An Organizational Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Eric Strucko; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Ned Gallaway; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly; and Mr. Jason Buyaki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Matthew Haas, Executive Director; Mr. Josh Davis, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Chris Brown, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No.1.1. Call to Order

At 6:31 p.m., Dr. Moran called the Albemarle County School Board to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers.

Dr. Moran opened nominations for Board Chairperson. Mr. Strucko **nominated** Mr. Buyaki. Mrs. McKeel **nominated** Mr. Koleszar. Mr. Strucko offered a **motion** to close nominations. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Dr. Moran asked for a vote on the **nomination** of Mr. Buyaki as chair. **The nomination failed with Mr. Strucko and Mr. Buyaki voting in favor of the nomination.**

A vote was taken on the **nomination** for Mr. Koleszar as chair. **The nomination passed with Mr. Buyaki and Mr. Strucko voting no.**

Mr. Koleszar said that this year he is going to try to control the times spent on agenda items so that the Board can get business done in a timely manner.

Mr. Koleszar then opened nominations for vice-chairman.

Mr. Strucko **nominated** Mr. Buyaki. Mr. Gallaway **nominated** Mrs. McKeel. Mr. Koleszar, hearing no objections, closed the nominations for vice-chairman.

A vote was taken on the **nomination** for Mr. Buyaki as vice-chairman. **The nomination failed with Mrs. Mouly, Mr. Strucko and Mr. Buyaki voting in favor of the motion.**

A vote was taken on the **nomination** for Mrs. McKeel as vice-chairman. **The nomination passed with Mr. Buyaki and Mr. Strucko voting no.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. Jennifer Johnston as the School Board Clerk. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Establishment of Meeting Time, Date and Place.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the meeting time, dates and places presented on the agenda for 2012 and January 2013. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.6. Appointments to the PREP and CATEC Boards.

Mr. Koleszar asked for a Board member to serve on the PREP Board. Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** for Mr. Gallaway to serve as the PREP representative and Mr. Koleszar to serve as the alternate to the PREP Board. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** for Mrs. Moynihan to serve on the CATEC Board. Mr. Gallaway **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.7. Discussion of Other Board Appointments.

Mr. Gallaway offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. Mouly and Mrs. McKeel to serve on the CIP Oversight Committee. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Strucko to the Audit Committee. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Koleszar to serve on the Access Albemarle Committee. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** for Mrs. McKeel to serve as the representative on the Charlottesville-Albemarle Fund for Public Education. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Gallaway to serve on the Commission on Children and Families. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Dr. Moran asked if there were any board members who would like to serve on the Quality Council. **Mr. Buyaki and Mr. Strucko said that they would serve on the Quality Council.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Strucko and Mrs. Mouly to the discipline committee. Mr. Gallaway **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** to appoint Mrs. McKeel and Mr. Gallaway to the communications committee. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Buyaki and Mr. Gallaway to the New School Board Member Orientation Committee. Mr. Gallaway **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Buyaki and Mrs. Mouly to serve on the Board Governance Committee. Mr. Gallaway **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Koleszar to serve on the Domestic Violence Review Team (MADVRT). Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Buyaki and Mrs. McKeel to serve on the legislative committee. Mr. Gallaway **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item. 2.1. Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

3.2 June 2011 Audited Year End Financial Report
3.3 Donation to Albemarle High School
3.4 Donation to Murray High School
3.5 Re-appropriation of Computer Equipment Replacement Funds
3.6 Reimburse County for Athletic Purchases at Western Albemarle High School
3.7 Field Trip Reimbursement – Albemarle High School
3.8 Reimbursement for Athletic Expenses at Albemarle High School
3.9 Reimbursement to the ARC
3.10 Donation to Murray High School
3.11 Release from Compulsory Attendance
3.12 Donation to Broadus Wood Elementary School
3.13 Donations to Walton Middle School
3.14 National Board Certification Bonuses
3.15 Donation to Henley Middle School
3.16 Personnel Action
3.17 Donation to Brownsville Elementary School
3.18 Donation to Broadus Wood Elementary School
3.19 Bully Prevention Month Resolution
3.20 July 2011, August 2011, and September 2011 Unverified Financial Reports
3.21 Reimbursement for Athletic Purchases at WAHS
3.22 Superintendent's Designee to Attend Board Meetings in Her Absence
3.23 School Board Member Code of Conduct
3.24 For Information Only: 2012-13 School Calendar – Proposed
3.25 Donation to Cale Elementary School

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

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Minutes – 2011.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the December 15, 2011 minutes. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Gallaway and Mrs. Moynihan abstaining.**

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Dr. Moran introduced Cherise Morris, a student at Monticello High School. Ms. Morris talked to the Board about her experience in Albemarle County Schools and what it means to her in continuing her education.

