A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., Room 241, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Eric Strucko; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly (arrived at 7:11 p.m.); Mr. Ned Gallaway; and Mr. Jason Buyaki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Dr. Billy Haun, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Matt Haas, Executive Director; Mr. Josh Davis, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley, Legislative Liaison; Ms. Debora Collins, Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs; Ms. Melissa Anderson, Assistant Director of Strategic Planning & Organizational Improvement; Mr. Chris Brown, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Buyaki 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 two personnel matters involving the potential discipline of two employees. Mr. Strucko **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Certify Closed Meeting.

Mr. Buyaki 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. Moynihan **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Mrs. McKeel, Mrs. Moynihan, Mr. Gallaway, Mr. Strucko, Mr. Buyaki, and Mr. Koleszar.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Mrs. Mouly.

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Gallaway offered a **motion** that the School Board approve an agreement providing educational services for a specific student under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and to authorize the Superintendent or either assistant superintendents to sign such agreement on behalf of the School Board such agreement shall be subject to review by the School Board's legal counsel who shall have authority to make any non-substantive changes to the agreement. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed with Mrs. Mouly absent**.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:34 p.m. Mr. Koleszar, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Item No. 1.5. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.

3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
3.2 For Approval: High School and Middle School Fees
3.3 Reimbursement to Albemarle High School
3.4 Donation to Western Albemarle High School
3.5 Reimbursement to the School Board
3.6 Donations to Murray High School and Stony Point Elementary
3.7 Preschool Mainstream Student Payments – Stone Robinson Elementary School
3.8 Reappropriation of School Carryover and Building Rental
3.9 Design 2015
3.10 Personnel Action
3.11 For Information: Policy Review and Revisions

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Dr. Haun said that tomorrow is Read Across America Day.

Dr. Haas said that staff is still moving forward with the full Strategic Plan review. The last town hall meeting took place earlier in the week. A survey will be sent out in the near future.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Dr. Moran shared with the Board letters, cards, and a video from students in the division thanking the Board during School Board Appreciation Month.

Dr. Haun said that UVA announced the Lab School Agreement which includes Albemarle County Schools.

Mrs. McKeel presented Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley with a gift of appreciation for her work with the School Division. Ms. Kegley then provided a legislative report to the Board.

Mr. Koleszar said that there is a discipline meeting on March 11, 2013. There are not enough committee meetings available and the meeting will be a meeting of the entire Board.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee

Long-Range planning committee members joined the Board at the table. Mr. Davis led the Board in a discussion around the following questions.

1. **Priorities**: Projects are often categorized as maintenance, infrastructure, capacity or parity projects. Historically, maintenance & infrastructure projects have been prioritized above other projects. Also, capacity projects (those that build additional seats) have been ranked above projects addressing parity. As a result, parity projects have been repeatedly cut or delayed. The modernization of several elementary schools in the southern feeder pattern is an example. **Under what circumstances would a parity project rank above a project that builds immediately needed seats?**

Board discussion summary: ***When a capacity need is addressed through an addition that is an opportunity to also address parity. Parity should be addressed for its own sake when instruction suffers due to facility deficiencies.***

2. Guiding Principles/ Common Goals: It is evident that new seats will be needed in the future. **How should the LRPAC prioritize the principles/goals listed below?**

- Utilize existing seats

- Locating classroom additions in the district where growth occurs
- Parity among schools (addressing parity while adding seats)
- Keeping a community intact as opposed to Re-districting
- Size of school as it related to disparity in school sizes (Agnor-Hurt - Woodbrook, Stony Point - Stone Robinson, Murray - Brownsville)
- Feeder Patterns
- New considerations from the School Board

Board discussion summary: ***Although all the principles are important and a balance is preferred there times when one precludes another. Discussion focused on community desires, fiscal responsibility, and trade-offs. The redistricting process can create a lot of emotional pain for modest physical gain, yet if seats are available without transportation issues they should be utilized. The County has supported small Community schools, and one Board member expressed support for building a new 200-seat school in a walkable community. The County's Comprehensive Plan focuses on new facilities in Growth areas, and Board expressed consensus on increasing school capacity in Growth areas. Additions to existing schools are less expensive than new schools. All the principles have some type of cost, so the LRPAC needs to make their best short- and long-term planning recommendations and let Board make the difficult decisions.***

3. **New Schools versus Redistricting**: Albemarle High School is projected to be over capacity by 100 students within five years and by almost 200 students in ten years. The Board came to a consensus last year that the school should not be made any larger. As a result, the capacity conflict at Albemarle HS can be addressed by either a new school or additions to Monticello HS or to Western Albemarle HS. The additions may be more fiscally responsible. **If the LRPAC makes a recommendation based on fiscal restraint, will the Board be willing to make the difficult redistricting decisions to fill the addition at Monticello HS?**

Board discussion summary: ***Responses varied from a simple yes, to letting the new "academy programs" and virtual instruction address the enrollment disparity. The academy programs are gaining momentum. One Board member acknowledged her previous opposition to moving students from Albemarle to Monticello, but stated the Board may need to do it. Albemarle High's enrollment projections should be modified downward to reflect students that go to CATEC and other off-site locations every day. There is a sound redistricting process in place that should be trusted to provide a valid recommendation.***

4. **School Sizes**: The desired size of schools (both minimum & maximum sizes) is always a part of the LRPAC planning process and discussion. Maintaining feeder patterns and communities tends to increase the discrepancy in school sizes. **What is too big and what is too small? How much flexibility is there in size ranges?** There are two examples we would like input on:

Henley (current capacity: 928)

With the anticipated growth in the Western Feeder Pattern, it is likely that recommendations will be made to build additional elementary seats and possibly high school seats. Henley will be the bottle neck when elementary and high school seats increase.

