

A Budget Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on January 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., Room 241, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Ned Gallaway; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly (arrived at 7:05 p.m.); Mr. Jason Buyaki; and Mr. Eric Strucko (arrived at 6:35 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Josh Davis, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Matthew Haas, Assistant Superintendent for Organizational and Human Resource Leadership; Mr. Kevin Kirst, Director of Special Services; Mr. Chris Brown, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Call Order.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.
Moment of Silence.

Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Superintendent's Funding Request Presentation.

Dr. Moran presented her proposed funding request for FY2013/14.

It was just over 50 years ago, in an academic setting in fact, that a president of the United States said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win ..."

The moon landing captured the imagination, support and talents of a nation. And, not inconsequential was the immediate impact this journey had on education and upon young men and women in classrooms all across the country, teachers and students alike.

This point recently was revisited by one of our nation's space heroes, Dr. Kathy Thornton, who logged nearly 1,000 hours in space and was one of two mission specialists who repaired the Hubble Telescope while outside the shuttle in an historic 1993 flight.

Dr. Thornton, now an associate dean at the University of Virginia, was discussing the current state of the space program and comparing it with the state of education. Noting the end of the shuttle flights and NASA's substantial budget reductions, she characterized our nation as being "trapped in low-orbit."

Education today can be similarly described, pulled down by antiquated classroom environments, repetitive instructional methods, inadequate testing, separation from our diverse communities, and unresolved national debates about the way forward.

In many ways, we are educating children as we did 100 years ago, during the dawning of the assembly line. And while the world has evolved over the past century, from covered wagons to space shuttles, the pace of change and progress in education has been far less ambitious.

The costliest consequence of this slow progress has been our nation's inability to meet one of our most important responsibilities: preparing all students for post-graduate success as citizens, in higher education, and in the workforce.

Budgets contain numbers but they also should be about the lives they shape and the doors to opportunity they open.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Albemarle County Public Schools Superintendent is submitting a maintenance of effort funding request. This request of \$155.4 million represents an increase of about 2.8 percent over our current budget, primarily driven by enrollment growth, increased free/reduced lunch eligible students, and compensation.

All of these drivers go to the heart of our values as a school division. Funding enrollment growth enables us to maintain optimal class sizes. The support our free/reduced lunch eligible students receive produces significant academic progress in this at risk population. Maintaining compensation at competitive market levels allows the division to attract and retain the high-quality educators and classified staff who deliver the exceptional performance our children deserve.

In this request, we are estimating expenditures that are approximately \$1.5 million above revenues. Final numbers from our two major revenue sources—state aid and local government, which comprise nearly 97 percent of our budget—will not be known for several months and will affect this disparity.

The silver lining in the dark financial clouds of these past several years has been the management discipline and innovation that has led us to do more with less, resulting in significant savings in operational expenses that continue to accrue to our taxpayers. In just the past year, for example, conservation improvements have enabled us to avoid \$160,000 in energy-related costs. We continue to benefit from greater transportation efficiencies that reduce costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars and from more streamlined administrative oversight.

This funding request is built upon the foundation of the “3Rs,” to which it adds “4Cs.” Education must continue to be about reading, writing and arithmetic, and also be about Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication.

Opening doors of opportunity means meeting children at the leading edge of their potential. Adequate funding will always be a challenge, but what we cannot afford is fewer ideas, less energy and lower skills in preparing our children to meet the sweeping global challenges they will face upon graduation.

The focal point of our strategy for 21st century learning can be found through such programs as Design 2015, our division-wide innovation laboratory. This program features a series of 25 diverse initiatives in our schools, representing the collective wisdom, imagination and purpose of our educators.

Each initiative must advance our capabilities in three areas: the use of technological resources, the learning environment, and the quality of the instructional method. Each must set out a clearly defined process for measuring meaningful student improvement in mastering the “4Cs” and must have the potential to be a best practice across all of our schools.

Design 2015, together with our Math, Science & Engineering Academy, our Health and Medical Sciences Academy, and our computer coding programs, represent an alignment of general government, school board, school division and school strategies for better preparing our students for post-graduate success.

These programs focus funds, the participation of our educator, parent, business, higher education and government communities, and a passion for new models of excellence to provide the power we need to begin to move education out of low-orbit. Their success depends upon our own ability as a division to think critically, be creative, collaborate and communicate.

A year ago, this message promised a commitment to move Albemarle County Public Schools from good to great. I am grateful for the extraordinary contributions of our School Board and local government partners, our teachers, staff, parents, advisory groups and volunteers, who are moving us closer to that objective. Together, we are making it possible for us to say that the challenge of ensuring that all students are prepared for lifelong success is “one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.”

Agenda Item No. 2.2. Discuss FY 2013/2014 Superintendent’s Funding Request.

Mr. Zimmermann highlighted points for consideration in planning and developing the 2012-2013 Superintendent Funding Request. Topics of discussion included an overview of the budget book, a review of revenue, an overview of the funding request by expense, a review of the drivers of the funding request, a review of enrollment trends, a review of Free and Reduced Lunch trends, a review of the compensation and benefits recommendations, and a review in budgeting changes.

After reviewing the information, Board members discussed or asked for additional information on the following: 1. Are we spending more for differentiated staffing than in years past?, 2. There is a pull to show the liability for retirement on the general government books due to accounting rules., and 3. How will sequestration impact the division?

There was a break from 7:52 p.m. until 8:01 p.m.

Mr. Koleszar noted that if Board members had questions in advance, then those questions should be provided to Mr. Davis.

Dr. Haun highlighted points for consideration pertaining to the Department of Instruction's budget. Topics of discussion included a review of the mission of the Department of Instruction, a review of self-sustaining funds that are contained within the Department of Instruction budget, a review of operating expenses, a review of the initiatives within the Department of Instruction's budget including development of virtual learning courses, growth due to enrollment, elementary staffing standards, an increase in special education staffing, an increase in ESOL staffing, an increase in funding for the Piedmont Regional Education Program, an increase in staffing for Response to Intervention, and an increase in staffing of the Community Public Charter School, and a review of the impact sequestration would have on the Department of Instruction's budget.

After reviewing the information, Board members discussed or asked for additional information on the following: 1. Do the staffing standards include Bright Stars? 2. It was noted that the Board would like to see the data on the students at the Community Public Charter School. 3. Is there money that comes to the Division through the State that may also be impacted by sequestration?

Individuals who participated in the funding request development process shared with the Board their thoughts and impressions of the process. Board members asked or noted the following: 1. Do they like the work that was done to show the funds that used to be allocated out in the actual school budget? 2. How does DART support teachers in the classroom? 3. What are the items that did not make it into the budget? and 4. Is there enough staff development funding in the budget?

Dr. Moran said that Mr. Scheivert will be presenting the budget for the Department of Accountability, Research and Technology.

Mrs. McKeel said that she would like to have a discussion on world languages and how we can improve the opportunities for students within Albemarle County Public Schools.

Mr. Gallaway asked if there were any special education needs that the Board needed to be aware of as it relates to the budget. Mr. Kirst said that nothing at this time outside of what was presented given compliance issues. Dr. Moran said that there is an area that is developed is 21st century learning and tools that can be used for special services.

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent.

Mr. Buyaki said that he spoke with Ms. Ross of the Public Education Fund. Meetings will take place during the day. He is willing to serve on the Public Education Fund steering committee. Hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar appointed Mr. Buyaki to the Public Education Fund steering committee.

Mrs. McKeel asked for the Board's thoughts on the Governor's school grading system. Dr. Moran expressed concern about the grading system because there are no criteria for how schools will be graded and it will be based on a Bell curve distribution. **There was consensus of the Board to oppose the grading system until more information is known on how the grading will happen.**

Mr. Koleszar said that the domestic violence committee he served on is still meeting rather than being disbanded as he initially thought.

Dr. Moran commended the staff for taking feedback on the budget process and making changes for the current process.

Mr. Koleszar said that the Board of Supervisors would like to have a joint meeting on Monday, March 11 at 9 a.m. He asked if that date and time worked for Board members. It was asked that the Clerk see if there was another date that the two Boards could get together.

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Adjournment.

At 9:13 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk