

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

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operation Systems; Mr. Billy Haun Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1 Call Order.

At 6:34 p.m., Mr. Price called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 2.1 Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 3.1 Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 4.1 Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1 Budget Public Hearing.

Mr. Price welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Haun provided information on the proposed schedule change and how it would impact the visual and performing arts and advanced placement classes.

Mr. Wally Adesina is a teacher at Western Albemarle High School and the Albemarle Education Association president. He spoke about the impacts of the cuts to funding for the division. He said that the rigor, relevance and relationships will disappear if this funding request is adopted.

Ms. Janene Shearburn is a teacher at Albemarle High School. She asked that the Board look at redistricting for Albemarle High School in order for them to be classified as a AA high school under the Virginia High School League.

Mr. Mark Ragland spoke to the Board about the financial impact on Albemarle High School if they moved Albemarle High School to a AA school instead of a AAA school. In addition, he spoke about the impact on students when they have to travel such long distances to participate in sporting events.

Mr. David Sloan is an Albemarle High School parent. He asked that the Board consider redistricting for Albemarle High School so that they can be classified as a AA school instead of a AAA school.

Mr. Tom Mix is a teacher at Murray High School. He asked if we really have to suffer this much. He provided some information on how Albemarle County compares to other areas in terms of per capita income, real estate tax rate, and per pupil expenditures. If we do not pay more we will deepen our recession if we continue to cut jobs.

Mr. Chris Reynolds is a Murray High School graduate. He thanked the Board for their continued support of Murray High School. He encouraged the Board to keep this program in place.

Mr. Greg Thomas is the band teacher at Albemarle High School. He spoke about the issues of the 4X4 schedule being proposed. He said that his colleagues that work on this schedule have issues with the schedules that he does not want to have to deal with. He asked the Board to study the issue before making a decision.

Ms. Michelle Karpovich is a teacher at Western Albemarle High School. She expressed concern about the idea of moving to a 4X4 schedule. She asked that the Board consider that every teacher position eliminated by a move to a 4X4 schedule should be matched by a equivalent reduction in non-instructional and central office staff.

Dr. Martha McKechnie is the Chairman of the School Health Advisory Committee. She spoke to the Board about concerns of the committee as it relates to the proposed funding request. The committee asked that the Board increase the nursing coverage at elementary schools to cover the entire school day because health care issues pop up throughout the entire school day. They also encouraged the Board to maintain the counselor and physical education funding.

Mr. Brud Bicknell is a Monticello High School teacher. He feels that a change to a 4X4 schedule will allow for some flexibility in scheduling and opens up many possibilities for students. He sees that there is a possibility for sharing of teachers. He also said that it is a great idea to look at redistricting for Albemarle High School in order to make it a AA school.

Ms. Beth Hochstetler is an Albemarle High School parent. She asked that the Board consider redistricting Albemarle High School so that it meets a AA standards under the Virginia High School League.

Mr. Bill Stokes is an Albemarle High School parent. He supports redistricting Albemarle High School so that they meet AA standards under the Virginia High School League. He also spoke about the athletic fee and how it may keep students from participating.

Mr. Matt Kessler supports Murray High School. He asked that the Board continue funding for the school.

Mr. Gary Ello is a professional musician. He is concerned about the 4X4 schedule and how music programs will work in that schedule.

Ms. Barbara Rosen is a teacher at Hollymead Elementary School. Teachers are the most important commodity the division has.

Mr. Fitzgerald Barnes is the Athletic Director at Monticello High School. There have been many discussions about how to bring Albemarle High School into the Jefferson District problem. The answer is that it is a Albemarle County problem. He said that the Board should consider redistricting Albemarle High School so that it can be reclassified as a AA school under the Virginia High School League; it is what is best for kids.

Ms. Carrie Taylor is a member of Destination Imagination board and a physics teacher. She asked that the Board continue providing funding for Destination Imagination.

Ms. Debbie Baker is a teacher at Monticello High School. She shared her perspective on teaching in a 4X4 schedule which she did earlier in her career. She said that the most vulnerable students really benefit from this schedule. There is also the potential for a remediation block to help with students who are vulnerable and need more assistance. She spoke about placement and course offerings for Limited English Proficient Students. In addition, if students have fewer contents to prepare at one time they do better. She said that there were also fewer discipline referrals. She thinks there are enough models to show how to do the schedule change the right way.

Ms. Margie Shepherd is a teacher. She supports the work of Murray High School. She supports presenting an unbalanced budget.

Mr. Michael Elswick spoke about the proposed schedule change. He is concerned about the impact of the schedule change on the music programs in the schools.

Ms. Michelle Sandow is a parent. She said that she supports redistricting Albemarle High School so that they meet AA standards under the Virginia High School League. We have great teachers and would feel horrible with any of them leaving. She thinks that the athletic fee is a good idea but is concerned that it is placed on only athletes. If you are trying out or auditioning for a group then the fee should be for all those students. She would like the Board to consider a fee for all students such as an activity fee or use fee.

