

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 March 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Josh Davis, Director of Transportation; Mr. George Shifflett, Deputy Director of Building Services; Dr. Bernard Hairston, Executive Director of Community Engagement/Strategic Planning; Ms. Lori Allshouse, Manager of Strategic Planning and Performance of the County Executive's Office; Mrs. Steele Howen, Student Behavior Management and Support Services; Mr. Fitzgerald Barnes, Athletic Director at Monticello High School; Ms. Charity Haines, Coordinator of Albemarle County Bright Stars Program; Ms. Kathy Ralston, Director of Albemarle County Department of Social Services; Mr. Don Vale, Principal on Special Assignment; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Executive Director of Division and School Improvement; Dr. Carole Hastings, Special Assistant of Quality Systems Planning and Support Services; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Commendations.

Commendations took place at 6:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium Foyer prior to the meeting. The following commendations were presented:

Twenty Albemarle County high school students have been selected as finalists in the 2009 National Merit® Scholarship Program. The following nine Albemarle High School students received the distinction: **John F. Elder, Roger Fan, Cameron K. Hill, Valentina S. Moshnikova, Amy L. Pugh, Ariel L. Schwartz, Caitlyn M. Suhler, Duncan C. Townsend, and Matthew E. Truwit**; the following seven Western Albemarle finalists are: **Caroline Barnes, Joshua Dugan, Elizabeth Hexter, Joanna Moody, Samantha Rivkin, Wesley Swank, and Whitney Wenger**; the following four students from Monticello High School each won a *Certificate of Merit* for the competition and progress to the finals for college scholarship opportunities: **Katherine Downs, Patricia Fernandez, Stephen Lander, and Timothy Pianta**. This is the largest number of National Merit® finalists in Albemarle County Public Schools' history.

After winning their school-level spelling bee, the following students progressed to the Albemarle County Public Schools Division spelling bee, held on February 9, 2009: **Luc Bailey**, a sixth-grade student from Jack Jouett Middle School won the division bee, with the winning word, odyssey; **Angus Dawson**, a fifth-grade student at Yancey Elementary School, was the runner up. Both students advanced to the regional spelling bee that was held at Monticello High School on March 7, 2009.

Burley Middle School student **Jeannie Kim** submitted the winning design for the Virginia Art Education Association's Flag contest. Her flag design will represent the state of Virginia for the entire month of March in Washington, D.C.

Western Albemarle High School student, **Kate Wiggans** was named first runner-up at the 2009 Regional Shakespeare Competition in Staunton, VA held on February 13, 2009. She performed a monologue from *Romeo and Juliet*.

Western Albemarle High School student, **Rachel Lane**, created the winning design for the ACPS Fine Arts Festival Poster for the 2007-08 school year. This year's winning poster art was created by **Kyra Ventura** of Crozet Elementary.

Gwedette Crummie, Assistant Principal of Baker-Butler Elementary School was nominated this past fall for the Virginia "Outstanding Mentor Award" for her many efforts to increase mentoring awareness, participation in the mentoring program, and mentoring resources.

The Board commended **Nancy Markos** and **Pam Walker** for their publication, "*Teaching the Nuts and Bolts of Physical Education, Second Edition.*" Ms. Markos is a P.E. teacher at Broadus Wood Elementary and Ms. Walker is a retired Red Hill Elementary School P.E. teacher.

Jeremy Malm, a freshman at Monticello High School had his article, "*This Man Really Can Move Mountains: A Tribute to Bob Allen*," published in the 2008 Issue of Earth Scientist Magazine by the University of Oklahoma. His article describes the incredible journey he made with Bob Allen, a well-known Oklahoma geologist.

Agenda Item No. 1. Call to Order.

At 6:31 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.

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

Agenda Item No. 5. Consent Agenda.

