

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 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Room 241, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Becky Fisher, Assistant Director of Information Management and Instructional Technology; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No.1.1. Call to Order.

At 6:03 p.m., Mr. Wheeler called the Albemarle County School Board meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3. Consent Agenda.

- 3.1. Minutes: December 11, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- 3.2. Donation to Crozet Elementary School
- 3.3. Race to GED Grant
- 3.4. Release from Compulsory Attendance
- 3.5. Middle School Program Guide 2009-10
- 3.6. Donation to Jack Jouett Middle School
- 3.7. Personnel Action
- 3.8. Personnel Action

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

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Announcements.

Bus Driver Job Fair: Dr. Benson announced that the Division will be hosting a bus driver job fair, Saturday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the County Office Building.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. School Board and Superintendent Business.

Stimulus Funding Update: Dr. Moran informed the Board that she, Dr. Benson, Mr. Zimmermann, Mr. Nash, and superintendents from across the region had the opportunity to listen to a discussion on stimulus package funding stream with the Superintendent of Education of Virginia. She said that after the discussion it is still unclear on the rules and regulations that apply to the stimulus money.

IMPACT Pre-School Data Survey: Dr. Moran provided information regarding a preschool data survey suggested by IMPACT.

Mr. Wheeler said that Board members have met with IMPACT in the past. Mr. Price said that at his last meeting with IMPACT there was discussion in preparing students for kindergarten and first grade. Mrs. McKeel said that there was confusion at that meeting because IMPACT was asking for a study that they thought Albemarle County Public Schools and Charlottesville City Schools were going to provide.

Mr. Koleszar said that he sees that IMPACT's concern with education coincides with the Division's Goal 2. He suggested that Dr. Moran attend the meeting and state the Division's support for Goal 2. Discussion continued with this issue and whether this is something the Board would want Dr. Moran to work on.

Mr. Stokes asked if the committee has offered any assistance in developing the study. Mrs. McKeel said that they were anticipating that the two school divisions would do the study. Mr. Price said that this would present the data the committee could use to provide advocacy and support for the school division wherever needed. Mr. Koleszar stated that the committee would also provide outreach to their congregations.

Mr. Wheeler stated that Dr. Moran has said that she will not attend the meeting.

Mrs. Moynihan asked what congregations are a part of this committee. Dr. Moran said that it is broad based with 2000+ congregation members across the community. Mr. Koleszar said that there are approximately twenty-five churches involved.

There was Board consensus to bring this back on a future agenda.

Quality Council Update: Mr. Price provided an update on Quality Council. He said that a survey, "*Are We Having Progress Yet*", was done within the Division. He suggested that a work session with Quality Council be planned. He encouraged Board members to attend the next meeting on April 22nd.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Update: Mr. Price provided an update on the VDOT meeting that took place in Culpeper. He said that before the meeting started the Commissioner stated that the item for snow and ice removal being cut from the budget was taken off the docket.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Distance Learning Work Session.

Dr. Benson summarized the staff report and provided a PowerPoint presentation, which is on file in the School Board Office.

Board members then broke out into discussion groups on each focus area. At 8:50 p.m., the groups came back together to discuss the focus group discussions. The following are the highlights of the discussion.

Rigor: Digital Curriculum for Differentiated Instruction

APEX

- Apex Learning is a program that is being used at Monticello High School and the Enterprise Center
- Being used for credit recovery
- Testimony from students that are using it with success
- It has changed student's lives
- It gives students a sense of ownership
- Maps the State's curriculum
- Helps students with organizational skills
- Cost for the Division is \$125 per seat per year

Rosetta Stone

- Students are using Rosetta Stone at Walton Middle School
- ESOL students take English through Rosetta Stone

- It enables teachers to serve more students
- Can be used in all grade levels
- Translation is done with images
- Students are growing from program
- Cost for the school division is \$6,000 for staff and students at Walton Middle School

Mr. Wheeler asked what the impression was of the APEX interface. Mrs. McKeel said that the teachers thought it was dry but the students were very appreciative of it and were engaged.

Relevance: Personally Relevant Electronic Paths to Excellence

Blackboard

- Blackboard is used for teachers to use their syllabus, classroom discussion, and have classroom conversation
- Can be used for straight online learning
- ACPS is using it to enhance learning in classrooms
- Students can use Blackboard 24/7
- Enhances student's learning
- There are 3,600 users in the Division

Virtual Virginia

- Virtual Virginia is an online delivery of content
- Students take a variety of school subjects through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- 3,000 students, statewide, are using Virtual Virginia
- Division is allowed only fifteen seats per course.

Scott Cloud, from Virtual Virginia, spoke of the courses that are offered. He said that there is no cost for the elective and world language courses; the Advanced Placement (AP) courses are free of charge if the student is enrolled as an early college scholar. If the student is not an early college scholar there is tuition of a fixed amount times the local composite index.

SchoolNet

- Teachers are more enthused with using SchoolNet
- It is being used to reach out to parents
- Parents can see how their child's progress in school

Mr. Stokes suggested there be a work session scheduled around SchoolNet. He added that all teachers should be expected to use technology in their classrooms.

Relationships: Pedagogy Empowered by Digital Technologies

- There are risks with technology in schools
- Crozet Elementary students demonstrated their Wiki spaces designed for their math classes
- Middle school students demonstrated how Play Aways are effective with reading
- High School students demonstrated how flex books change students access to using text books

Dr. Moran said there has been discussion of a project that would allow school divisions to create a virtual learning community for the entire K-12 educational community of Virginia.

- Students are not challenged to get out of the mold and go onto something more challenging
- Google Docs is very versatile
- Using technology in schools could pull some students out of the achievement gap
- Successful students have support and relationships with someone in the buildings

Mr. Price presented a video on students working with technology learning in a classroom.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment. (Heard out of sequence)

Ms. Pam Evans spoke on behalf of parents who would like to see the performing arts as a core curriculum in the division. She is on the advisory board for Music Matters and is concerned about double blocking and its impact on the performing arts. She added that she is pleased to see that Rosetta Stone may be an option for foreign language instruction in the division.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Stokes stated that the Board should be expecting an invitation via email from the Student County Council to attend their meeting the week of April 24th.

Mr. Price reminded the Board that Saturday, March 30th is Earth Hour which is a global event that fosters awareness of the value of energy conservation by turning off non-essential lights in buildings and residences. The earth hour begins at 8:30 p.m. and runs to 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Wheeler suggested that the Board schedule time to discuss the gang video and that Ms. Denise Lunsford provide the video in advance for Board member review. Discussion on the video will take place at a meeting, and a clip could be shared at that time as well. Dr. Moran suggested that this item become a work session topic.

Mr. Wheeler reminded the Board of the joint luncheon meeting with the Board of Supervisors on April 17th. Mrs. McKeel suggested that the time of the meeting be changed as there are board members and staff that will not be able to attend at the scheduled time. Mr. Wheeler said that he will try and schedule it for 11:30 a.m. He had a discussion with Mr. Slutzky and said that the topics that the Board of Supervisors are interested in discussing are the 60/40 split, capital budgeting, and a follow-up on the stimulus money. Mrs. McKeel asked if there would be an information sheet available for Board members. Mr. Wheeler said that he would send an email asking Board members for the topics they would like discussed at the meeting and there will be information on those topics available to the Board.

Mrs. McKeel updated the Board on the Oversight Committee meeting that she and Mr. Stokes attended on Tuesday, March 24th. Mr. Stokes noted that the topics discussed at the meeting were replacement of county fire and rescue vehicles, the neighborhood plan, what constituted the Division's maintenance budget, and the air conditioning of the school's gymnasiums.

Agenda Items No. 9.1. Closed Meeting.

At 10:15 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 appointments and prospective candidates for the positions of Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Director of Secondary Education, and the principal of Western Albemarle High School, and the assignment of a specific administrative employee; subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff concerning a specific legal matter regarding a closed meeting; subsection 29 to discuss the award, terms and scope of a public contract regarding telecommunication leasing. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item No. 10.1. 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. Moynihan; Mrs. McKeel; Mr. Wheeler; Mrs. Mouly; Mr. Stokes; Mr. Koleszar; and Mr. Price

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to suspend student number 1 for the remainder of the 2008/09 school year and the first semester of the 2009/10 school year, and to allow the student to participate in an alternative educational program off of Albemarle County Public School sites. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly, Mr. Koleszar, and Mr. Stokes abstaining because they were absent from the March 23, 2009 meeting.**

Mr. Price offered a **motion** for student # 2 to continue receiving alternative educational services through his IEP for the remainder of the 2008/09 school year to deny the request for the readmission into the school division for placement in the regular education setting for the 2009/10 school year but allow him to receive alternative educational services through his IEP for the 2009/10 school year, and to reapply for placement in the regular education program in the spring of 2010 for the 2010/11 school year. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly, Mr. Koleszar, and Mr. Stokes abstaining because they were absent from the March 23, 2009 meeting.**

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Dave Francis to the position of principal of Western Albemarle High School. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. John Haun to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

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 on Monday, March 23, 2009. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mr. Wheeler; Mrs. Moynihan; Mrs. McKeel; and Mr. Price

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Stokes; Mrs. Mouly; and Mr. Koleszar

Motion carried by a 4:0:3 vote. The three Board members abstaining were not in attendance at the meeting on March 23, 2009.

Agenda Item No. 11.1 Adjournment.

At 11:17 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 unanimously.**

Chairman

Clerk