

A Special Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Monticello High School Forum, Monticello High School, 1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Harley Miles; Mr. Eric Strucko (arrived at 6:48 p.m.); Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mr. Steve Koleszar; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly (arrived at 6:33 p.m.); and Mrs. Diantha McKeel.

ABSENT: None.

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

Agenda Item No. 1.1 Call Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Koleszar 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.

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1 Budget Public Hearing.

Mr. Koleszar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dr. Moran provided a brief overview of the Superintendent's Funding Request.

Mr. Miles explained the public comment guidelines.

Ms. Mary Thacker spoke about the bus driver salaries. She asked that the Board consider adjusting the hourly wages of bus drivers.

Ms. Margie Shepherd spoke about woes the budget including increased class size and no additional funding for the school division. The School Board needs to fight for the needs of the school division.

Ms. Holly Tidmore supports the funding request. She asked that the Board review the policy for allowing non-resident students of employees into county schools tuition free.

Ms. Carrie Ortel is a teacher. She supports a policy revision to allow employees to enroll their non-resident students in the County schools tuition free. She shared with the Board a letter written by instructional coach, Matt Tadut, supporting the policy revision.

Ms. Jane Kulow spoke on behalf of Parent Council. Parent Council fully supports the request. A few concerns were expressed including the control and distribution of technology. The request restores funding for positions to address class size. The request strengthens the ability to recruit and retain top notch teachers. The request brings professional input from the School Financial Advisory Council; this is noteworthy because the Council provides input from independent professionals. Funding high quality education is in the vested interest of all Albemarle County residents and employees.

Mr. Dave Oberg works for the Virginia Education Association and the Albemarle Education Association. He is also a parent of a student in Albemarle County schools. He supports the funding request. He expressed concern about the proposed salary increase of 1% for support personnel. He encouraged the Board to take a look at the proposal.

Mr. Steve Gissendanner is a teacher. He is concerned about current year's budget and the ten percent holdback implemented. He is even more concerned about next year because there has been a decrease in funding for local, state and federal funding. He also noted that the Board should re-evaluate pay for bus drivers.

Ms. Ginny Echelberger asked about transparency in the budget. She asked why the Board voted for an 8-period day and why teachers were to teach 6 out of 8 classes. She asked that each Board member explain why he/she voted the way they voted regarding this issue.

Ms. Kim Taylor is a parent. She asked that the Board explain the numbers related to going to an 8-period day and the costs for returning to the previous schedule. She also said that with the 8-period day that teachers work hard while students get less. She said that more can be less. The 8-period schedule allows for 10 more credits than required for a standard diploma and 6 more than required for an advanced diploma.

Mr. Koleszar closed the public hearing.

Agenda Item No. 6.1 Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 7.1 Adjournment.

At 7:01 p.m., Mr. Miles offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Chairman

Clerk