- 5A. Minutes: November 13, 2008 Regular Work Session
- 5B. Financial Accounting and Reporting
- 5C. Reappropriation of School Carryover and Building Rental
- 5D. Bama Works Fund Grant – Jack Jouett
- 5E. Bama Works Fund Grant – Stony Point
- 5F. Bama Works Fund Grant – Stone-Robinson
- 5G. Donation to Cale Elementary School
- 5H. Donation to V.L. Murray Elementary School
- 5I. Freas Foundation Grant
- 5J. Wal-Mart Foundation Grant – Cale
- 5K. Wal-Mart Foundation Grant – Broadus Wood
- 5L. Target Field Trip Grants
- 5M. Policy Adoption
- 5N. Personnel Action with addendum

Mr. Stokes asked that the Financial Reports be pulled for discussion.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda minus Item 5B. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion with Mr. Koleszar absent.**

Mr. Stokes stated that he thought there was Board consensus at the last meeting to include the fund balance on the main part of the document. Mr. Wheeler stated that the Board did not reach consensus on that. Dr. Moran said it was discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed that it would come back at a future meeting to see if it could be adjusted. Mr. Stokes noted the fund balance on page six of the report showed the 2008/09 staffing freeze lapse contributing to the fund balance and asked what positions were included. Dr. Benson said that there is a committee that reviews positions when they become vacant to see whether it is going to impact classroom instruction and then they make a recommendation to Dr. Benson whether the position should be filled. He would provide the Board with a list of positions that are currently vacant. Mr. Stokes asked for clarification on a frozen position. Dr. Benson said when positions become vacant in the division there is a committee formed to review on whether those positions should be filled. One reason the freezing is done is to make sure that in the next year, where there is reduction in available revenues, there is sufficient revenues to meet the Division's expenditures; the other is that it gives the Division opportunity to determine whether the position is necessary and meeting the needs of the Division. Dr. Moran noted that frozen positions in the division are frozen for the present year.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the monies that are not spent from the frozen positions would be rolled over to the fund balance. Mr. Stokes clarified that the division does not have frozen positions in the budget from year to year. Dr. Moran stated that if it is known that positions are not to be filled, the funds would be used to balance the budget. **There was Board consensus for a list of the frozen positions to be provided in Superintendent's Letter.**

Mr. Wheeler clarified that the fund balance of \$6.5 million is an amount accumulated through multiple years. He said that the \$6.5 million is what the division had in fund balance in the audited financial statement at

the end of June of last year. The Board of Supervisors had an undesignated fund balance of \$20.4 million in the same statement. In addition the CIP fund balance was \$31.4 million.

Mr. Wheeler asked Mr. Stokes if he wanted to carry the financial report over to a future meeting to receive the report. Mr. Stokes stated that he was comfortable receiving the report at this meeting as long as the questions that were brought forward are answered. He suggested that the future reports reflect the issues that have been discussed. Dr. Moran asked if there was consensus from the Board. Mr. Wheeler replied that he believed that the Board did not reach consensus on bringing fund balance to the first page of the report. Mrs. McKeel noted that Mr. Koleszar needs to be part of the discussion because he had issues with it as well. **There was Board consensus to put the February financial report on the main agenda and discuss whether to put the fund balance on the front page of the document.**

Mr. Stokes offered a **motion** to receive the January financial report. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Koleszar absent.**

Agenda Item No. 6. Announcements.

Mid-Year Reviews: Dr. Benson said the division is in the process of wrapping up the mid-year reviews with schools.

Jefferson Region Destination Imagination Tournament: Dr. Benson reported that the Albemarle County Schools captured ten of the sixteen slots at the Jefferson Region Destination Imagination tournament held at Western Albemarle High School and will advance to the State level of the competition.

District 9 Choral Festival: Dr. Benson announced that Albemarle High School, Sutherland Middle School, Burley Middle School, and Henley Middle School will be competing at the District 9 Choral Festival on March 19th and 20th at Nelson County High School. The four teams will represent more than 320 students in the school division.

Agenda Item No. 7. Public Comment.

Mrs. Kimberly Kelly is a parent of a student at Henley Middle School and spoke about music, arts, and science. She said that math, science, and language arts are bolstered and strengthened by performing arts, music, and visual arts.

Mrs. Pam Evans is a parent of a Henley Middle and Western Albemarle High School students. She said that music and art is a right for all students in public school and suggested the Board look at the information that she provided.

Ms. Darilia Evans, a junior at Western Albemarle High School, said that a traditional schedule allows more flexibility, as the block schedule is difficult as it does not allow for students to take electives.

Mr. Ben Evans, a student at Henley Middle School, stated that he supports strengthening the arts in Albemarle County Schools.

Mrs. Debbie Gordon is a parent of a Henley Middle and Western Albemarle High School students. She asked the Board to appeal to the school administrators to hold off further changes to the block scheduling system.

Ms. Erin Heald, a student at Henley Middle School, said that double blocking Language Arts will take away from elective classes.

Mr. Michael Patashnik, a freshman at Western Albemarle High School, spoke about how being in the Jazz Band at Western Albemarle has molded him and helped him grow and asked the Board to support music in the schools.

Mr. Josh Patashnik is a student at Henley Middle School. He spoke of how the important the building blocks are in learning and performing music and said that music will eventually deteriorate at Western Albemarle if Henley cannot teach music to more of their students.

Mr. Eric Patashnik, parent of students at Henley Middle and Western Albemarle High Schools, stated that students who thrive at college and beyond have a common thread through high school music programs. He feels that the music program has been neglected in the Western feeder pattern.

Mr. Alexander Hahn, an eighth grade student in the strings program at Henley Middle School, said that he was disappointed to find that Western Albemarle High School offers a 0 period strings rehearsal in the choir room and not as a strings class and because of the transportation issue the 0 period class makes it difficult for students. He noted that Henley has only sixteen students and Western Albemarle has nineteen, comparing it to Charlottesville City High School that has over one hundred students in their strings program. He said the administration needs to support all areas of music by retaining all of the music teachers, the teachers need to be committed to the program and build relationships with and inspire the students, and the guidance department needs to ask students to join the program and be advocates of benefits of music and education.

Ms. Nancy Paulson is an advocate of the performing arts. She said that she would like to see decisions, policies, and funds that honor and encourage the importance of performing arts in our schools. She asked that the enrollment numbers and course offering at Henley and Western be reviewed and then be compared to their peer schools in the District as there are severe discrepancies.

Mr. Bill Goldeen spoke about the choral program and the advertising policy. He said the only outstanding program is at Albemarle High School which is because of the dedicated teachers who has passion and vision for the program. He suggested the school division hire choral directors and to reconsider the division's policy on advertising.

Ms. Shara Goldeen is an eighth grade student at Henley Middle School. She said the reasons for the number of students who can afford to take music should not be lowered; band students use both sides of the brain, in band a choir the students make new friends and form a community, and it gives students the confidence to make loud mistakes which correlates with the core classes. She said music programs are a necessary part of a student's educational life and the proposed program will reduce or eliminate opportunities for all students.

Mr. Shawn Evans spoke about double-blocking at the middle school level and how it affects the arts programs. He said that art is a core subject and it should be realized before it is too late.

Mrs. Cheryl Higgins, a parent of a student at Western Albemarle High School, said that playing in an orchestra or band is an experience unlike any other. It requires concentration and discipline, which skills are valuable in ones future in holding a job.

Mr. Peter Wurzer said that he attended the work session on the achievement gap and was impressed with the meeting. He also spoke about the budget and said that he agreed with the generation of the cushion in the budget but he asked that when it is done it is made transparent and made sure that the public understands.

Mr. Eric Hahn, an eighth grade student at Henley Middle School, said because of the electives offered in ACPS he has submitted his enrollment in Albemarle High School because of the MESA program.

Mrs. Lisa Meyers is a parent of two student attending Western Albemarle High School. She said that the Henley Middle School students deserve the same opportunities as the students have had in the past with the music programs.

Mrs. Liz Rayman, parent of a freshman at Western Albemarle High School, asked that the school division maintain a strong art program.

Mr. Wheeler thanked the students who participated in public comment and said that their comments reflected well for Henley Middle School and Western Albemarle High School.

Dr. Benson stated that he sat in on the Parent/Teacher/Student Organization meeting and said that there were a number of concerns expressed by the parents that need to be looked at by the school division.

Agenda Item No. 8. School Board and Superintendent Business.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Report: Dr. Moran introduced Mr. Davis who provided an update on VDOT's proposed revisions to operational and maintenance standards in regards to the roadway system in the event of inclement weather. Paved roads will be plowed within forty-eight hours; unpaved roads will not be plowed at all. He said this will result in 78% of the student population in the four districts faced with degraded service when it comes to snow and ice removal. He noted that staff will be attending a public hearing on this issue. Mrs. McKeel asked how many schools this will affect. Mr. Davis said that it will affect Yancey Elementary and Red Hill Elementary.

Dr. Moran noted that it is not only snow and ice removal that can cause issues, it is also vegetation on the side of the roads that will no longer be mowed.

Mr. Price asked if the school division plows their own parking lots. Mr. Shifflett said the school division plows a portion of the parking lots but the rest are contracted out. Mr. Price asked if the school division plows some of the roads. Mr. Shifflett said that it is limited on how many school roads are plowed by the school division.

Mr. Stokes asked what other school districts were looked at. Mr. Davis said that the other districts were Brownsville, Meriwether Lewis, and Stony Point. Mr. Stokes asked if VDOT is making these revisions statewide. Mr. Davis responded yes. Mr. Stokes asked for the response of the other school districts. Mr. Davis stated that he has just sent a communication out to the other districts and has not received any responses yet. Mr. Stokes said that he does not see sending busses down bad roads and this may precipitate another discussion on moving to more centralized bus stops.

Mrs. Moynihan said that this is a serious problem with the division being required to supply transportation to every student.

Mrs. McKeel asked that the presentation being presented at the public hearing be shared with the Board.

Installation of a Track at Burley Middle School: Dr. Benson informed the Board that he and Dr. Moran were approached by a representative of the Burley Middle School PTO looking for help with the installation of a track. The PTO is in the process of raising funds to underwrite a portion of it, but because of some drainage problems it is going to cost more than what the PTO has in funding. He said that the PTO was told that it would need to go through the proper CIP funding process.

CIP Oversight Committee: Dr. Benson stated that the CIP Oversight Committee will reconvene on March 23rd.

School Additions: Dr. Moran noted she has had the opportunity to visit the additions that are underway at Albemarle High, Greer Elementary, and Brownsville Elementary Schools. She said that all projects are on budget and on time to open.

Town Hall Meeting: Mrs. Moynihan announced that on March 3rd she had the opportunity to attend a town hall meeting in Earlysville and was approached by Commonwealth Attorney Denise Lunsford asking if a presentation could be scheduled with the School Board regarding gang activity in the area. She said that she

would like to get it on a future agenda. **There was Board consensus that the presentation would be placed on a future agenda.**

Agenda Item No. 9. 2008 Citizen Survey.

Dr. Hairston and Ms. Lori Allshouse summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mr. Stokes asked if the questions on the survey are new or are there historical data to compare them to. Ms. Allshouse said that the question on devoting resources is historical data and the spending tax dollars question is new.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if there were questions to assess the difference in citizen's satisfaction. Dr. Hairston responded the breakdown is based on race, age, sex, and the length of living in the county.

Mr. Wheeler asked if there were any insights on the question regarding Albemarle County Schools being better, worse, or staying the same over a five-year time period and asked about the wording of the question. Dr. Hairston said the wording is identical to the State survey with the only difference being with the refuse to respond answer.

Mrs. Mouly asked what is meant by doing the survey without a rubric. Dr. Hairston said there is a reason that 45% of the citizens are not comfortable responding and when the questions regarding doing a good job are open ended it is difficult to determine if we are doing a good job.

Mr. Wheeler asked if the script that the University of Virginia (UVA) used had "I don't know" as an answer because the state's script does not include that answer. He asked Dr. Hairston to check to see if "Don't Know" was an option for an answer.

Mr. Price asked how many of the citizens surveyed were parents of school children. Dr. Hairston said that he would provide that information to the Board.

Mrs. Moynihan expressed concern about the number of people surveyed. She said that it seems not to be a large amount compared to the community size. She asked how the randomization of the people was achieved and is it possible to randomly select greater numbers of people. Ms. Allshouse said the numbers are appropriate for a 3.8% margin of error at the seven hundred sixty seven. The questions that were specific there were rationing and there were less numbers of people which results in a larger error rate. She said there were three methods of randomization; a random digit dialing technique, random selections from directories, and random selections from cell phone lists. Dr. Hairston said that 1,002 people were surveyed with the statewide survey that was done by the Commonwealth's education poll.

Mr. Stokes found the quality of the public schools being the second reason people move within the county discouraging because the quality of the public schools within the county should not be perceived any differently. He said the quality of schools should be consistent across the county. Dr. Moran asked if that question was asked of parents with children in the schools or was it asked to all of the citizens. Ms. Allshouse said that question was asked of all the citizens.

Agenda Item No. 10. Turf Field Update.

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

Mr. Wheeler stated the school division is fortunate to have a donor who supports all of the high schools, and he supports the project.

Mrs. McKeel asked for an update on where Albemarle High School (AHS) stands. Mrs. Howen said that the monies for the four high schools are available in the Richmond Community Foundation. At the point when

the funds are needed she will be contacting the person responsible. The Albemarle High School donor is not completely out of the picture, but because of the downturn in business the Board of Directors of his corporation wanted to wait until they see what this quarter will bring. He will then go back to them with the request. Mrs. McKeel asked if AHS has raised any funds. Mrs. Howen said they have raised some funds and if the donor does not come forward they will have to start the fundraising from the beginning.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if there is going to be additional money needed for the project. Mrs. Howen said the contingency money and money for additional engineering is needed. Mrs. Moynihan asked where that money is coming from. Dr. Benson said that the schools will need to raise the money.

Mr. Stokes asked if all three high schools have tracks around their fields and will they be protected. Mrs. Howen said the company has assured the division that they will be able to preserve the tracks by covering them during installation. Mr. Barnes said that he viewed an installation of the field and they use a bridge process to protect the track and the replacement of a damaged track is covered in the contract. Mr. Stokes asked if the 20% increase in the base price includes the replacement of the field in ten years. Mr. Barnes said that he is not aware of a 20% increase in the base price. The base price has actually been reduced. Mrs. Howen said that the base price could increase by 20% but with the contingency it will not be that high.

Mrs. Moynihan offered a **motion** to allow schools to begin construction separately as the funds are available with the understanding that no school division funds are used for the installation of the turf fields. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Stokes abstaining and Mr. Koleszar absent.** (There was a break from 8:49 p.m. to 9:01 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 11. FY 2008 Bright Stars Annual Report.

Ms. Haines and Ms. Ralston summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if the students are followed through high school. Ms. Haines said that there are ten students from the first class of Bright Stars graduating high school in June. She said that the students and their parents are being interviewed to find what has happened for them during their years in Albemarle County schools. Mrs. Moynihan asked how they compare discipline-wise with their peers. Ms. Haines said that information will come out from the interview process and added that they are all graduating.

Mr. Price commended the data on the third through sixth grades. He asked if there are plans on putting Bright Stars in the elementary schools that do not have it. Ms. Haines said that there are no plans to expand the program next year. She said that the blending and sharing of resources is going to continue. Dr. Moran noted that there are schools that have Title I and Headstart programs. Ms. Haines added that all of the Bright Stars programs have wait lists. Mr. Price asked for clarification on the demographic shift. Ms. Haines said that the data seems to suggest that the Hispanic population is going to continue to increase. Mr. Price asked if there are comparisons that are capable of being made with Headstart students versus Bright Star students. Ms. Haines said what was seen in a recent analysis is the Bright Stars students have been doing better than the Headstart students. Dr. Moran noted that they are two different programs. What Headstart does is not parallel what the division does. Ms. Haines stated that Headstart has a shorter school year, a shorter school day, they do not have all certified teachers in their positions, and the family worker works with the family for only one year, versus the Bright Stars family worker staying with the family through graduation. Mr. Price asked if there will be stimulus money available to expand the Bright Stars program. Dr. Moran said that it appears that there are several batches of funding coming after the initial stimulus package that could be available. She said that the State is not coming forth with funding for pre-school programs. Ms. Haines said the State has capped the composite index for pre-school at 50%.

Mrs. McKeel asked if the Title I pre-school program is the Headstart program. Ms. Haines said that the Title I pre-school program is a third program. Mrs. McKeel asked for clarification on the Title I pre-school program. Dr. Moran said that the Title I pre-school program has comparability to the Bright Stars program. Ms. Haines noted that the Title I pre-school program and Headstart are federally funded. Mrs. McKeel asked for clarification on the cost per child. Ms. Haines referred to the last page of the report under revenues; Virginia Pre-School Initiative Grant. She said the State asserts that it would cost \$6,000 to educate a pre-school student in a year long program, but they only pay one third of the cost; now they will be paying half of the cost, but it still

does not reach what Albemarle County says it cost per student. Mrs. McKeel asked if the one third that the State pays rolls through the school division's composite index. Ms. Haines said the third is based on the composite index. The State has now taken it out of the composite index of the Virginia Pre-School Initiative grant money and has said that all Virginia pre-school initiative grants will pay every locality up to 50%.

Mrs. Mouly said that she had the pleasure of attending a Bright Stars classroom. She asked what the criteria are in making choices from the waiting lists. Ms. Haines said the State allows them to have several criteria that are expanded to include other risk factors other than low income families. Mrs. Mouly asked for clarification on why there are children on the waiting list. Ms. Haines said that there is a point system and the children with the higher number of points are accepted into the program first.

Agenda Item No. 12. Middle School Program Guide.