Dr. Haun said that on January 6, 2012, Governor McDonnell announced the schools in the Commonwealth that received the Virginia Index in Performance Awards. Albemarle County had nine schools on the list. Four schools earned the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Awards: Agnor-Hurt Elementary, Crozet Elementary, Stone-Robinson Elementary Schools and Western Albemarle High School. Two schools earned Board of Education Excellence Awards: Hollymead and Baker-Butler Elementary Schools. Three schools earned the highest award level – Governor's Award for Educational Excellence: Meriwether Lewis Elementary and Murray Elementary Schools and Sutherland Middle School.

Dr. Haun introduced to the Board the National Board Certified Teachers within the division. It was noted that 18 teachers within the division are currently being mentored through the application process.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Chris Winter spoke about the controversy at Woodbrook with Kid Pan Alley. The division should implement curriculum that glorifies the United States.

Ms. Ryvken Anderson spoke to the Board on behalf of her CAP group at Monticello High School. She said that more can be done in the division for nutrition while helping the local economy by sourcing local foods.

Mr. Frank Podrebarac is the president of the Albemarle Education Association. He spoke about the Governor's proposal for legislation to eliminate the continuing contract for teachers. He also spoke about VRS.

Mr. Dave Oberg is a parent. He said that Crozet is in danger of losing staff because of the enrollment declining. He also spoke as the Executive Director of Blue Ridge Uniserv. He is concerned about the Governor's proposal to eliminate continuing contract.

Ms. Carmen Garcia spoke about the high school schedule. She asked the Board to reflect on the input they have received from the school community regarding the issues with the new schedule. She asked that the Board think creatively to address the issues posed by the 8-period day regarding teacher work load.

Mr. Tim Dodson is a student at Western Albemarle High School. Teachers are unhappy at Western with the 8-period schedule. He provided his perspective on the schedule.

Mr. Mark Echelberger is a parent. He referenced the movie *The Kings Speech*. He asked the Board to heed the veterans – the parents and teachers – and revert to a 7-period schedule.

Mrs. Ginny Echelberger is a parent. She said that the division practices censorship when it is convenient for the administration or some Board members. She said that she has seen the division not share individual school data and survey results with parents as well as other examples she feels are censorship.

Ms. Janet Wiley is a parent. She asked that the Board return the Division to a 7-period high school schedule with an intermediation period.

Ms. Karen Reifenberger is a parent. She expressed concern over potential staffing cuts at Crozet Elementary due to a decline in enrollment.

Mr. Paul Halliday spoke about the issue of awarding one credit versus awarding a half credit for courses. He said that there is a difference between awarding and reporting credits.

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

Mr. Davis provided an update on VRS. When the five year financial outlook was done in November, staff had assumed that the VRS rate would increase by a couple of percentage points which would have increased the budget by $1.4 million. The Governor has proposed to fully fund the VRS pension fund and if approved the division could see an increase of $4.3 million in the next budget.

Agenda Items No. 8.1. High School Master Schedule Consideration for 2012-13

Dr. Moran said that the Board has received information over the last year from staff. Board members discussed and considered why the item is being considered outside of the budget discussions.

Mrs. Mouly offered a **motion** to return to a seven period day. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion. Mr. Koleszar asked for discussion. Mrs. Mouly said that the Board has received a great deal of public comment and it has been helpful in defining the issues. She believes that the guidance counselors need guidance now in order to schedule students. It has boiled down to a need for better workable course loads in the core content so that teachers do not get a course load more than they can handle. Providing feedback to students is important to get them where they need to be. She has seen in her work a significant eroding of writing skills in our culture, and it concerns her. With the 8-period day there is more opportunity for students to take career and technical education courses and fine arts and music. This experience helps students to grow, mature and learn to work in groups as well as supplement and improve in core content areas. She feels that the 7-periods would be a little better.

Mrs. McKeel asked staff about the 8-period schedule and offering more opportunities for electives and what qualifies as an elective. Dr. Haas said that many courses that we consider core classes, like A/B Calculus, this is beyond what students need to graduate from high school. Those classes are electives. It is the same thing for World Languages. Even with a 7-period schedule students exceeded the core classes needed to graduate.

Mr. Strucko quoted from the University of Virginia admissions page on what they look for in applicants. He then read from the Department of Education website on what is required to get an advanced diploma in Virginia. He said that with a 7-period day there were two additional opportunities for electives beyond what is required.

Mr. Gallaway said that it is frustrating for him to have the item for approval at his first meeting. He said that for the past twelve months he has said that he would follow a process before he took action on items, and he is being asked to not do that before he has had a chance to converse and influence the decision. He is frustrated with some of the processes over the last couple of years and he is concerned that there has not been any out of the box thinking to satisfy both sides concerns. He appreciates that staff needs to move on with scheduling. He does not think that the schedule and workload should be tied together. He would like to see teachers have more time and it needs to happen in their contract day. He would like to explore the idea of remediation. He has taught 5 out of 8 classes. He has not seen the Board discuss teaching 5 out of 8 classes. He would like to be a part of the conversation to explore the philosophical piece and then the cost of it. He would like to discuss reducing teacher workload while still providing opportunities for students. He has been struggling with where he would land if he had to make a decision.

Mrs. McKeel said that she feels that the 8-period schedule offers more opportunities. She feels that teacher workload is a separate issue and she would like the Board to have a discussion about the issue for all levels. The Board should develop a plan on what teacher workloads should look like. She agreed with Mrs. Mouly about the need for feedback especially writing. She suggested that some changes could be made to be phased in because the cost may not be able to be absorbed in one year.

Mr. Buyaki said that the 8-period schedule does provide opportunities but at the same time the core subjects take a hit. He is inclined to look at alternate possibilities. He would like to see the decision postponed for several more weeks in order to allow for a more thoughtful decision.

Mrs. Moynihan said that we have to deal with the schedule, a 7-period day or an 8-period day. The elective opportunities are not just classes like basket weaving. She prefers giving opportunities to students. If we go back to a 7-peiod day we will hurt our students over the long run. She understands how the teachers feel.

Mr. Strucko asked how many courses are enough opportunities because in a 7-period day students can take up to five electives over four years. Mrs. Moynihan said that there are some students that enjoy taking fine art classes – multiple in one year. She said that her children had to take classes during the summer so that they could take band and drama in the same year.

Dr. Haas said that there are a significant number of students in the division that do not earn advanced study diplomas. These students are often double-blocked in some core classes which reduce the number of opportunities that they have to take electives.

Mrs. Moynihan said that many students cannot take an elective because of scheduling issues and more opportunities allow for shifts in scheduling. Dr. Haas said that with fewer periods in the day, there are more scheduling conflicts.

Dr. Haun said that with a special education student, the opportunities are limited because they have to take a resource class. The 8-period day allows that student more opportunity. Every student is different.

Mrs. Moynihan said that the reason we went to the schedule is because we needed to save money in a bad budget year. If we change the schedule, what will the cost be in another bad budget year? We cannot continue to postpone the decision.

Mr. Koleszar said that he approves of the 8-period day and more opportunities for students. He said that the data shows that more students are being able to take a fourth or a fifth year of language. If we are preparing students to succeed in a global economy, the opportunity to take more languages is a critical piece. There is more flexibility in an 8-period day. He feels that teachers should look at how they use their class time. It is important to use the class time more effectively.

Mr. Strucko said that the 7-period schedule allows for more opportunity. Mrs. Moynihan said that it does not allow for more opportunity.

Dr. Haas provided information on the standard diploma and the requirements for obtaining this diploma.

Mr. Strucko said that a lot of the discussion on pedagogy took place at Albemarle High School during the work session on the schedule. The discussions taking place now should have happened prior to moving to an 8-period day. He feels that there needs to be a long term plan based on a 7-period day. The Board should make a decision.

Mr. Koleszar asked Dr. Moran why she put the schedule change into the budget, not for the year that the Board adopted it but for the out year. Dr. Moran said that she put the schedule change in the budget because staff knew that there were some changes coming to requirements for graduation. In addition, we knew that there were students who have had difficulty with scheduling over the years and wanted more opportunity. Special education students also needed more opportunity. There was also concern about the number of students taking PE and Health during the summer. It was put in for two years out because we were unsure where staff would land once feedback was sought. In addition, they knew that there would be budget shortfalls but at the same time it would allow for a process to take place. The Board directed staff to move it forward in the budget, and staff did they best that could be done in the timeframe that was allowed for implementation. The data that has been presented about the kinds of things students are taking beyond seven academic classes shows that students are finding things to do inside their schedules. She does not feel that we have maximized that. She feels that we can get more creative in an 8-period day. A change will also impact staffing. There are deadlines for personnel notifications in terms of reductions that need to be communicated. Mr. Strucko said that just because you return to a 7-period day does not mean that teachers will need to be reduced.

Mrs. Moynihan asked if the schedule at Albemarle High School in terms of length of class time today any different than what it was when they were on a 7-period schedule with an intervention 8th period. Dr. Haas said that they are just about the same as they were four years ago.

Mr. Gallaway said that he does not see how he can participate in this vote because he has not had the opportunity to inform the decision.

Roll was called, and the motion failed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Strucko, Mrs. Mouly, and Mr. Buyaki.
NAYS: Mrs. McKeel, Mr. Koleszar, and Mrs. Moynihan.
ABSTENTION: Mr. Gallaway.

The motion failed due to a tie vote.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Break

There was a break from 8:45 p.m. until 8:55 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Awarding Credit for High School Courses: A Proposed Change to Awarding 1 Credit Upon the Completion of Each Full Course, Beginning 2012-13

Dr. Haas provided the information that was provided to the Board at prior meetings regarding the recommendation to award one credit rather than half credits.

Board members asked questions about and discussed 1) the information provided on transcripts and how report cards are provided, 2) what information is currently provided on transcripts, and 3) the need to include semester grades on transcripts.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** changing our practice of awarding credit in ½ credit units for full-credit courses to awarding 1 credit at the completion of each full course with other exceptions being made when necessary. Mrs. Mouly **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 8.4. One-time Funding of Some Athletic Purchases from the Athletic Fee Collection for 2010-11 School Year

Dr. Haas provided a review of the additional information on fee collection reports for the current year and the participation numbers for each sport from last year.

Board members noted 1) the difference in school size and a possible fairness issue if it is evenly distributing to schools rather than based on participation rate and 2) the possibility to show parents where the funds collected for athletic fees was used.

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** that the Board appropriate $50,740 back to the respective high schools based on participation and proportionately divided among genders and the athletic directors can spend as their discretion. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed**.

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

Mr. Strucko welcomed Mr. Gallaway.

Mr. Gallaway said that he appreciates that he was in a competitive race and that a positive race was ran.

Mr. Koleszar said that during the last meeting of the Commission on Children and Families, the Deputy County Executive informed them that in 2013-14 local government has zeroed out funding for the program.

Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley said that so far there are about 1,900 pieces of legislation. She said that Delegate Bell will be providing his language for the budget amendment. Once provided, she asked that the Board reach out to the appropriations committee. She said that there is a PE legislation bill and she provided that to Dr. Moran and Dr. Haun. Dr. Moran pointed out that it was still an unfunded mandate. Mr. Strucko asked about the Governor's proposal regarding continuing contracts and whether localities would have the option to do multi-year contracts. Ms. Kegley said that it was her impression that it was a mandate for localities. Mr. Koleszar said that we currently issue one year contracts. Once a teacher has been here for three years, the teacher has a continuing contract. Dr. Moran provided information on the issuance of teaching contracts. Mr. Koleszar asked that Ms. Kegley email the Board regarding legislation as it comes up so the Board can decide on how to address the legislation.

Mrs. McKeel said that there is federal legislation right now that would allow epiPens to be stocked in school clinics. This legislation is very important that the Board support this legislation. Ms. Kegley could provide additional information on what this would allow.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.

At 9:36 p.m., Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** that the Board go into 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 a personnel matter involving the potential discipline of an employee; subsection 2 to discuss and consider a parent's petition to be on school property requiring the disclosure of information contained in a student scholastic record; and subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters pertaining to the contractual relationship between the Albemarle County School Division, its schools, and a third party service provider. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 10:32 p.m., Mrs. McKeel 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. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mrs. McKeel; Mr. Gallaway; Mrs. Moynihan; Mr. Strucko; Mr. Koleszar; Mr. Buyaki; and Mrs. Mouly.
NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 10:33 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk