

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 February 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., Room 241, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and System Planning; Mr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Luvelle Brown, Executive Chief Information Officer; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Dr. Matt Haas, Director of Secondary Education; Mr. Josh Davis, Director of Transportation; Ms. Debbie Collins, Director of Elementary Education; Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley Scott, Legislative Liaison; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting

At 5:35 p.m., Mr. Strucko 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 the assignment and performance of specific administrative employees; and subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding pending insurance litigation.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Call to Order.

At 6:39 p.m. Mr. Price, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Certify Closed Meeting

Mr. Strucko offered a **motion** that the Board certify by recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters exempted from the open meeting requirements of 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. McKeel; Mr. Wheeler; Mrs. Moynihan; Mr. Strucko; Mr. Koleszar; Mr. Price; and Mrs. Mouly.
NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

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. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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- 3.2 Title I, Part A, 1003(a) School Improvement Grant
- 3.3 Donation to Western Albemarle High School Turf Field Project
- 3.4 Release from Compulsory Attendance

- 3.5 Personnel Actions
- 3.6 Utopian Lease

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements. None.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment. None.

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

Mr. Josh Davis provided the Board with an update on the road conditions, how decisions are made to close schools and returning students to school. Mr. Strucko asked how VDOT responded to the division when inquiring about road conditions and priorities. Mr. Davis said that they will tell us their assessment of the roads, what their priorities are, and any areas of concern that they know of. Mr. Strucko asked what percentage of our students live in rural areas. Dr. Moran said that over half of our students live in rural areas.

Mr. Price said that next week is School Board Clerk Appreciation Week. He read a proclamation regarding this week and thanked Mrs. Johnston for her work.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. 2010-2011 School Calendar – Proposed

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

Mr. Koleszar suggested that staff look at adding additional weather make-up days to the calendar given the situation that the division is currently in and the number of days students have been out of school. Dr. Moran said that is a suggestion that staff could look at, but in the past we have tried to stay away from using bank days or other days not designated as make-up days.

Mrs. Moynihan asked why school could not start earlier in August. Dr. Benson said that this discussion takes place every year in the calendar committee. The start date is a compromise between the City schools and the County schools. Dr. Moran said that we share services with the City and we need to work with them on the calendar. There is a lot of discussion about what happens after the SOLs in the classroom so why not start earlier in the year, and then students could get out sooner after the SOLs are taken. Mr. Haun said that the division takes the latest SOL testing window offered and once set it cannot be changed. If the SOL testing window is changed, then make-up days will need to take place before that testing window.

Mr. Koleszar asked how much earlier in August would we need to start school in order to have the first semester end before the Winter Break. Dr. Benson said that it would need to be backed up two weeks. Mr. Koleszar said that if the division goes to a 4X4 schedule this could be an issue that needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Moynihan asked how many people provided comments on the calendar. Dr. Benson said that he did not add the number of responses, he just provided the comments.

Mrs. McKeel said that staff has said that we make our calendar for education not around vacations, is this an educationally sound calendar? Dr. Moran said that we have worked hard to keep learning at the center of our decisions, and there are a lot of variables that go into creating the calendar.

Mrs. McKeel said that SOLs are not everything that is taught in our schools. She finds it frustrating that so many people think that is the only thing taught in our schools. Mr. Haun said that that is the perception but there is other work that takes place after SOL testing but it is at different levels at the schools.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Reduction in Force, VERIP, Incentives, and Separation Considerations

Dr. Benson summarized the staff report, which is on file in the School Board Office. In addition, Dr. Benson shared with the Board concerns that have been expressed by the Albemarle Education Association (AEA).

Mrs. Moynihan asked if in terms of exceptions is there a formula that can be developed where items are given a relative value then comparisons could be made. If the review is too subjective, then it is better to compare people with a relative value. Dr. Benson said that some of the sample policies that staff looked at included matrices to compare employees.

Mrs. Moynihan suggested that a survey be done of all teachers soliciting input because not all teachers are a member of the AEA. Dr. Moran noted that the Teacher Advisory Committee has also provided input.

Mrs. Mouly asked about weighted seniority where a continued contract status could be considered and whether or not a person with a continuing contract could be let go. Mrs. Kim said that a person with a continuing contract could be let go in this circumstance.

Dr. Benson said that staff feels that the VERIP window should open back up. A recommendation for this will be brought forward to the Board. In addition, staff is working with local government to develop some incentives for those thinking about retiring. There is also discussion about separation pay on the classified side. The Board would need to ask the Board of Supervisors for a share of the lock box money in order to do some of these items because we do not currently have the funds to cover these costs if implemented. Staff is also looking at some incentives for teachers as well. Dr. Moran noted that we need to see how we can leverage not laying off more people and we do know that from the last round of retirements we were able to reduce our overall payroll.

There was Board consensus to bring forward recommendations to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break.

There was a break from 7:55 p.m. until 8:11 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. FY 2010/11 Budget Worksession.

Mr. Zimmermann said that the Board would be covering technical changes in the Superintendent's Funding Request, an update on State revenues, update on instructional coaching model, 8-period day, and redistricting options.

Mr. Zimmermann provided the Board with information on state revenues. Mr. Koleszar said that Delegate Bell's bill was not effective the first year of the biennium; it is to take effect the second year of the biennium. Mr. Zimmermann said that he was not aware of that. Dr. Benson said that Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley Scott was looking into this issue. He thinks that Delegate Bell was under the impression that there was going to be a delay with the composite index changes for one year, and as such, the amendment took effect the second year. Mr. Strucko asked if the language was going to be amended. Ms. Kegley Scott said that staff needs to clarify why it was drafted in that manner, and she is working to get that information.

Mr. Haun and Ms. Collins provided an overview of the instructional coaching model. Mr. Koleszar asked if this model was accomplishing what we wanted to accomplish with it. Ms. Collins said that she feels that the division is where they thought they would be with it at this point. She is hearing that principals feel that they are further along than they thought.

Mr. Haun and Mr. Haas summarized information on the 8-period schedule.

Mr. Strucko asked if the A/B block scheduling is for the whole year. Mr. Haun said yes. Mr. Strucko asked if the semester schedule was similar to a college semester. Mr. Haun said yes.

Mr. Strucko asked how this schedule impacts the learning experience if a student may be a full semester with a course – such as mathematics. Mr. Haun said that there are people that said that it would be devastating but he has not seen any evidence of such. There is the ability to control the schedule so that there is no lapse in that learning in a course.

Mr. Strucko asked what the reluctance to adopt this. Mr. Haas said that there is none with the principals at this time. Mr. Haun said that the change factor always brings out some hesitation.

Mr. Price said that has been past discussion about why our high schools are not on the same schedule, so this discussion is nothing new.

Mrs. McKeel said that this would still mean that the individual schools could have their own schedules within the day. Mr. Haas said that is correct.

Mr. Strucko asked if student athletes received PE credit. Mr. Haun said no. Mr. Strucko suggested that this be investigated to see if it is possible to do. Mr. Wheeler said that we need to VHSL to take Albemarle High School out of being a AAA school. Mr. Haun said that the VHSL says that Albemarle County has the ability to address the issue by redistricting.

Mr. Strucko said that he could fully support the change in schedules.

Mrs. Mouly asked if a student that wanted to take math every semester could they do that. Mr. Haas said yes.

There was Board consensus for a vote to be taken on this issue at the next work session after the public hearing.

Mr. Haas spoke about restructuring of the school counselors.

Mr. Zimmermann provided an overview of the tier 2 and 3 reductions.

Mrs. McKeel said that we have spoke about covering health care increases versus taking salary reductions with a furlough. Dr. Benson provided the information. Mr. Wheeler said that he does not like the idea of furlough but it does spread across the entire division and it is easier to put back into the budget.

Mr. Strucko asked what the dollar impact would be if the tax rate was to remain at an equalized rate. Mr. Zimmermann said that the dollar amount for a penny is \$826,691 per penny.

Mr. Zimmermann asked that the Board provide direction regarding redistricting for Albemarle if they felt it necessary in order to address VHSL issues. Mr. Koleszar said that redistricting is really not an option for the coming year. Mrs. Moynihan said that we need to get input into this from the community because many may not want to redistrict.

Mr. Koleszar said that he would like to see the impact of increasing class size by 1, 2, and 3 students.

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

Mr. Price said that he testified before the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee. He thought our testimony and Delegate Bell's amendment was well received. He provided an update on where the City schools are with fighting against this amendment.

Mr. Price said that he received a call from Delegate Toscano asking if we would be open to meeting with the Charlottesville City School Board. He said that he told Delegate Toscano that we have always been open to meeting with the City School Board. Mr. Strucko spoke about how the Composite Index is calculated by the State and it being a mathematic error that needs to be fixed.

Mrs. Kegley Scott thanked the Board for sending a representative to testify in front of the Appropriations Sub-Committee. She provided the Board with a timeline of what is next.

Mr. Haun asked that the Board approve February 15, 2010 as a school day. Mr. Wheeler offered a **motion** to make February 15, 2010 a school day. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**. Dr. Moran asked to approve April 2, 2010 as a school day. Mr. Koleszar offered a motion to make April 2, 2010 a school day. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously**.

Dr. Benson said that we intend to advertise the Murray High School administrative position as a combined position for Murray High School, Enterprise Center and the Community Public Charter School.

Mr. Price suggested that the Board have a work session on charter schools.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

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

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 10:18 p.m., Mrs. McKeel 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