

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

A Regular Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on September 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Room 241, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and System Planning; Mr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call to Order.

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Wheeler called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda.

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Personnel Action

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Announcements. None.

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

Mr. Wheeler said that the MESA open house was nice and went well.

Mrs. Howen said that the Board will be receiving two memorandums of understandings for both health department personnel and school nurses to provide H1N1 shots to students who have been given permission. Mrs. McKeel asked where employees could receive the shot. Mrs. Howen said that they can get it at the school or the human resources department is scheduling some clinics as well. Mr. Wheeler asked if they were mandatory. Mrs. Howen said no.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Southern Feeder Pattern Small Schools Recommendation

Dr. Moran summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office. She then provided a presentation on the recommendation from the Long-Range Planning Committee about the southern feeder pattern elementary schools, the research and questions she looked at when developing her recommendation, and her recommendation on the three small elementary schools in the southern part of the County. Dr. Moran recommended to the Board that all three elementary schools remain open and be renovated.

Mrs. Mouly asked if the cost of acquiring additional land at Yancey Elementary School was included in the cost of the renovations. Dr. Moran said no. Dr. Benson said that in order to expand Yancey and do the renovations at the school, additional land will be needed. Any renovations to the school on the current property would compromise the existing septic system so staff has looked at the availability of land in that area. Dr. Moran said that the expansion at Yancey Elementary School cannot be done without a donation of land or the purchase of land at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Wheeler said that the Walton data showed that it would be okay to add another school on the property. Dr. Benson said that the architect took a look at how the facility would be placed on the property. The architect said that they had concerns about placing the school and the fields, etc. that go along with it and how it would be placed on the property. Mr. Wheeler asked if they were asked to think outside the box when thinking about the footprint of the buildings. Dr. Moran said that based on the conversation with the architect that there is so much that is required and with the natural boundaries such as the drop off at the creek and the road in front of the building, it would be difficult to place all the pieces that go along with the school on the property.

Mrs. McKeel said that she is concerned that the County buys land and does not investigate that it is useable before the purchase.

Mr. Stokes said that the Long-Range Planning Committee would like to have had all of this information prior to them doing the work and making a recommendation. It may have changed the process and angst in the community.

Mr. Price asked if we were not considering another school and only considering closing the three schools would the recommendation be the same. Dr. Moran said that that data caused her to start thinking about other options but at first she was considering consolidation to some degree.

Mr. Price said that when we did the tours, it was obvious that Scottsville did not have a lot of diversity. How can we engage those three schools as a community to help with understanding diversity? Dr. Moran said that staff could work on how to get the schools working together as a greater community.

Mr. Wheeler said that it is important to communicate clearly where the Board is going next. If the Board is interested in going in a different direction then we need to make it clear so the public has something to react to at the public hearing. In addition, there are capital implications that may need to be addressed.

Mrs. Moynihan said that she is not sure that staff ever reviewed consolidating one school and the costs associated with expansion and renovations – specifically closing Yancey and moving those students to Scottsville – and the purchase of the land. Mr. Price said that he would not approve of looking at closing just Yancey without looking at closing one of the other schools. Mrs. Moynihan said that we need to look at what efficiencies would be created and if there are other cost savings. Mr. Price said that the data was provided and it will be expensive to do the renovations at Yancey. Mr. Stokes said that the real issue is whether to close Yancey and expand Scottsville. He would be interested in seeing that information. Mrs. McKeel said that to renovate Yancey the division would need more land. She would like to see what that cost would be or if there is land available. Mr. Koleszar said that the schools are an asset to the community and educating students. The division needs to look at obtaining more land at Yancey. Closing those schools would impact the communities adversely. The Yancey area is where we are expecting a lot of growth.

Mrs. Mouly said that she would be more interested in expanding and renovating the three schools.

Mr. Wheeler said that he was first at the place at looking at consolidating the three schools. He thinks that it would be great to have all the students in one facility. He was devastated by the report about the Walton property. He supports the recommendation of Dr. Moran to keep the schools open. He does not need to see anymore data on closing schools.

Mrs. Mouly suggested that the correct feasibility report for the Walton property be provided.

Mrs. McKeel said that she sees some points in the data about other schools that she would like to talk more about. She asked that the Board look at the data in general. Mr. Wheeler asked Mrs. McKeel to provide some specific examples.

(There was a break from 8:10 p.m. until 8:25 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Darcy Burn is a parent at Scottsville Elementary School. He thanked Dr. Moran for her recommendation to leave the three schools open.

Mr. Remy Indebetouw thanked Dr. Moran for her thoroughness in making the decision. PTOs among the three schools have met and are looking at ways that they can share and work together as a greater community.

Mr. Lindsey Dorrier is the Scottsville Magisterial District representative on the Board of Supervisors. He thanked Dr. Moran for what she has done. She has obviously worked hard along with Dr. Benson to do the right thing and he thinks while the process was challenging at times and people in the southern part of the County maybe thought that a final result had been arrived at a year ago. He thinks it was proven that they were wrong and that the system works that Dr. Moran is considering every aspect of the decision. He just wanted to make one recommendation. In studying this issue he came into contact with the coalition for community schools which is a coalition of 140 school districts throughout the United States. That coalition has elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools and has ideas toward community education. They depend on the community to really get involved – business leaders, Boys and Girls Clubs, youth organizations, arts organizations. He thought it was their forum for creating the best community schools. He would like to see Albemarle County belong to this coalition because he thinks that it is important for the community and he thinks that we could get some good ideas from them. He said that as one supervisor he will do his best to try to find funding for education so the Board has that commitment from one supervisor. We will see if we can get three more.

Mr. Ed Brooks said that he is pleased with the recommendation of Dr. Moran. He thinks there are some things that can be captured from this process particularly with community engagement.

Ms. Kelsey Johnson is a parent. She said that it is Astronomy Week at Red Hill. This fall she will be starting an astronomy club. The southern part of the county has some of the darkest skies on the east coast. She would like to expand this opportunity to the other schools at the other three schools.

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

Mr. Stokes said that he would not like to lose sight of the bullying data that was provided to the Board especially that bullying is an issue in small schools.

Mr. Price asked if there has been enough communication about what we want to do with our math program.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No 11.1. Adjournment

At 8:44 p.m., Mrs. Moynihan offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman

Clerk