

A Regular Board Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on April 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Bruce Benson, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Systems Planning; Dr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Joe Letteri, Director of Building Services; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Vince Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Annie Kim, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Commendations.

At 5:30 p.m., the School Board recognized at a reception following:

1. Congratulations to **Joshua Underwood** of Albemarle High School for his outstanding performance at the Virginia State Oratorical Championship sponsored by the American Legion. Joshua beat out over 180 other contestants to become the state oratorical champion.
2. At the beginning of March Fay Cunningham directed students in the semi-national competition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The students performed *Man of La Mancha* and competed with the best schools in the Southeastern Region. There were over 600 student actors in 18 performances. Albemarle High School student **Jeremy Weiss** was selected as the Best Actor of the entire High School Theatre Festival.
3. Congratulations to the **Albemarle Wind Symphony** who received straight "Superior" ratings at the District Band Assessment Event. The Patriots were one of only two bands to receive the top grade in every category, and the only band to do so on the most difficult grade level of music. Thirty five bands participated in the event. The Patriots played *Kiwanisca* March by Steven Bulla, *Graysondance* by David Holsinger, and *Awayday* by Adam Gorb. This accomplishment, combined with the Superior Rating that the Marching Patriots earned at the State Marching Festival in the fall, earns the Albemarle High School Band the status of "Virginia Honor Band" for the 10th time in the last 11 years.
4. **Fatima Youmis**, a student at Jack Jouett Middle School, placed 2nd in the Virginia School Boards Association's Central Regional Forum Art Contest that was held at the annual regional forum.
5. Congratulations to **Eric Xu**, an 8th grade from Henley Middle School, for capturing the Division title for the 2011 Spelling Bee, and to the runner up, **Owen Zoll**, a seventh grader from Walton Middle School. **Eric** went on to win the Regional Spelling Bess and has advanced to the National competition that will be held in Washington, DC in May.
6. Six students from Albemarle and Monticello High Schools were selected by blind audition to participate in the All-Virginia Chorus, which will be held April 28-20, 2011. Juniors and Seniors from across District XIII who had been selected for All-District Choir were eligible to audition for this honor. Four additional students were selected as alternates. The following students will represent Albemarle County Public Schools: **Kiersten Lamb** (AHS, Soprano); **Austin Patterson** (AHS, Tenor); **Alex Krone** (AHS, Tenor); **Emily Gardiner** (MoHS, Soprano); **Ella Evans** (MoHS, Soprano); and, **Madeline Cohen** (MoHS, Alto). The following students were selected as alternates: **Joe Kellenberger** (AHS); **Stephanie Wright** (MoHS); **Emily Freeman** (MoHS); and **Jesse Aielli** (MoHS).
7. Congratulations to Albemarle High School's Literary magazine ***The Latern: Panotopic*** for receiving the Highest Award rank in the 2010 National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. Magazines were received from 413 schools, 104 were recommended for the highest award, and 29 were chosen to receive the Highest Award.
8. Congratulations to **Aarati Sriram** of Albemarle High School for being selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing

arts. Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Semifinalists will be announced in early April, and Scholars in early May.

9. The Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society recognized Monticello High School teacher, **Michael Farabaugh**, with the Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher award.

10. The following schools were recognized as 2009-10 AVID National Certified Schools: **Monticello High School** and **Western Albemarle High School**. This status is awarded to AVID sites that have met the eleven AVID Program Essentials and Data Collection documentation that supports program effectiveness and student progress.

11. Congratulations to the students, and their teachers, who put together the Visual Arts Festival Poster this year. This was the first year the poster itself was student created.

Poster artwork – “Movement Study” by **Ashley Lauren Anders**.

Art teacher: **Karen Singel**, Albemarle High School

Poster creation (Digital imaging class) – **Natalie Noble**

Art teacher: **Jennifer Lewis**, Monticello High School

This was a true example of hard work and collaboration!

12. Governor Bob McDonnell and the Virginia Board of Education announced that 14 Albemarle County Public Schools are among the highest performing schools in the Commonwealth. The 2011 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards honor schools and school divisions who achieve excellence goals that far exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards.

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve other excellence goals such as elementary reading, enrollment in Algebra I by the eighth grade, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, or increased attainment of career and industry certifications. There are four tiers to the program, listed below.

2011 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence (Highest Honor)

Hollymead Elementary
Meriwether Lewis Elementary
Stony Point Elementary
Virginia L. Murray Elementary

2011 Board of Education Excellence Award (Second-Tier Honor)

Baker-Butler Elementary
Broadus Wood Elementary
Brownsville Elementary
Crozet Elementary

2011 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award

Agnor-Hurt Elementary
Albemarle High
Scottsville Elementary
Stone Robinson Elementary
Western Albemarle High

2011 Board of Education Rising Star Award

Benjamin F. Yancey Elementary

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Miles offered a **motion** that the School Board go into a 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 and consider the performance of specific administrative employees; and subsection 7 to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding contract laws, policies and procedures. Mrs. Mouly **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Miles 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: Mr. Miles, Mr. Koleszar, Mrs. Mouly, Mrs. McKeel, Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Buyaki, and Mr. Strucko.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Call to Order

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

Agenda Item No. 1.5. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.6. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item. No. 2.1. Approval of Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Donation to V.L. Murray Elementary School
- 3.3 Field Trip Reimbursements – Sutherland and Walton Middle School
- 3.4. Reappropriation of School Carryover and Building Rental
- 3.5 2010/11 End of the School Year Calendar Modification
- 3.6 Community Public Charter School Report
- 3.7 Utopian Lease Payments – January and February
- 3.8 Personnel Action

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Dr. Haun said that Kindergarten registration has begun. We have had a lot of students coming in early to register.

Dr. Haun said that staff has completed one round of staffing meetings with the schools. Another set of meetings will take place next week.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Karen Freeland is a parent. She shared with the Board her experience with the Community Public Charter School.

Ms. Rose Colosuno is a parent. She shared with the Board her child's experience with the Community Public Charter School.

Ms. Leanne Knox is a parent. She shared with the Board her child's experience with the Community Public Charter School.

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

Dr. Benson said that he provided the Board with information on the summer project list for the division.

Dr. Benson said that he has been at the Western Albemarle Track. The track needs help. There were patches there were not secured well and there are some drainage issues. A company was called in to repatch and it looks much better. We will continue to monitor the track and it is scheduled for replacement next summer.

Dr. Benson provided the Board with information regarding the National Board Certified Teacher stipend and the amount of taxes taken out of it. The information included the history of the payments and how the school division began paying the stipends and the amount of funds provided did not include FICA. The issue is the employer portion of FICA and whether the Division should pay for it. He then asked for direction from the Board. Other school divisions pick up the employer portion FICA. He noted that the practice is consistent with the practice of other grants. **There was Board consensus for Dr. Benson to provide additional information on the costs associated with picking up the employer portion of FICA.**

Dr. Moran said that she shared with the Board a link about the new learning studio at the UVA Medical School. Dr. Canterbury has offered the Division the opportunity to look at the learning space and to discuss the process that they went through to design this space. She invited Board members to attend on May 5, 2011 at 9 a.m.

Dr. Moran said that a new webpage was rolled out. Staff has been redirected to work on updating the information and pages.

Dr. Moran noted that the month of September has been designated as Virginia Child Abuse Prevention Month. She shared some fact sheets with the School Board.

Dr. Haun said that with the approval of the consent agenda, the Board designated Friday, June 10, 2011 as the last day of school for students in Albemarle County Public Schools.

Agenda Items No. 8.1. Bright Stars/Preschool Network Annual Report.

Ms. Charity Haines and Ms. Kathy Ralston from the Department of Social Services provided the Board with information regarding the Bright Stars/Preschool Network Annual Report including information about children enrolled in the Title I and Early Childhood Special Education inclusion programs which, along with Bright Stars, comprises three out of four programs in the Albemarle County Preschool Network.

After an overview of the information, Board members asked or noted the following: 1) of the students on the waiting list, where are they located geographically within the County, and 2) on page 14, the number of Bright Stars graduates that continue to receive services is the number consistent for previous years.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Greer Phase II Renovations/Addition Schematic Design

Mr. Jack Clark, Rancorn Wildman Architects, provided the Board with a presentation on the proposed Greer Elementary School Phase II renovations and addition schematic design. After the presentation, Board members noted that two of the classrooms are alternative classrooms and may not be built depending on the bids that come in for the project. Board members also asked about the new capacity of the school once the addition is built and will future additions be feasible after the addition.

Mrs. McKeel offered a **motion** to approve the schematic design for the Greer Elementary Phase II Renovations and Additions project and provide authorization to proceed to the Design Development Phase. Mrs. Moynihan **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee 2011 Status Report and Mission

Dr. Benson and Mr. Letteri introduced members of the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee. After introductions, Dr. Benson referred the Board to the following questions that the Committee would like to have the Board answer in order to provide direction: 1) What topics are non-starters/out-of-bounds/off-topic for this committee? In other words, are there any recommendations that you know the Board will not accept and therefore the committee should not spend time deliberating (i.e. small school closure, redistricting, or creating additional split feeder patterns, etc.); 2) Does the Board have an overall guiding principal about using existing empty seats vs. building new ones? This is a topic that this committee has struggled with in the past, so any guidance would be appreciated. While capitalizing on existing empty seats provides an opportunity for cost savings, it does come with the challenge of redistricting or modifying the feeder pattern (including possible additional split-feeder patterns); 3) The Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) includes a "Schools" section which covers Facility Standards. Amongst other specific data, this section includes "not to exceed" capacity figures. How should this document influence our recommendations? What should we do in the event of a conflict (i.e. Elementary Schools should not exceed 600 students)?; 4) Given the near-capacity enrollment in our three large High Schools and the ACCP stated desire of 1500 as the optimum student enrollment, what is the Board's view of increasing capacity at each or any of the high schools beyond that enrollment vs. consideration of the construction of a new high school vs. redistricting or modifying the feeder patterns to relieve near and immediate term overcrowding?; 5) How does the Board foresee the increased use of technology to improve effective use of classroom space? For example, the use of distance learning for small enrollment classes in different school buildings may suggest the construction of a greater number of smaller classrooms or the subdivision of existing space. This would mean a more efficient use of learning space and a wider array of subject choices; 6) Related, is the ultimate goal to standardize schedules at all three high schools? This would have an impact on the implementation of the question above; 7) Does the Board have a minimum ratio of enrollment compared to building capacity?

Board members provided the following direction: 1) There are no topics that are out-of-bounds for the committee to consider. 2) Use existing seats as they are available rather than building new seats. 3) The parameters in the Comprehensive Plan do not really exist because the School Board has made decisions outside of those parameters. It was suggested that the Committee consider the parameters when making recommendations. 4) The committee should review how spaces be reconfigured in light of technology. 5) The Board, the Committee and the Staff need to agree on which capacity figures will be used. 6) Albemarle High School should not go larger than its current capacity.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. Break.

There was a break from 8:46 p.m. until 8:57 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.5. FY 2011/12 Budget Discussion.

Mr. Zimmermann provided a presentation on the proposed budget for FY 2011/12. The presentation included 1) an overview of the School Board's proposed budget, 2) an update on anticipated revenues, 3) an update on anticipated expenditures, 4) a recommendation of a budget to adopt based on the updated information, and 5) a recommendation on the use of fund balance.

Board members asked for the following information: 1) the cost of bringing back one of the positions in the Department of Accountability, Research and Technology with responsibilities of overseeing the development and upkeep of content on the division website, and 2) is there a need for additional assistance with the implementation and training for the student information system especially support for guidance counselors.

Agenda Item No. 8.6. Gradespeed Update.

Mr. Scheivert provided an update on where the division is with the use of Gradespeed.

Board members asked if the issues are code related where changing the code would address the issue. Is the product being over customized?

Agenda Item No. 8.7. Discipline Committee Changes to Policy JGD/JGE.

Ms. Kim referred the Board to the draft policy language for Policy JGD/JGE. Board members asked or noted the following: 1) when the word promptly is used, is there a definition, 2) what does administrative means mean, and 3) by forming the committee it does not preclude other members from attending and participating in them meetings.

This policy will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting for approval.

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

Mr. Strucko asked staff to discuss the issue of contracting of high school athletic departments with certain vendors. Dr. Haas said that a concern was raised about contracts between high school athletic departments and vendors. Staff collected the agreements and reviewed with legal counsel the agreements. After the review, the agreements look exclusive on paper but they have not been practiced in that manner. The athletic departments were notified that the contracts were void because they were not being followed by either side. Staff was instructed for future endeavors needed to follow the proper partnership procedures. There was discussion about how athletes and families can purchase any brand accessory apparel to the team uniform and whether this needed to be stated in policy or in the student handbook. There was also discussion on whether the division received goods or compensation for the agreements that were in place.

Mrs. McKeel noted that as part of the UVA President's inauguration activities, during the weekend there will be some activities taking place at a couple elementary schools.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:48 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk