A Regular Board Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on October 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and System Planning; Dr. Matthew Haas, Director of Secondary Education; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call to Order.

At 6:32 p.m. Mr. Price, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence.

The moment of silence was in remembrance of Fulton Marshall.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.

3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
3.2 Donation to Albemarle High School Turf Project
3.3 Donation to Albemarle and Western Albemarle High School's Synthetic Turf Project
3.4 Reappropriate Baker-Butler Funds Fiscal Year 2009-10
3.5 Donation to Western Albemarle Synthetic Turf Project
3.6 Donation to Crozet Elementary School
3.7 Donation to Stone Robinson Elementary School
3.8 State Farm Grant – M^3 – Math, Men and Mission Program
3.9 Golden Apple Staff Development Stipend
3.10 Personnel Action
3.11 Personnel Action
3.12 Bama Works Fund Grant – Stone Robinson
3.13 Donation to Baker Butler Elementary School
3.14 Bama Works Fund Grant – Jouett Middle School
3.15 Virginia Education Association Grant – Meriwether Lewis
3.16 USDA – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant
3.17 Capital Improvement Program FY 2011/12 – 2015/16
3.18 Donation to Henley Middle School
3.19 Exemption from Compulsory Attendance
3.20 Proposed Revisions to Policy IIA, Instructional Materials, and IIAA, Learning Resources/Textbooks Selection and Adoption

Mr. Miles asked that the communications plan and the minutes be removed from the consent agenda.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda minus the minutes and the communications plan. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Minutes

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to approve the minutes. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mr. Miles abstaining.**

Agenda Item No. 4.2. Communications Plan

Mr. Miles said that he had some concerns about the document: 1) there needs to be a glossary of terms, 2) there needs to be a checklist of quarters with tasks, 3) there needs to be a responsible party assigned to each task, and 4) there needs to be section that defines the resources needed for each task.

Mrs. McKeel said that she is disappointed that the document was not cleaned up more based on the direction at the last board meeting. Dr. Moran said that staff was looking for conceptual approval.

Mr. Koleszar offered a **motion** to give concept approval to the communications plan. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Dr. Haas said that the all money needed to install the turf fields at Western Albemarle and Albemarle High Schools has been received. It is anticipated that construction will begin in November and be completed by January. Mrs. McKeel asked if there was any indication that there may be an issue with the Parks and Recreation monies. Dr. Haas said no.

Dr. Benson said that Albemarle County Public Schools was recognized by the United States Productivity and Quality Award Program for Virginia for participating in discovery program which looks at structures and systems in place and how they hold up against Baldrige criteria. The document will serve as a base for moving forward within the division for improvement.

Dr. Benson encouraged the Board to visit a school cafeteria during the week to recognize National School Lunch Week.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Dr. Lori Balaban is a parent. She said that she understands that the Board felt compelled to move to an eight period day due to budget constraints. The problem is not the schedule but the compression of year-long classes into one semester. We should return to year-long classes that meet every other day.

Ms. Candice Smith is a parent. She is concerned with the semesterization of classes. She thanked Mr. Strucko for his willingness to listen. She feels that the Board needs to stay educated on education matters, and should be lifelong learners. She said that cramming is not learning.

Ms. Melissa Leider is a senior at Albemarle High School. She is concerned about classes being taught in a semester instead of year-long. She says classes feel rushed, and school feels different.

Ms. Amy Halliday is a parent. She is opposed to the semesterization of classes in the high schools. She asked that a special session be scheduled so parents could talk with the School Board members not to them about what is best for students in the County.

Ms. Jennifer Leider is a student at Albemarle High School. She read a statement from Emma Cohen, a senior at Albemarle High School. She expressed concern about the semesterization of classes.

Ms. Amy Leider is a parent. She is concerned about the implementation of the 4X4 schedule. This decision was made without the best interest of students taken into account. Accelerated cramming is not a good way to learn. She asked the Board to reconsider teaching classes on a semester basis.

Ms. Dawn McCoy is a parent. She read a statement from a parent regarding the struggle of her child with the semesterization of courses.

Mr. Vic Dandridge is a parent. His daughter has at least 29 students in each of her core classes. He asked what the ideal class size is for high schools. He expressed concern about classes being taught on a semester basis. He said that teachers are under a gag order for talking about the schedule change. He asked for more transparency on the schedule change, and he encouraged the Board to set up public hearings to receive public input on the schedule change.

Ms. Carmen Garcia is a parent. She spoke about the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee's recommendations for the capital improvements program. She said that if there is money to support renovation of tennis courts and tracks then there must be money to support our students and our teachers. She cannot support a budget that does not put teachers and students first. Teachers and students are overwhelmed with the schedule change.

Ms. Rebecca Dameron is a parent. She is concerned about the semesterization of classes. Teachers are reducing the content of what is taught due to the change in the schedule.

Ms. Janet Wiley is a parent. She expressed concern about the use of semesterized classes in the high schools. She requested that the Board return to a straight eight period schedule.

Ms. Ginny Echelberger is a parent. She said that the schedule change is putting undo stress on students. Teachers are removing the fun parts of teaching because of the rushed schedule. The community should be involved in making recommendations for budget cuts.

Ms. Katelynn Biller is a student at Albemarle High School. She sees a difference in her classes due to the change the schedule. She asked that the Board change the schedule back to what it used to be with year-long classes.

Mr. Fred Smyth is a researcher at the University of Virginia in psychology. He is concerned about the use of semesterized courses in the high schools. He said that the teachers are stressed with the schedule change.

Mr. Mark Echelberger is a parent. He said that the eight period schedule has impacted the quality and content of the classroom experience. He encouraged the Board to abandon this schedule.

Ms. Robin Sealy is a parent. She encouraged the Board to end semesterized courses. She asked that the Board hold a work session to discuss the schedule change.

Mr. Koleszar asked for staff to prepare and publish the process of evaluating the effectiveness of the schedule change. Dr. Haas provided an update.

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

Mr. Strucko said that he met with a group of parents from Western Albemarle and Albemarle High Schools regarding the schedule change. They provided some great information. He would like for the Board to schedule a work session on the schedule change to allow this group to present their information. Mr. Price asked how the work session would work because he does not want to put false hope out in the public that the Board will change course midstream. Mrs. Moynihan said that she supports Mr. Strucko's suggestion. Mr. Koleszar said that we need to work out the timing of the work session. **There was Board consensus to hold a work session in November.**

Mr. Strucko spoke about the budget. He is not going into this budget season thinking that local government will support public education. He said that he would support funding for the education of our students not for such things as an upgrade or renovation of a field or tennis court.

Mr. Strucko spoke about the concern that teachers are fearful to express their views or opinions on policy matters in fear of professional retribution. He asked if staff could look into this matter.

Mrs. McKeel said that she keeps hearing discussion about using CIP money for operational purposes. It was her understanding that the Board cannot just move CIP money into the operational budget. Dr. Benson said that Mrs. McKeel was correct. He stated that the money for Turf Fields is specifically for that purpose through donations from outside individuals or groups. The decision to move money from the CIP budget into operational would be a decision that the Board of Supervisors would have to make. The money would be split as well if it was taken out of the CIP.

Class Size Report: Dr. Haas provided the Board with information for consideration regarding the class size report including a review of the data provided in the report, an overview of how staffing allocations are derived based on projected enrollment and other factors, and the impact of increasing class sizes by one student. Dr. Moran asked that questions regarding the report be directed to Dr. Haun.

On-Time Graduation Report: Dr. Haas provided the Board with information for consideration regarding the On-Time Graduation Rate for Albemarle County Public Schools including a review of the formula used to determine the on-time graduation rate, the percentage of Albemarle County graduates who received each type of diploma awarded, and a comparison of Albemarle County students to the state average and by sub-population.

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Health Advisory Board Report

Dr. Lori Balaban, School Health Advisory Committee, provided the Board with an overview of the work of the School Health Advisory Board over the last year including receiving a report from UVA pediatric neurologist Howard Goodkin regarding their Bike Helmet Distribution Program, which provided 128 bicycle helmets along with proper fitting and educational programs to students at Greer, Yancey and Woodbrook Elementary Schools, continued to evaluate and support Child Nutrition's efforts to provide healthy and nutritious meals to students, and reviewing policies on concussions in student-athletes. She then provided the Board with the committee's recommendations for the coming year which includes: 1) a recommendation for no consideration given to a reduction in nursing hours as a budget saving measure, and at the same time consider increasing elementary school nursing from 6 hours per day to the entire time school is in session, 2) an endorsement of a universal location of AEDs in all high schools and middle schools near the front hall with universal signage, 3) a recommendation that recess (or the middle and high school equivalent) not be withdrawn as punishment, and 4) a recommendation that if a student has an early lunch then students be allowed and encouraged to eat a healthy snack in the afternoon. Focus for the coming year will include: 1) working with Dr. Goodkin on implementing the concussion policies, 2) evaluating our school system's responsibilities and tools for dealing with the epidemic of childhood obesity, and 3) continuing to consider evidence-based medicine and consistency of policies when making recommendations to the schools and school board.

Board members asked for more information on whether there has been discussion about Michelle Obama's initiative for Let's Get Moving Campaign and whether there is funding available that the Division could apply for. Dr. Benson said that staff is looking at how elements can be implemented in our programs within Albemarle County.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee Considerations

Dr. Benson provided the Board with information for consideration regarding long-range planning and the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee including desired outcomes, issues to be considered, proposed committee membership, proposed criteria and expectations for committee members, proposed composition of the committee and expected work and deliverables from the committee. After the presentation, Board members supported the idea of the change in the composition of the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee and supported the idea of more frequent meetings with the committee.

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break (Taken prior to Agenda Item No. 8.1)

There was a break from 8:40 p.m. until 8:58 p.m.

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

Dr. Moran said that at the VASS meeting that she attended this week, they are in align with our position in regards to VRS. The State, as a result of taking AARA funds, is required to build a database that dynamically links students with teachers with SOL data. This will be coming a short period of time. With this will be an opportunity to look at teacher performance through the lens of AYP data. There is also a committee at the State level looking at Teacher Performance Appraisal. VASS feels that appraisal does not look only at one data point.

Mr. Miles spoke about the Annual Responsibilities of Board Members and the requirement to prepare in advance of the meeting. He asked that the Board consider a strict deadline for having items ready. Dr. Moran said that the deadline is the Friday of the week before the meeting. She noted that at times there are exceptions at times to meeting the deadline.

Mr. Miles said that in the support information in the donations and grant appropriations there is no consistency. He asked that staff review the process and create a template for all items to follow.

Mr. Koleszar said that the Access Albemarle Oversight Committee had a meeting. They have been running in parallel with the new system and the old system since July 1, but they have run into a bottleneck with the reports not working properly. They have not been able to close July in the new system and the old system. They are working hard to solve the problem.

Mrs. McKeel said that there is a CATEC joint meeting next Tuesday.

Mr. Koleszar said that on November 1 the Making Connections Conference will take place. The Board is scheduled to do three presentations on the Vision, Mission and Goals along with dialogue with teachers.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.

At 9:38 p.m., Mr. Strucko offered a **motion** to 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 the potential resignations of specific administrative employees and the assignment of a specific administrative employee. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion**, and the motion passed**.

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 10:03 p.m., 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 lawfully 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. Mouly, Mrs. McKeel, Mr. Strucko, Mr. Price, Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Miles and Mr. Koleszar.
NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 10:07 p.m., Mr. Strucko offered a **motion** to adjourn the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

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Chairman

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Clerk