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

Mr. Stokes asked why Henley Middle School has more exploratory handlings than any other middle school and how do middle schools choose which exploratories to offer. Mr. Vale said that there are courses that are offered before or after school or as a club activity at other schools where Henley offers them as an elective. He added that Henley has not completed its full transition to double blocking across all content areas which provides additional opportunities for additional elective classes. Dr. Benson added that Henley Middle School meets the minimum requirement for double blocking for students who need additional support in language arts and mathematics. They are looking to expand it based upon teacher recommendations. He said that several of the middle schools have schedules that might be perceived as being more challenging then the schedule at Henley, yet seem to have larger amounts of students participating in the performing arts. Mr. Stokes asked if some of the electives were eliminated would it encourage students to take fewer electives. Dr. Benson said that it would lessen the options the students have for electives and would likely increase enrollment in other programs. Mr. Stokes said that the double blocking might not be the problem as the amount of choices they have in electives. Dr. Moran said the more electives that are offered, more teacher time is pulled from core instruction.

Mrs. McKeel said that there was discussion last year about not offering electives that did not meet a cap and asked if Henley is offering classes with minimal attendance. Mrs. Moynihan stated that there has been discussion that if there are classes with low enrollment, the school division cannot afford those kinds of classes. Dr. Moran added that there has also been discussion that slide did not take precedence over being able to share staff and that needs to be presented to the principals. Mr. Vale said that the decision to slide or not to slide was made after staffing was completed.

Dr. Benson said one of the reasons the division has middle schools making sure students are well prepared in language arts and mathematics is to have them be more successful when they get to high school.

Dr. Moran noted that there are four other middle schools that are presently double blocking and have very strong art programs.

Mr. Wheeler asked if there is pause in recommending the guide as it is presented. Dr. Benson said the guide as it stands is a baseline expectation and does not mean that the programs cannot be fine tuned as to how they are being offered to insure success in core academics and other program areas.

Mrs. Moynihan expressed concern that the parents from the western part of the county feel that their children are being short sided but they are not. Henley Middle School students have more electives and opportunities than any of the other middle schools. Mr. Stokes agreed but asked what the role of the School Board is with this issue. He is looking for direction in improving the program guide.

Mrs. McKeel asked how many electives the students take in the other middle schools. Dr. Moran said they take two a year. Dr. Benson said that Henley is not double blocking for students who most need the additional instruction in math and language arts.

Dr. Moran recommended that staff go back and work with Dr. McLaughlin to get focus on the scope of electives that are offered and how they are impacting programs.

Mr. Stokes asked if this is for next year or the year after. Dr. Benson responded next year.

Mrs. McKeel asked if there have been meetings at the school level with parents. Dr. Benson said there have been several meetings.

Mrs. Moynihan asked how Henley's language arts SOL scores compared to the other middle schools. Dr. Brown said they are comparable.

Mr. Vale suggested the Board consider approving the program guide at the next meeting and hold off on the electives until what is going to be offered is decided. **There was Board consensus to consider the program guide at the next meeting and hold off on the electives until offerings are decided upon.**

Agenda Items No. 13. Policy Amendments.

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

Mrs. Moynihan stated that foreign exchange students are able to participate in the Foreign Exchange Program only if they reside in Albemarle County; she suggested that be added to Policy JEC under foreign exchange students. Dr. Hastings stated that there is a new policy being brought forward that clarifies the entire foreign exchange student issue.

Mr. Stokes asked if any of the State mandated reports are going to be taken away because of the decreased funding from the State. Dr. Moran responded no.

Agenda Item No. 14. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors has invited him to attend their May membership meeting to speak on schools. There will also be discussion about realtor caravans to introduce them to schools in certain feeder patterns.

Mr. Wheeler asked for a volunteer to attend the VDOT public hearing on March 19th. He said that a message will be circulated with the time of the meeting and if a Board member would like to volunteer they are to reply to the message.

Agenda Item No. 15. Closed Meeting.

At 10:05 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, Director of Secondary Education, Principal of Western Albemarle High School, Principal of Burley Middle School, and the performance of specific administrative departments which require the discussion of specific employees, and subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff concerning two specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Koleszar absent.**

Agenda Item No. 16. 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. Mouly; Mrs. McKeel; Mr. Price; Mr. Wheeler; Mr. Stokes; and Mrs. Moynihan.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Koleszar.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Agenda Item No 17. Adjournment.

At 11:03 p.m., Mr. Price offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Koleszar absent.**

Chairman

Clerk