

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

A Budget Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Room 241, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Brian Wheeler; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mr. Jon Stokes (arrived at 7:23 p.m.); and Mr. Ronnie Price.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Joe Letteri, Director of Building Services; Ms. Charmane White, Assistant Director of Transportation; Ms. Christina Pitsenberger, Director of Food Services; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Executive Director of School and Division Improvement; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Call Order.

Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ElectronicSchoolBoard Training

The Board participated in a training session on using ElectronicSchoolBoard.

There was a recess at 6:15 p.m.

Call Back to Order

Mr. Wheeler called the School Board back to order at 6:42 p.m.

Agenda.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Stokes absent.**

Budget Work Session.

Dr. Moran summarized what would be discussed during the budget work session.

Building Services

Mr. Letteri summarized the Building Services budget proposal.

Mr. Koleszar asked if the division was investing enough in maintenance so that we do not get behind. Mr. Letteri said that he is confident that we are able to maintain our equipment.

Mr. Koleszar asked if the bigger maintenance projects being a part of stimulus package. Mr. Letteri said that during the Long-Range Planning Committee meetings last year stimulus packages were not looked at as a possibility.

Mr. Wheeler asked about savings the division may see with the Energy Manager position. Mr. Letteri said that staff meets monthly to review bills to see if there are any issues. Staff has been developing an energy policy and there are some administrative procedures that will be brought to the Board for approval.

Mrs. McKeel asked if there was a night watchman program that makes sure that computers are shut down. Mr. Letteri said that it is being looked at by School Technology.

Mrs. McKeel asked there was difficulty hiring for custodial staff. Mr. Letteri said that they have not had trouble filling any positions.

Transportation Services

Ms. White summarized the Transportation budget proposal.

Mrs. Moynihan asked how many cars needed to be purchased. Ms. White said 7.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if any buses would be sold this year. Ms. White said that if we have any spare buses then they would be used as a trade-in toward the purchase of a new bus. Mrs. Moynihan asked how old was the oldest bus in the fleet. Ms. White said currently the oldest bus is a 1999.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the division was purchasing any vans. Ms. White said that the only way the division can purchase vans is to be less than ten passengers.

Mrs. McKeel asked about fuel and what happens to funds not spent at the end of the year. Mr. Zimmermann said that it would return to fund balance for the division.

Mr. Wheeler noted that the aligning of schedules for Walton and Monticello were not included in the budget but it is a recommendation for further reduction.

Mrs. Mouly asked how is it when you combine middle and high school students on the same bus. Ms. White said that it has been successful.

Mr. Price asked how many hybrid vehicles are in the fleet. Ms. White said that the division does not have any. The vehicles purchased are fuel efficient.

Mr. Price said that we held back funds for the purchase of new buses, is there funds in this budget to deal with potential higher maintenance costs in the future. Mr. Zimmermann said that overall the Transportation budget is declining. Mr. Price asked if we should be considering putting some dollars in the budget anticipating future maintenance issues. Ms. White said that she would hope that this is looked at. Dr. Moran asked about the bus replacement cycle. Ms. White said that we are on a 13 year bus replacement cycle with the oldest bus being a 1994.

Mr. Price said that last year there was a presentation from the Safe Routes to School group. Has this been looked at further? Ms. White said that this is still being researched.

Mr. Koleszar said that bus drivers have been expressing concerns. Are we saving money by reducing bus driver hours? Ms. White said that we are designing routes more efficiently resulting in a reduction in hours.

Mrs. McKeel asked about field trips. Ms. White said that the field trip is entered into the system. Eight hour drivers are assigned to the trips first but it really depends on the time for the field trips. If the request is during school hours, there is typically no problem with filling the request.

Mr. Wheeler said that the budget mentions the elimination of four activity bus driver positions. At some point there was an initiative to create full-time activity drivers, and was that four positions? Ms. White said that there is currently no one in those positions. Mr. Wheeler asked how the positions became vacant. Ms. White said that interviews have taken place, but the uncertainty of the hours for the positions has made them difficult to fill. Mr. Wheeler asked about benefits for these positions. Ms. White said that the positions were 12-month positions that included benefits. Dr. Moran said that the position requires late nights and weekends. Ms. White said that

the original proposal was for 8 positions and the four vacant positions are the ones being recommended for elimination.

Mrs. Mouly asked what was included in the transfers for this budget. Mr. Zimmermann said that the transfers are for the bus replacement fund.

Food Services

Ms. Pitsenberger summarized the Food Services budget proposal.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if food was purchased locally. Ms. Pitsenberger said that most of the food is purchased through bid with CISCO of Virginia located in Harrisonburg. Produce in past years local vendors were used. We do ask that local vendors for produce be used. She is exploring options with local produce.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if the commodity food funds have be used to purchase certain foods. Ms. Pitsenberger said that you get entitlement dollars and then you choose the food that you want to purchase with those dollars. You get the food from their vendors. Mrs. McKeel asked how the funds were assigned to the division. Ms. Pitsenberger said that it is based on last year's meal participation rate and then it is factored into a formula to determine the amount the division receives.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the department uses students. Ms. Pitsenberger said that they use students when possible.

Mr. Koleszar asked if there are any trends in utilization. Ms. Pitsenberger said that there has been an increase in free and reduced lunch percentages. Overall participation has remained the same but it changes from year to year. Breakfast is always a struggle for participation.

Mrs. Mouly asked how free and reduced lunch participation fits into the budget. Ms. Pitsenberger said that it fits into the budget because the division receives reimbursement for every free and reduced meal served. It is also used in helping determine the cost for a full-paid meal.

Instructional Technology

Dr. Brown summarized the Instructional Technology budget proposal.

Mr. Koleszar asked if the reduction of CTIPs put a strain on the Help Desk. Dr. Brown said that they anticipate an increase in calls, and individuals will have to take on the responsibility to do some of this work. Dr. Benson said that CTIPs by definition should not be the troubleshooters in a school.

Mr. Price asked if this was a year when there were dollars to spend what would be an initiative. Dr. Brown said that he would like to see all teachers have functional laptops and all secondary students with netbooks.

Mr. Price asked out of all the schools, who is at the top technology wise? Dr. Brown said that they are trying to create equity across all schools.

Mr. Stokes said that he would like to see the division moving towards students being given laptops to use in order to be innovative.

Mrs. McKeel asked about the use of Smart Boards. Dr. Brown said that the division is in the research and development phase into the division. Staff is looking at putting them in all of the new classrooms at Albemarle High School.

Assessment and Information Services

Dr. Brown summarized the Assessment and Information Services budget.

Mrs. McKeel asked about formative assessments. Dr. Brown said that these assessments were developed by the division.

Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to discuss the achievement gap work session about cultural bias in assessments and its impact on the achievement gap. Mr. Price said that he would like to see a discussion about culturally responsive teaching during the achievement gap work session.

Mrs. McKeel noted that the Martin Luther King celebration would be on Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Charlottesville Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. McKeel said that on Friday, January 23rd CATEC showcase will be kicking off at 12 p.m. at Fashion Square Mall.

Mr. Price asked if staff was seeing anywhere the fringe benefit increasing this year. Mr. Zimmermann said that not this year, but maybe in the next biennium budget. Mr. Wheeler asked what that meant. Mr. Price said that it was all your benefits rolled together. Mr. Zimmermann said that the overall fringe benefit is increasing this year. The change in future years the change would be due to VRS.

Dr. Benson said that a press release went out today regarding the Virginia Index for Performance Awards. Dr. Moran expressed concern that there are no middle schools receiving recognition. Mrs. McKeel said that maybe there needs to be a work session on middle schools.

Mr. Wheeler said that Mary Huffard Kegley Scott is willing to schedule appointments with legislators at the VSBA Conference in Richmond in February.

Adjournment.

At 8:22 p.m., Mrs. Mouly offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Chairman

Clerk