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 April 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly (arrived ad 6:40 p.m.); Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mr. Brian Wheeler; Mr. Jon Stokes; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; and Mr. Ronnie Price.

ABSENT: Mrs. Diantha McKeel.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Thomas Nash, Executive Director of Intervention and Prevention Services; Mr. Kevin Kirst, Director of Special Education; Dr. Carole Hastings, Special Assistant for Quality, Systems, Planning and Support; Mrs. Lindsay Check-Snoddy, Environmental Compliance Manager; Mrs. Steele Howen, Student Behavior Management and Support Services; Mr. Fitzgerald Barnes, Athletic Director at Monticello High School; Ms. Debora Collins, Director of Elementary Education; Ms. Michelle Del Gallo, Principal of Agnor Hurt Elementary; Ms. Patricia Hughes, History/Social Studies Coordinator; Mr. John Hunter, Teacher at Agnor Hurt Elementary; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Reception for Governor's VIP Awards.

A reception to recognize those who were awarded the Governor's VIP Awards took place at 5:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium Foyer prior to the meeting.

The following Albemarle County schools earned the **Governor's Award for Educational Excellence:**

Hollymead Elementary   Meriwether Lewis Elementary   Murray Elementary

The following 12 Albemarle County schools earned the **Board of Education's Excellence Award:**

Albemarle High School
Baker Butler Elementary
Broadus Wood Elementary
Brownsville Elementary
Cale Elementary
Crozet Elementary
Monticello High School
Scottsville Elementary
Stone-Robinson Elementary
Stony Point Elementary
Western Albemarle High School
Wood Brook Elementary

The following Albemarle County schools earned the **Board of Education's Competence to Excellence Award:**

Red Hill Elementary   Murray High School

Agenda Item No. 1. Call to Order.

At 6:37 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. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel and Mrs. Mouly absent**

Agenda Item No. 5. Consent Agenda.

5A. Minutes: January 8, 2009 Organizational Meeting; March 23, 2009 Closed Meeting
5B. Policy Amendments
5C. Donation to Stone-Robinson Elementary School

5D. Proclamation for School Volunteer Recognition Week
5E. February 2009 Financial Report
5F. School Board Budget Worksession Calendar
5G. Last Day of School 2008-09
5H. Personnel Action (with Addendum)

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda with the Personnel Addendum being pulled. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion**, and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel and Mrs. Mouly absent.**

Mr. Wheeler said the personnel addendum was pulled from the consent agenda for additional resignations added for the Board's consideration. Mrs. Moynihan offered a **motion** to approve the personnel addendum with the additional resignations. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel and Mrs. Mouly absent**.

Agenda Item No. 6. Announcements.

Boy Scouts Attending Meeting: Mr. Wheeler acknowledged that Troop 41 and 36 of the Boy Scouts were in the audience to view the meeting. He said they are in attendance working on their communications merit badge.

High School Dropout Rate: Dr. Benson reported that Virginia Department of Education (DOE) released the high school cohort dropout reports for students who entered high school in the fall of 2004. The report noted that the Albemarle County Public Schools' (ACPS) dropout rate is at 6.5%, significantly lower than the State average of 8.7%. Mr. Wheeler commended Albemarle County Public Schools positive data.

Mrs. Mouly asked if there is any data on the 6.5% of the students that have dropped out. Dr. Benson said the State has implemented a tracking system to look at students moving from one school division to another.

Destination Imagination Tournament: Dr. Benson announced that Western Albemarle High School is the site for the state-wide Destination Imagination tournament on Saturday, April 4th.. There are student teams from Hollymead, Meriwether Lewis, Stone-Robinson, Murray Elementary, Jack Jouett, Henley, and Keswick Independent.

Agenda Item No. 7. Public Comment.

Mr. George Morris spoke about the 8th grade participation rule and policy. He provided two handouts for the Board which are on file in the School Board Office. He referred to his email to the Board and suggested that the Board look at different rules related to athletics for different size schools.

Mr. Peter Wurzer spoke about International Baccalaureate (IB). He has concerns about IB and raised the following questions: 1) Is there enough data to show that this will help the school division deal with the achievement gap and getting students acclimated to competing in the 21st century? 2) Are there school divisions that have succeeded with it and school divisions that have abandoned it? 3) What are the reasons for other school divisions not implementing it after researching it? 4) Is the school division ceding any authority in terms of the education of the students to an international body? He wants to make certain the students are being taught how to think and not what to think. He asked that he get a copy of any contract that is signed in reference to IB.

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

Spring Testing: Dr. Moran stated that the schools will be on break next week and when they return there will be testing taking place. She said the teachers are working very hard that the students will be ready at the point in time when the tests begin.

Engineering Fair at Cale: Dr. Moran informed the Board of Cale Elementary School's Engineering Fair. She said they are presenting a showcase of every student in the school being engaged in engineering projects in partnership with the Engineering School at the University of Virginia.

Last Day of School Date Change: Dr. Benson noted that the last day of school has been approved to be changed from Tuesday, June 9th to Friday, June 5th on the consent agenda. Dr. Moran noted that June 9th put the school division in conflict with the primary.

School Volunteer Recognition Week: Mr. Wheeler recognized April 19 – April 25, 2009 as School Volunteer Recognition Week and read the proclamation into the record.

Agenda Item No. 9. 2009-2010 Special Education Annual Plan.

Mr. Nash and Mr. Kirst summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mr. Wheeler asked if the plan will be coming back to the Board before the approval of next years' budget. Mr. Nash said that it would be helpful to know what next years' budget is before the plan is brought back as it will help to figure out how the federal funds will be directed. Mr. Wheeler asked if this meant amending the School Board's budget. Dr. Benson said that was correct and it also depends on where the Board of Supervisors land with the tax rate.

Mr. Wheeler asked for the total amount of federal funding. Mr. Kirst stated that it was approximately $2.5 million.

Mr. Kirst said that he will forward the comments and concerns on the plan from the Special Education Advisory Committee to the Board electronically for review.

There was Board consensus for the Special Education Plan to be placed on the next consent agenda for approval.

Agenda Item No. 10. Proposed Energy Management and Conservation Policy.

Dr. Hastings and Mrs. Check-Snoddy summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Mrs. Moynihan commended the policy and said that she is glad to see that the school division is taking charge of the energy situation.

Mr. Price suggested that the policy be wrapped around transportation management and incorporate it into sustainability. Dr. Moran noted that she provided information to Mr. Davis regarding grant funds that are aimed towards upgrades of buses and fuel efficiency.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if water conservation could be included in the policy. Mrs. Check-Snoddy said that it could be included in the energy policy. She said that a large part of it would be improving or replacing the fixtures, which is why it is not part of the policy. Mrs. Moynihan said that if it can be shown that the school division is conserving it would be a good use of funds. Mrs. Check-Snoddy stated that part of the water conservation is partially addressed through the Environmental Management System with the Steering Committee's objectives and targets.

Mr. Wheeler asked if Building Services tracks water usage. Mrs. Check-Snoddy said that is part of the utility tracking. Mrs. Check-Snoddy asked if the Board would like to see that as a portion of the energy policy or a separate resource management policy. Mr. Koleszar suggested it be part of a separate policy.

Mr. Wheeler noted the initiatives that have been put into place since December 2007 have cut the division's energy usage by 840,000 kilowatt hours and saved approximately $75,600. Mr. Wheeler asked what efficiencies are being done at the new facilities being built. Mrs. Check-Snoddy said that the additions at Albemarle High School (AHS) and Brownsville Elementary are Leadership Energy in Environmental Design (LEED) registered projects which includes the HVAC systems and lighting that adjust to the daylight and space which results in savings.

Mr. Wheeler suggested that the partnership letter be sent for the school division to start participating in the Energy STAR program and to have the policy on the next consent agenda for Board approval. **There was Board consensus to send the partnership letter and have the policy on the next consent agenda for approval.**

Agenda Item No. 11. Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities.

Mrs. Howen summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Dr. Martha McKechnie, representing the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), said that the School Health Advisory Board's recommendation is to maintain the current policy.

Mr. Stokes asked for clarification on eighth grade athletes not participating. Dr. McKechnie said that there are eighth graders who have the proper emotional and developmental maturity that would benefit from playing up, but in general, a more talented eighth grader should not displace a ninth or tenth grade student. Mr. Stokes asked if the part of the rule which includes parental permission, principal permission, and an appropriate physical examination with specific consideration for physical maturity would take care of the SHABs concerns. Dr. McKechnie said that the SHAB was asked to form recommendations on what they think represents the safest and fairest policy for participation in school programs.

Mrs. Moynihan noted that SHAB is saying that a ninth and tenth grade student could be psychologically scarred to some extent by being cut from a team because an eighth grade student took his place. Dr. McKechnie said that is if the policy is changed to allow more talented eighth graders to displace the ninth and tenth grade students. Mr. Stokes asked if that was deliberated by the committee. Dr. McKechnie said that all of the members agreed that there is an element that seemed unfair but it is not a health issue.

Mr. Barnes spoke on the mixed reviews of the athletic directors and suggested that the current policy stay as it is. He also suggested that a committee be formed to look at development of a middle school sports program. Mr. Stokes asked if Mr. Barnes would be against any eighth grade student participating on a Junior Varsity (JV) sport. Mr. Barnes said that if it was his decision he would not allow it.

Mr. Wheeler stated that he supports leaving the policy as is.

Mr. Koleszar supports leaving the policy as is and said that the purpose of athletics is to provide students an opportunity to participate and not winning it for the exceptional athlete.

Mr. Stokes said that he has concerns with the rule impacting high schools because of the size of the school and a specific rule that reaches into the formation of high school teams and stated that the School Board should not be involved at that level.

Mrs. Moynihan said that as long as there are high school students who want to be on a team, they should be given the opportunity to be on the team. It is unfair for a high school student to be cut from a team because of an eighth grade student from another school.

Mr. Koleszar said that the inconsistency allows schools to have flexibility for those who don't need eighth graders and the schools who need eighth graders to play; they have the freedom to allow it. Mr. Stokes suggested giving them complete flexibility by eliminating the rule.

Mr. Price said his concern is that if this one is wrong and an eighth grade student is allowed to play and gets injured it will be looked back on with regret. He supports the policy to remain as is.

Ms. Kim said that there is a policy revision in process on this policy to update language to conform to the Equal Access Act. It has nothing to do with athletics but the revised policy will be brought back to the Board for approval in June. She suggested the Board wait until June to vote on the policy. Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to see it on the consent agenda now as the issues are being dealt with now.

Mr. Stokes suggested with the Board's reasoning being health concerns then the Board might consider eliminating eighth grade students participating at the JV level all together.

There was Board consensus to have this item on the next consent agenda for approval.

Dr. Moran noted the discussion of the idea of having strong middle school athletic opportunities and suggested that Mrs. Howen work with the athletic directors and middle school principals to come back to the Board with a cost neutral recommendation for such a program.

Mr. Stokes and Mr. Koleszar suggested forming an athletic advisory committee. Mr. Wheeler said that there has been discussion with the Superintendent on organizing a neutral athletic advisory committee to deal with these kinds of issues. (There was a break from 7:57 p.m. until 8:12 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 12. Health Textbook Adoption.

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

Mr. Vale asked that this be brought back on the April 23rd consent agenda for approval. Mr. Koleszar stated that with the thirty day requirement and should be on the May 14th consent agenda. **There was Board consensus for the health textbook adoption to be placed on the May 14th consent agenda for approval.**

Agenda Items No. 13. International Studies/International Baccalaureate (IB) Project.

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

Mr. Hunter spoke of his consulting with the Lucille Brown Middle School, an IB school in Richmond, VA. He said that Agnor Hurt Elementary School is positioned well to support the research initiative for this project.

Mrs. Moynihan asked for clarification on what is going to be done this year to implement this project. Ms. Del Gallo said that this year coming would be in the research phase to see if it is the right fit and to see if there is buy-in from the community. Mrs. Moynihan expressed concern about the school division teaching someone else's "canned" curriculum. She wants the division to have control of what it taught and how it is taught. Ms. Del Gallo said that the school division is fully responsible for the standards of learning in the State of Virginia and that would not alter that goal. It is seen as a blending and creating a global awareness for children. She would not research the program if it was a "canned" curriculum. Ms. Hughes added that there is no "canned" curriculum, particularly at the elementary and middle school level; it is a framework for teaching, learning, and developing a curriculum and adding the global piece. She said at the high school level the Commonwealth of Virginia has approved the IB curriculum as a substitute for the Standard of Learning (SOL) courses. Mrs. Moynihan asked if a high school student can take an Advanced Placement (AP) class along with an IB class. Ms. Hughes said the schools combine the IB with the AP materials. It does not preclude any student from taking an AP exam.

Mr. Stokes asked why Agnor-Hurt and Meriwether Lewis were chosen for this project. Dr. Benson said that Ms. Hughes opened the project up to all of the schools in the division and Agnor-Hurt and Meriwether Lewis are the two schools that came forward. Mr. Stokes noted that in past discussion of IB it was noted from other school divisions at the meeting that IB had helped the achievement gap. He said it did not strike him that these schools are the schools in the county that have the biggest problem with the achievement gap. Dr. Benson said that there is a nice cross-section of schools in terms of student demographics and percentage of at-risk students. Mr. Stokes asked about the budget this year and next. Dr. Benson said that this is over a three year period. Whether the money will be used or not depends on the results of the research of this project. Mr. Stokes asked if the school division will study IB for no cost. Dr. Benson said that the participation in the training will be used to implement a pilot in the next school year. Dr. Moran said that could mean building framework units that incorporate thematically from the IB concepts. Mr. Stokes asked at what point it can be said that this cannot be funded by the division and is there a consideration that we make the commitment for the additional funds. Dr. Benson said at that point the school division would have to decide what components would have to be delayed and at the same time know what has been learned about implementation that can be imbedded in the framework for quality learning. He said that his guess is that there are going to be more similarities than differences. Mr. Stokes asked if there will consideration, if the Board approves going forward with the IB exploration, that there will be a commitment for the $94,750. Dr. Benson said that he did not believe so. What is trying to be done is mapping out what work is planning to be done now, what is being done next year, and what it is going to look like if it continues forward. Dr. Moran noted that the staff is on target with the plan that was advanced a year ago. The Board should be hearing something on this in December. Dr. Benson stated that there may be a cost but it is also an opportunity for professional development for the staff involved.

Mr. Price said that it is not Virginia standards but international standards that are important. Albemarle County Public Schools' standards are far below the international standards and the school division needs to get out of the mindset of just looking at Virginia and go in the direction of the IB program. He said that it is an extension of the school division's curriculum and makes the division reach to the next level and allows the teachers to get out of the Virginia SOL and look at international standards.

Mr. Koleszar said that it is a fulfillment of the research and development that was authorized in the budget and supports the program moving forward.

Mrs. Mouly asked if the IB program is more rigorous than what the school division is currently using. Ms. Hughes said that it does have a reputation for its rigor. It is being instituted in schools as an alternative to Advanced Placement (AP). Ms. Collins added that it should be studied in a way to answer the question on its rigor. Mr. Hunter commended Agnor Hurt's staff for their dedication and innovative vision for the IB program. Mrs. Mouly asked why the school division needs to look outside of the division to find a program that has been designed by someone else to advance the school division's rigor. Mr. Hunter said that it is having insight from a broader research pool to help the division go further in education. Dr. Benson said that it also gives the School Board the opportunity to set new benchmarks for the division to measure things more diligently. Dr. Moran stated that the IB program needs to be tested to make sure that it is consistent with the theme of Goal 1.

Mr. Wheeler stated his concern with the group not doing Framework for Quality Learning (FQL) and Professional Learning Community (PLC) and infusing international studies and asked why are there not only two things being done. Mr. Hunter said that in the discussion at the initial planning phase there was a concern that if Henley Middle School implemented the IB program and Walton taking the FQL and ratcheting up the implementation process and they both turned out well it would not be known what would have happened if nothing at all was done. He said that is why there was a control group identified who would not be implementing any differences that were seen between the control group and the experimental groups resulting in the additional programs put in place.

Dr. Moran asked if it provides an opportunity to see if the FQL is pushed more rigorously through the IB program. Mr. Hunter said that Walton Middle School is looking at the FQL and to figure out how the IB program can be fused into the FQL.

Mr. Wheeler suggested that the language of the control group's description be changed given the school division's overall goals and priorities. Dr. Benson agreed as it sends a message with ethical challenges in not providing students the best teaching and learning experience.

Ms. Hughes noted that even though Jack Jouett and Sutherland Middle Schools are not one of the pilot schools they are involved with monitoring and evaluation.

Mrs. Mouly asked if the curriculum at the high schools has been approved by the State. Ms. Hughes said the State tells the school division what IB courses students can substitute for SOL. She said that when talking about international standards and benchmarks it includes the careers of the future. Mrs. Mouly said that she is concerned with the students being independent in thinking and working and cautioned that this will not happen if they are looking at what others are doing. Ms. Del Gallo said the schools are striving to achieve that goal in every classroom.

Mrs. Moynihan noted that she was on the IB website and informed the Board of the data she had found. She is not impressed with the information she is finding on the site or their work on closing the achievement gap.

Mr. Price commended the presentation of the IB program at a past work session and said that the data presented showed that the program does not replace the curriculum but becomes an extension of what the school division is doing.

Mr. Koleszar stated that the purpose of the pilot is to answer all of the Board's questions on if it is going to make the changes the Board requires.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** that the School Board authorize the IB and International Standards pilot to continue for the remainder of the 2008 school year and continue into the 2009/10 school year. The committee will report the results of their research to the School Board and recommend further actions for the 2010/11 school year. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion. Mrs. Moynihan continued with the statistics of the fees found on the IB website. Mr. Stokes noted that the Board is not authorizing the spending of money not currently in the budget for this program. There will be another decision point on whether to go forward with the IB program which has nothing to do with the merits but has everything to do with the cost. Mrs. Mouly said that is understood but what is presently in front of the Board implies that this requires a commitment of funds for the 2010/11 budget. Mr. Koleszar stated that is why the wording of the motion was changed as he felt uncomfortable with the original recommendation. Mr. Wheeler commended staff for the passion and energy they have for this program. **The motion passed with Mrs. McKeel absent.**

A**genda Item No. 14. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.**

Mr. Koleszar thanked Mr. Wheeler for forwarding the Board's letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and suggested that the School Board clearly word further correspondence on CIP dollars. Mr. Wheeler noted that the letter being referred to is related to the Board's February 12th actions on competitive swimming. Dr. Moran asked if the Board is suggesting that the project go back into the CIP's new project process. Mr. Koleszar said that he is suggesting that the BOS know that there are more important projects that have been cut but should be funded before the competitive swimming project.

Mr. Price informed the Board of the meeting with Dr. Moran, Mr. Rick Turner, and the Concerned Black Men's Group of Charlottesville. He commended Dr. Moran on fielding Mr. Turner's questions and answering the concerns that he had about Albemarle County Public Schools and the performance of African-American students. Dr. Moran reciprocated with saying that Mr. Price and Dr. Hairston have been actively involved in building different working relationships across the community.

Mr. Koleszar reiterated his concern with the competitive swimming issue and noted that it is important for the School Board to send correspondence to the BOS before their next meeting on April 8th and that the School Board make a decision. Mr. Stokes stated that the question is whether or not the BOS is going to fund additional money through the Parks and Recreation Department for competitive swimming. Mr. Koleszar said that the BOS requested the School Board's opinion on this project. Mr. Wheeler said that it was stated in the original letter that the School Board did not evaluate the merits of the proposals. He said that with conversation with Dennis Rooker, he found that there have been misconceptions of the School Board's role with this project.

Mr. Koleszar stated that there is a major structural weakness in the school division's vocational and technical education in where CATEC is an isolated entity that has little or no connection to the vocational and educational education that takes place at the high schools. To be world class, the school division needs an integrated program that is comprehensive with the high schools and CATEC.

Mr. Stokes informed the Board that he attended the School Bus Driver Recruitment Fair held on Saturday, March 26th at the County Office Building. Dr. Benson noted that Mr. Stokes and Mrs. McKeel's visit was very much appreciated. He added that there were sixty seven applications submitted.

Mr. Wheeler informed the Board of the joint meeting with the BOS on Friday, April 17th has been pushed up to 11:30 a.m. and the focus will be on the 60/40 split and capital budgeting. He added that there will be a budget work session on April 23rd and adopting the budget at a special meeting on April 27th.

Agenda Item No. 15. Closed Meeting.

At 9:22 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 the appointment and prospective candidates for the position of Director of Secondary Education, the appointment of specific probationary continuing contract teachers, and the non-renewal and/or reduction in force of specific probationary in continuing contract employees. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel 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. Moynihan **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Price offered a **motion** that the School Board appoints the probationary and continuing contract teachers as proposed by the Superintendent; accept the recommendation for non-renewal of probationary and continuing contract teachers as proposed by the Superintendent; accept the recommendation for tenure of the probationary teachers as proposed by the superintendent; and appoint Dr. Matthew Haas as Director of Secondary Education. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel absent.**

Agenda Item No 17. Adjournment

At 10:06 p.m., Mr. Price offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel absent.**

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Chairman

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Clerk