it is mastered
- Weekly mentoring program at Jack Jouett Middle School is very successful
- Students can choose their mentor
- Developing pride is important at the elementary level

- Elementary school teachers stress the importance of knowing their students' high expectations and have the expectation keep rising
- Adapt to the students' uniqueness
- One elementary teacher wrote to her students during the summer to create relationships for the start of school
- Elementary teachers are using music in the curriculum
- Behavior in the classroom is important to help students learn about success
- There is a need for more culturally responsible professional development
- More electives to engage students towards their understanding of cultures are needed

Data-driven Teaching and Learning (School Based)

- SchoolNet is being used more by principals and teachers
- Principals and teachers are getting real time data and are able to refocus instruction for desired results
- Set smart goals
- Gallery walks done on balance score card
- There is closer interaction with PLC
- "All Things PLC" is a wonderful web site
- Middle schools need best practices to be viewable
- Measurable goals are being maintained with the achievement gap
- Achievement gap can be eliminated by focusing students and curriculum through assessment and data

Dr. Brown summarized the AYP balanced scorecard, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the scorecard was being done in all the schools. Dr. Brown said that the scorecard presented to the Board is a sample for them to look over and provide feedback.

Student Voices

- High kudos for the LAUNCH and AVID programs
- LAUNCH program is for 9th grade students only at Western Albemarle High School
- Students who complete the LAUNCH program move on to the AVID program

Mrs. McKeel asked what schools have the AVID program. Mr. Wheeler said the schools with the AVID program are Monticello and Western Albemarle High schools and Henley Middle School.

- Students are not challenged to get out of the mold and go onto something more challenging
- Lower expectations are placed on certain groups of students
- Students look at levels as something to move toward
- Successful students have support and relationships with someone in the buildings

Dr. Moran stated when students are labeled they are put in a box which creates a sense of destiny and students who are in a level takes away that destiny. Mr. Wheeler said that he heard differently from the students. He added that the teachers stated they are challenged with resources to be successful with this.

The Student Voices work session ended with a student saying that his friends are not involved; Mr. Wheeler said that the Division needs to whatever it takes to get those students involved. Dr. Moran noted that there have been efforts to build support groups in the schools and when students feel that someone inside the school is making a connection and commitment to help them it helps them get a sense that they can be successful. She added that success also comes from the guidance they receive at home.

There was further Board discussion on eliminating the achievement gap and how students feel if they are labeled to a level.

Agenda Item No. 9. Public Comment. None.**Agenda Item No. 10. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.**

Mr. Koleszar stated that the Board should have questions prepared for staff on the work session topic before the work session meeting. Mr. Wheeler asked if there should be a Board member volunteer to do the work-up on each work session. Mr. Koleszar said that the Board needs to be conscience of what they need to know more about going into the work sessions. Dr. Benson said that staff can send an email to the Board before each work session and ask what questions they would like answered at the work session.

Mr. Price updated the Board on his visit to the Human Resources (HR) department. He suggested that Ms. Pam Carter attend a meeting and present what the HR department does in reference to wellness.

Mr. Wheeler announced that the Board would present the school division's budget to the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Items No. 11. Closed Meeting.

At 8:59 p.m. Mr. Price offered a **motion** that the 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 to discuss and consider perspective candidates for positions of Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Lead Instructional Coaches, Instructional Coaches, Principal of Albemarle High School, and a retirement of a principal. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Agenda Item No. 12. Certify Closed Meeting.

Mr. Price 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 open meeting requirements by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Meeting. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Stokes.

Motion carried by a 5:0:2 vote.

Agenda Item No. 15. Adjournment

At 9:10 p.m., Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Moynihan and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Chairman

Clerk