Board discussion summary: ***The Board recently agreed with proposed changes in the County's draft Comprehensive Plan. Those changes now define capacity ranges and increased the upper limit for new or modified schools. Elementary capacity changed from maximum of 600 to between 400 and 750 students. Middle school capacity changed from maximum of 900 to between 600 and 1,000 students. High school capacity changed from maximum capacity of 1500 to between 900 and 1500 students. The Board agreed these are good guides for new or modified facilities.***

I**s it acceptable to make the division's largest middle school even larger? Or is 928 the maximum capacity so that other alternatives need to be explored?**

Stony Point (current capacity: 225; utilizes 4 mobile classrooms as well)

Stony Point is over capacity. Typically, utilizing existing seats is recommended before a capital project is endorsed. However, if enough students were redistricted to remove the need for mobile classrooms, Stony Point's enrollment would be reduced from 287 to 225.

Board discussion summary: ***Multiple approaches were discussed, but the Board did not reach a consensus on the best course of action if Henley's enrollment grows beyond 928 students.***

Is a small Stony Point (at 225) acceptable? If not, would you endorse investing capital funds for an addition when 'free' seats are available at another school?

Board discussion summary: ***Although all members of the Board may not support a new school at a 200-student capacity, there are several small schools in the County that provide excellent instruction. Opinions for how to address the Stony Point overage varied from changing the capacity calculation to include the educational cottages (since community does not want to redistrict), to redistricting. An addition did not appear to be supported, but there was no clear direction.***

(Mr. Strucko left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

5. **Physical spaces to support Teaching Curriculum:** Ideally the physical facility planning and the curriculum programs should be integrated. **Does the Board have suggestions for how to better integrate the program/curriculum planning with the building planning?**

Board discussion summary: ***Several options to include instructional voices in long-range planning were suggested. They included appointing a member from the central office educational leadership, providing an update on instructional trends from an instructional consultant, and having school principals present to the LRPAC.***

6. **Security**: School security has come into the spotlight after the crisis at an elementary school in Connecticut. **Does the LRPAC need to set up a project for Security Improvements?**

Board discussion summary: ***There is no need for a new project, but there should be annual funding in the Maintenance Budget to make improvements. Generally it was agreed that the schools should remain an open and welcoming environment without stringent security measures. A few schools might benefit from physical changes to improve sight lines. There is both a State Task Force and a County evaluation in progress that will make recommendations and prioritize improvements. The County's evaluation will be a continual improvement process. The Maintenance Budget should include projects to address the recommended improvements.***

7. **Mobile Classrooms**: Last year the Board stated that mobile classrooms should not be used as a long-term facility solution. Is the Board willing to take this a step forward and make a policy statement regarding the use of mobile classrooms? A standard or policy goal would guide future LRPAC and redistricting committees. Two redistricting committees have now recommended no move, but both schools continue to rely on mobile classrooms (Stony Point & Meriwether Lewis). **What guidance do you have for the LRPAC at this time, specifically for Meriwether Lewis and Stony Point? For instance, what time frame to use mobile classrooms as classrooms, build a new addition, redistrict or leave as is?**

Board discussion summary: ***There was consensus to put Trailer Policy on the Board agenda to create a policy. The policy discussion would include options such as "sun setting" the existing trailers, setting a time range for the use of trailers, replacement due to condition/age versus another solution. Staff is currently reviewing how existing mobile classrooms are used, i.e. are they required for classrooms or desired for storage or flexibility.***

Agenda Item No. 7.2. Break

There was a break from 8:31 p.m. until 8:41 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 7.3. Division Strategic Plan – Q2 Update and Design 2015

Ms. Anderson provided the Board with a review of the Division Strategic Plan – Quarter 2 Update and Design 2015.

Dr. Haun and Ms. Collins provided the Board with an overview of Design 2015 including the application process and an overview of the projects.

(Mr. Gallaway left the meeting at 9:06 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Public Comment. (Heard before Agenda Item 7.3)

Mr. Patrick Barnett is a parent. He asked that the Board consider making improvements to Red Hill Elementary School by modernizing the facility.

Ms. Angie Covunis is a parent. She spoke to the Board about Red Hill Elementary School and asked that the Board consider renovating the space to make it equitable to other schools.

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

Dr. Moran said it would be a good idea to have a discussion with the Board around social media rumoring and how Board members handle it.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.
Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 9:26 p.m., Mr. Koleszar, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk