

***A full recording of the meeting is on file in the School Board Clerk's Office or on the web at www.k12albemarle.org.*

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium of the Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Ron Price; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Eric Strucko; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly; Mr. Brian Wheeler and Mrs. Pamela Moynihan.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and System Planning; Mr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Price called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Superintendent's Budget Presentation.

Dr. Moran presented the 2010-2011 Superintendent's Funding Request. A handout of the presentation is on file in the School Board Office.

The Superintendent's 2010-11 Funding Request Values and Stewardship for a Stronger Tomorrow

Historians say challenges create turning points in history. The United States has experienced its share of challenges over the last decade, resulting in an economic crisis of not merely national scale, but international impact. What we choose to do next defines this moment not simply for here and now, but for generations to come. Nowhere is the balance between present reality and future viability more evident than in education. The work we accomplish represents the future we all desire: an educated citizenry, a skilled workforce, healthy families. We educators must anticipate what is necessary for tomorrow and deliver it right now. The kindergartners of August 2010 will be the high school graduates of 2023. Imagine the changes in our world that will occur between their first day of school and graduation day.

Even though it is much easier to build a funding request simply for the short-term, I believe such an approach is short-sighted. We must use the strategies of long-term investors to manage our resources so that our long-term benefits far outweigh our short-term costs. We know from well-documented data that students who graduate ontime from high school will earn higher wages throughout life, and cost the community significantly less in social and judicial resources than those who drop out. Dollars spent to educate young people well represent one of the best investments a community can make to fuel economic vitality, lower crime rates, increase productivity, and improve quality of life.

Together, we must balance appropriate stewardship of current resources with plans for recovery and growth as we look to the future. We cannot make drastic reductions that obstruct our ability to compete and deliver services. We must make smart decisions that position Albemarle County Public Schools to meet the needs of today's learners, while sustaining resources needed to rebound and effectively move ahead tomorrow.

This funding request makes substantial reductions in light of the current fiscal reality we face, but within it, I have attempted to keep our sight on the future, on the next generation, on the long-term investment and strategy that we know is necessary for continued success. This funding request positions us to move forward when the revenue picture improves. Using feedback from students, staff, parents, and community members, I have attempted to make strategic choices that do not render any single area of our organization incapable of performing its mission. I have challenged every single department and school to separate needs from wants by starting with what is required by law, mandate, or policy, and then to determine those resources that sustain the greatest quality of service to our learners that we can afford.

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The operational, strategic, and innovational expenses of Albemarle County Public Schools represent our community's investment in young people. Most of our expenses are operational in nature, necessary for us to keep our doors open to our learners. A limited number of expenses are innovative, creating programs, services and structures with an eye to the future. Some expenses are strategic in nature and critical in impact. When we reduce or eliminate strategic expenses, we lose our effectiveness as a goal-driven organization, one that sustains market competitiveness. Our business partners face the choice daily of "pay now or pay later" when it comes to using available revenues to contain future expenses. In our education business, we face those same "pay now or later" choices in our decisions to repair or replace roofs, buses, technology, furniture, lab equipment or eliminate positions.

Reductions of the magnitude we have been asked to make do not come without loss. Every department, every school, every service, every person has been impacted this year. We are putting forth a request that will provide fewer resources and fewer people. For the second consecutive year, there are no new major initiatives and no salary increases for any employee recommended in this request. I am saddened that we will not provide reasonable raises to all the staff members who have helped lift Albemarle County Public Schools to among the highest performing divisions in Virginia, one of only 15 School Divisions recognized by the Virginia Board of Education in 2010. My recommendation to eliminate positions will put some of our people out of work, which further restricts our local economy and does not build a workforce for the future. The quality of educational resources and staff that Albemarle County's parents, grandparents, and others who value educational excellence have come to expect will be negatively impacted by the reductions proposed in this funding request. Class sizes will increase. Some elective classes will be eliminated. Technology replacement and improvement will be put on hold. Funds for programs – intervention and enrichment – will be eliminated or reduced. We will not be the same school division a year from now that we are today.

I have been diligent in making substantial reductions in this needs-based funding request. The total request of \$145.9 million represents approximately \$3.1 million less than the 2009-10 appropriated budget, with reductions totaling \$5.2 million. That \$5 million is not simply a number; it represents a loss of core resources and services that will affect our students and staff next fiscal year and beyond. We have done our work to make the hard decisions that balance the fiscal reality of today with our responsibility to tomorrow. To the greatest degree possible, we have kept the children we serve at the forefront of this request. Every dollar allocated in this budget represents a true need – a need to provide opportunities for our children to excel, to distinguish themselves, to be challenged, and to earn distinction that opens doors for scholarships, passions, careers, and our own intertwined future.

This funding request represents our best efforts to meet the challenge of a generation. I believe in our children, our community and our country. To make further reductions at this time would not be responsible. To do so would not meet the challenge given and the charge we hold: to create the learners of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

(Mrs. McKeel left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Mr. Zimmermann provided an overview of the funding request book layout.

Mr. Koleszar expressed concern that the Board will not know budget numbers until possibly April, which may cause some issues for the division.

Board members thanked Dr. Moran for her thoughtful work.

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment

At 7:39 p.m., Wheeler offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. McKeel absent.**

Chairman

Clerk