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 July 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and System Planning; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Don Vale, Community Public Charter School; Mr. Josh Davis, Director of Transportation; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 5:45 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 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff about a specific legal matter requiring legal advice concerning a quitclaim deed for real property; and subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff about litigation regarding the condemnation of real property. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Koleszar and Mr. Stokes absent.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 6:32 p.m., 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: Mr. Price; Mr. Stokes; Mrs. Moynihan; Mrs. McKeel; Mr. Koleszar; and Mr. Wheeler.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Mr. Mouly.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Wheeler called the Albemarle County School Board meeting back to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda.

3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
3.2 Title I, Part A, 1003(g) School Improvement Grant FY2009-10
3.3 The Community Charter School Grant FY2008-09
3.4 Professional Partnership for School Leadership Preparation Grant FY2008-09

3.5 Personnel Action

Mr. Price offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Dr. Brown provided the Board with information on the EduStat Conference that Albemarle County Public Schools would be hosting at Monticello High School.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Kelsey Johnson is a parent from Red Hill Elementary School. She spoke about the potential consolidation of the southern elementary schools. She understands the importance of research. Rural education presents a number of challenges. She believes that it is critical that all are well informed. She has looked at education research and if it had shown that it would be beneficial then they would be championing for a consolidated school.

Dr. Christian Steinmetz is a faculty member from Curry School of Education. She is also a parent of a student at Cale Elementary School. She is concerned about the equity and the opportunity of the students at Red Hill, Scottsville and Yancey Elementary Schools.

Ms. Ellen Lutz is a professional counselor. She spoke about the Community Public Charter School. All students have made progress socially and emotionally this year.

Mr. Ed Brooks spoke about the administrative hiring and the lack of diversity in the hiring.

Mr. John Altum is an Albemarle County resident. He spoke about standards of physical and mental health of school bus drivers within the division.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. School Board and Superintendent Business.

Dr. Benson provided an overview of summer school activities that were taking place within the division including participation rates. Mrs. McKeel asked if staff had any information on why there was a downturn in enrollment at the high school summer school. Dr. Benson said that staff is looking into it. Mrs. Moynihan asked even though we have less students in summer school we are able to provide more opportunities due to the use of APEX learning. Dr. Benson said that it us to maximize the use of teachers in the classroom.

Mr. Price said that he sent out an email to the county student council about their work. It is apparent that the students and coordinators would like to meet to discuss their charge. He and Mr. Koleszar will be working with them to further develop their charge. Mr. Price also thinks that the Board should consider in the future a student representative on the board.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Community Public Charter School Report

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

Mr. Koleszar said that the reading score improvements were impressive. Students can be caught up with the right focus. He is concerned with some of the pass rates on SOLs. If this continues he would recommend revoking the charter. Of the 23 students, how many will be returning next year. Mr. Vale said that he believes 18 are returning and the new 6^{th} grade class will be coming in. Mr. Koleszar asked if there were not as many applications this year. Mr. Vale said that there has been a shift in recruitment/application process and asked that Ms. Bobbie Snow and Ms. Sandy Richardson address the question. Ms. Snow said that this year in the spring we responded to advice we received from the Special Education Department. We did not recruit as heavily in this area for the year. She feels that we are still below the radar with the teachers in the county. Mr. Koleszar asked if the school was still accepting applications. Ms. Snow said yes.

Mr. Stokes what do they attribute being under the radar to? How do you get above the radar? Mr. Vale said that there are several things going on. The school management committee met earlier this week and we will be forming a marketing committee to work on getting information out to our schools in order to increase their knowledge. There are other programs such as LAUNCH that we can publicize the school to.

Mrs. Moynihan said that it was decided to not recruit among special education teachers. Are you changing the focus of the school? Mr. Vale said no, last year we used special education teachers as our point for recruitment. Ms. Richardson said that the perception was that the school was becoming a school for special education students, which is not the case.

Mrs. Moynihan said that she thought the school was working closely with Murray High School to try to figure out how they do their marketing. Ms. Richardson said that we do work with Murray High School. It takes at least three years for a school to be on the radar. It will take us three years to get known. Murray High School has a reputation so it is different. They use a different way of recruiting and are clear on the students that they are looking for.

Mrs. McKeel asked Dr. Brown about the data that was provided. Dr. Brown provided an overview of what the data means.

Mr. Price said that he would like to see more about the relationship between the Charter Public School and Burley Middle School. Students at Burley are not telling the same story about the relationship between the two schools. Mrs. Moynihan agreed that the charter school needed to find a way to mold with Burley.

Mrs. Moynihan said that arts infusion should be emphasized and may be a selling point for the school.

Mrs. McKeel said that she would like to have frequent updates on the data from the school as the next year progresses. Dr. Brown said that data could be provided on a quarterly basis.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Use of Fund Balance for Transportation Global Positioning System

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

Mrs. Moynihan said that she thinks it is interesting that this system will be able to track buses where they are during the school day. She receives many comments about the location of buses throughout the school day when they are not transporting students.

Mr. Price said that he would like to know more about future interfaces of the system such as parents being able to look to see where buses are if they are running late. Mr. Davis said that right away we will be able to have authorized users to see where buses are when transporting students. Having parents look to see where buses are is something that may be feasible in the future.

Mrs. McKeel asked about the difference in cost and whether we are getting the item that we want. Mr. Davis said that we are not buying all the capabilities that we were originally looking at such as a student attendance/ridership card. He would like to start with the basic fundamental pieces of the system.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the project and to request the Board of Supervisors to amend the appropriation ordinance appropriately. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly.**

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Bullying Prevention Program – Spring 2009 Survey Results (heard after the break)

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

Mrs. McKeel said that we hear so much about cyber bullying but it looks like we have less of that than we do in our schools. Mr. Stokes said that he is not sure that elementary schools participate in cyber bullying.

Mr. Price asked Dr. Brown how comfortable he was with the data in the report. Dr. Brown said that the survey was completed by an outside the division nor did staff put together the report. He would like to do more research. Dr. Benson said that it also based on student perception. Mr. Price said that he wonders how much merit can be put in the report because a lot of students will say that they would not report bullying because nothing will be done or they will be looked down upon/picked on because he/she reported it.

Mr. Koleszar said that this is one area where we are eliminating the position due to budget cuts. He said that guidance will be taking over this reporting and analysis. We do not have the resources to do more with this report. We will lose ground in this area because we do not have the resources to do this work due to budget reductions. Mr. Price said that he hopes the accountability will be put back on the administrators in the schools. Mr. Stokes agreed that the responsibility could be placed back at the individual schools.

Mr. Stokes said that the small schools data shows that there is a greater percentage of bullying at Red Hill, Scottsville, and Yancey Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Moynihan expressed concern that a number of teachers report that they have not had any bullying training. Why are there some teachers who are not holding class meetings as required? Dr. Benson said that the results of the teacher survey data informed discussions with administrators at individual schools. We will take the data from this survey to help with setting goals for next year.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. Break

There was a break from 8:02 p.m. until 8:11 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. Strategic Planning/Board Priorities

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

Mr. Koleszar said that he thinks the wording in Priority 2 is weak. He would like to see wording such as "use common rigorous assessments and high-yield individual strategies to create high expectations and achievement for x number of students who are currently being failed." Mr. Wheeler said that the other priorities do not have specific numbers associated with them. Dr. Brown said that the specific numbers could be included in the metrics that are being measured. He cautioned against a moving target in the percentage of students. Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to see the wording changed. Staff will work on strengthening the language in this priority.

Mr. Wheeler said that there was discussion about Priority 1.1. at the Board retreat. He was looking for the word "proficiency". Dr. Benson said that it was difficult to measure implementation of the Framework for Quality Learning. We now have a way to look at measuring its use. If desired we can look at how we could work proficiency into the wording.

Dr. Benson said that next he would like to seek input to a wider audience and then bring that feedback back to the Board in August.

Agenda Item No. 8.6. Worksession Topics

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

Mr. Koleszar said that we could combine SchoolNet and the Teacher Performance Appraisal into one worksession because he feels that they fit closely together. Mr. Stokes sees that there is overlap but does not feel that they should be combined into one worksession.

Mr. Wheeler said that if we took the top two items from the list for the next two worksessions would that be okay for the Board. Mr. Stokes said that we have already done a worksession on compensation. Dr. Benson said that Human Resources would appreciate more time to prepare.

Mrs. McKeel asked about athletics. Did the Board decide on a committee? Mr. Wheeler said that Dr. Moran would be forming an athletic advisory committee that will be overseen by Dr. Haas.

Mrs. Moynihan said that she would like to look at visual and performing arts need to be looked at across the division.

There was Board consensus to teacher performance appraisal and alignment of school schedules for the next two worksessions.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Stokes said that he has concerns about the Community Public Charter School. He is concerned about the turnover of staff at the school as well. He cannot believe that they feel that they are under the radar and feels that they could make a better effort in getting the word out. He feels that they are disorganized. He feels that we should not wait until July to get the yearend report. Board members agreed that they were concerned as well about the information that was provided to the Board. Mr. Stokes said that he does not feel that there is an urgency of staff. Dr. Benson said that he thinks some of the turnover is related to teachers not realizing some of the difficulty there might be with starting a new school along with some of the challenges in dealing with the students. Dr. Benson said that he feels that they understand what they need to do in the coming year, and staff will be measuring progress throughout the year.

Agenda Item No. 9.2. Administrative Appointments

Mr. Wheeler said that these are appointments for division level administrators and tenure. Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the reappointments of the 22 principals, 23 assistant and associate principals, and 26 division-level administrators for the 2009-10 school year and approve 10 administrators for tenure for the 2009-10 school year. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly absent.**

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.
Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 9:12 p.m., Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mr. Price **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly absent.**

____
Chairman

____
Clerk