Ms. Anne Garety is a teacher in the division. Teachers have a passion for education. Teaching is a job that remarkable people do. Teaching changes people's lives. She asked that the Board present a needs based budget.

Mr. Trevor Przyuski is an instructional coach. He said that SOLs are an unnecessary drain on our resources. It is sad that we are struggling to maintain the system that we currently have in place. How does it make sense to pay for the tests but fire the teachers who administer the tests? This could be an opportunity to be innovative.

Ms. Charlotte Wellen is a teacher at Murray High School. She said that employees are willing to take a furlough in order to support the excellence of the division based on the survey during the teleforum. She also asked that the Board continue to support the work being done at Murray High School.

Ms. Jane Kulow is the president of the Parent Council. All stakeholders in the division need to stand together to maintain the highest quality of education we can given the circumstances. The Parent Council asks that the Board to aggressively pursue every cent of funding at the federal, state and local levels. As the Board works through the line items in the budget pay special attention to our least advantaged students. The division has worked for a number of years to develop efficient systems, to trim positions at central office, overall to make the best use of the resources at hand.

Mr. Steve Gissendanner is a teacher. He thanked the Board for their budget work. With the lack of support, the division is going to have a hard time recruiting and retaining teachers. He asked that the Board stand their ground with the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Dorothy Jordan is a member of the Zion Baptist Church and member church of the IMPACT organization. IMPACT is requesting more access to Pre-K education for underprivileged children.

Mr. Alexander Laws is a member of the Monticello High School Air Force ROTC. He spoke about how his life has changed being involved in the program.

Mr. Stephen Wilson is a county resident. He spoke about the need for Pre-K education as being requested by IMPACT.

Mr. L. Evans is a coach at Albemarle High School. He asked that the Board consider redistricting Albemarle High School so that they can be classified as AA under the Virginia High School League standards.

Ms. MaryAnn Ford is a bus driver. She said that more bus drivers are going to cut do changes in Transportation. She asked that the Board look at all areas fairly when making reductions.

Mr. Ned Gallaway is parent. He is concerned about the class size increase and the impact on students and educators. He is also concerned that there is an assistant principal position up for reduction. He believes that the arts are part of the core mission of the education of a child. He is concerned about the stress that is going to be

put on the teachers with all the reductions and how that transfers to students. He hopes that the Board will press the new Board of Supervisor members to live up to their campaigns of supporting public education.

Ms. Lisa Bowen is the President of the Murray Elementary School PTO. She is also a teaching assistant. She requested that the Board keep as many teachers as possible and keep class sizes small.

Ms. Christine Gissica is a volunteer at Woodbrook Elementary School. Education is a gift. When you eliminate pieces of the gift you are hurting the children. She asked that the Board not increase class size; it would be detrimental to education. She also supports keeping TAs.

Mr. Michael Peteshnick is a student. He said that any changes to schedules will not impact the education of students. He spoke about the importance of scheduling for music programs needing to be done daily. He shared with the Board information on the modified 4X4 schedule. He supports the change because it will allow him the opportunity to take more classes. He asked that the Board take their time in implementing the change.

Ms. Leanne Brubaker is a teacher at Monticello High School. She has longed for a common schedule among the middle and high schools in the division. The change will allow the division to partner with PVCC in different ways. There is also the opportunity for some students to have another course offering could allow for more individuals to take the arts.

Mr. Dave Oberg is the VEA representative and a parent of an Albemarle County parent. He said that the Board should be afraid – 1 out of 6 educators will lose their jobs in September. This will destroy our educational system. He encouraged the Board to think outside of the box.

Ms. Melinda Whitehurst is a parent. She worries about the loss of Family Support worker funding. She is concerned that there is the possibility to combine principals among several schools. She encouraged the Board to work collaboratively with the City on providing services. She said that it is important to expand Pre-K offerings.

Mr. Mark Echelberger is a parent. He encouraged the Board to not redistrict as part of the budget process. Redistricting can be distracting, disrupting, and divisive even when circumstances dictate such a discussion. He suggested that the Board should look at requesting that due to the current economic times that Albemarle High School be allowed to compete with schools in its own natural, geographic region.

Mr. Salvatore Giordano is a teacher at Albemarle High School. He has issues with the 4X4 schedule but they will not “break the bank” for him. He asked that the Board present a needs based budget to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Lianna Spring is a teacher at Baker-Butler Elementary School. She said that gifted resource teachers do not service only 6-10 percent of our students. Gifted Resource Teachers are there to service the whole school.

Mr. Rick Ramey is a teacher at Albemarle High School. He supports redistricting Albemarle High School so that they meet AA standards under the Virginia High School League.

Agenda Item No. 6.1 Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Koleszar said that he feels that he has been giving the legislators a free ride in terms of funding for education.

Board members thanked the public for coming to the hearing tonight.

Mr. Wheeler said that he provided on his website an assessment of the budget situation that we are currently in.

Mr. Price spoke briefly about the composite index and its impact on funding for the County.

Agenda Item No. 7.1 Adjournment.

At 8:49 p.m., Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman

Clerk