

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium of the Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Eric Strucko; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Ned Gallaway; Mrs. Barbara Mouly (arrived at 6:40 p.m.); Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; and Mr. Jason Buyaki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Chris Brown, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call to Order.

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

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda.

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

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

Dr. Moran presented the 2012-2013 Superintendent's Funding Request to the Board.

A little more than ten years ago, Jim Collins wrote *Good to Great*, a widely read and influential best seller that described how companies transition from mediocrity to excellence. While Collins was principally writing about the private sector, his observations have broader validity. In fact, they apply to most organizations, especially those that serve a high public trust.

In assessing where we are in public education during an inarguably turbulent and challenging period, I am struck by a phrase that is on the Collins web site: "Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness is largely a matter of conscious choice, and discipline."

In Albemarle County, our choices for children have been driven by two tidal waves of change. The first is our community's continuing economic difficulties. We are still below adopted revenue levels from FY 2007-2008 and, as a result, we have less revenue per learner today than we did four years ago. The second tidal wave is the increased national and global competition our graduates face as they seek college and workforce opportunities. The quality of public education, especially in the face of limited resources, will determine whether the doors of opportunity are closed to, or open for, our graduates.

The conscious direction we have chosen in the midst of these challenges is to raise our expectations and goals for students even higher. Our mission, to establish a community of learners and learning, through relationships, relevance, and rigor, one student at a time, has never been more urgent. The first of our five strategic goals, preparing students to succeed as members of a global community--to educate today's students for tomorrow's success--has never been more compelling.

One of the privileges and joys of being superintendent is the opportunities I have to visit so many of our classrooms and to see how well we are meeting another of our strategic goals, recruiting, retaining, and developing a diverse cadre of the highest quality teaching personnel, staff, and administrators.

Jim Collins talked about leaders as being passionate for a cause—serving the organization and its work—not themselves. He described the power of people with fierce resolve and sense of purpose to lead from every level of an organization. We are fortunate to have such people—teachers, principals, and students—who are committed to leading our work. Collins says that disciplined people who engage in disciplined thought and take disciplined action are the cornerstone of a culture that creates greatness.

That's what I see in our classrooms every day.

If we are to realize our mission, we need our schools to hold on to the best of what schooling has always been while making changes necessary to educate contemporary learners. This means constant attention to expectations for how, where and what young people learn, how we assess and measure their progress, and how we collaborate with external partners. Today's learners must have every chance

to walk through that door of opportunity as graduates who are ready to contribute positively to their community, prepared for post-secondary education, and competent to enter the workforce.

That's where the discipline that Jim Collins talks about comes in. We have built our strategic plan around four pivotal ideas requiring creativity, agility, change, and a focus on results that matter.

This budget reflects our commitment to go from "good to great." We want our students to do more than perform well on a multiple-choice test. We want our students to excel-- in how they conduct research, how they analyze information and draw conclusions, how they use their thinking skills to create new ideas and solve problems. We want our students learning inside and outside of the classroom with access to the tools they need for the project work they will accomplish. We want our teachers to implement methods for assessing how well our students are mastering skills that will advance them over a lifetime – analytical reading and writing, mathematical thinking, scientific inquiry, historical research, and communication in a variety of formats. We want to expand our interaction with external partners who can provide valued advice and counsel, resources, and a broad range of engagement for our students that will provide continuous relevance to their preparation for academic and professional success.

This needs-based budget reflects a five percent increase in expenses, driven largely by the state-mandated increase in employer contributions to the Virginia Retirement System. It reflects the \$2 million in efficiency improvements in energy and transportation we have made over the past two years.

The following pages detail the return we have provided on your investment this year and the benefits that will accrue from your investment of \$151.7 million beginning in July, a request that is approximately that of four years ago.

All those invested in Albemarle's quality of life--our business and public service communities, parents and all residents, local government, our colleges and universities, our teachers, staff and our students—have a stake in our future. When we keep the door to opportunity open for all young people, we all benefit.

I am grateful for the extraordinary contributions of our teachers and staff, of our parent and advisory groups, of our volunteers. Thank you for your continued support of our students and our community.

Mr. Koleszar asked that any questions regarding the funding request be submitted to Mr. Zimmermann. He asked if there were areas that the Board wanted more information on. Board members noted that there would be questions on teacher workload and teacher planning time. Board members thanked Dr. Moran for her presentation.

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

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment

At 7:18 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk