A Business Meeting of the Albemarle County School Board was held on April 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

PRESENT: Mr. Jason Buyaki; Mrs. Diantha McKeel; Mr. Eric Strucko; Mrs. Pamela Moynihan; Mr. Stephen Koleszar (arrived at 6:33 p.m.); and Mr. Ned Gallaway.

ABSENT: Mrs. Barbara Massie Mouly.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent; Mr. Josh Davis, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Vince Scheivert, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Executive Director of Fiscal Services; Mr. Greg Kamptner, Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting – if needed. None.
Agenda Item No. 1.2. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Gallaway, Vice-Chair, 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. Approval of Agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
3.2 Donation to Hollymead Elementary School
3.3 Donation to Murray High School
3.4 Personnel Action
3.5 Donation to Stone Robinson Elementary School
3.6 Donations to Brownsville Elementary, Crozet Elementary, Meriwether Lewis Elementary, and Yancey Elementary Schools
3.7 Reimbursement to the Albemarle Resource Center (ARC)

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Spotlight on Education.

Dr. Moran said that we will celebrate several recent awards our teachers and students have received. She then introduced Ms. Debbie Collins and Ms. Sublette-Williams who presented awards to the top two regional spelling bee participants.

Dr. Moran then introduced Kathryn Baylor and Ashby Johnson from Jack Jouett Middle School who reported to the Board that Jack Jouett is now an AVID Demonstration School.

Dr. Moran said that Dr. Haun and Dr. Hairston are in San Diego to receive the National School Board Association's Magna Award for our M-cubed program. She then introduced the following individuals who spoke about the program: 1) Wendell Green, who is co-chair of the education committee of 100 Black Men of Central Virginia and a mentor to two program students; 2) Mr. Jesus Lazo, an original M-cubed student who joined the program as a fifth grader and is now a freshman at Albemarle High School, and 3) Mr. Jay Smith, a math teacher from Sutherland, who has served as an M-cubed instructor.

Finally, Dr. Moran introduced two teachers from Red Hill Elementary School, Tina Bolen and Jennifer Hilker, who have been piloting an exciting new model called Differentiated Instruction, in cooperation with Professor Carol Ann Tomlinson from UVA's Curry School and with the support of a grant from the National Education Association. This new model closely fits with the goals of the "4 Cs" student assessment program we have been discussing for some time—critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communications. They then shared what they are doing in the classroom and the implications this new approach has for future learning in our schools.

Agenda Item No. 5.2. Announcements.

Dr. Haas updated the Board on the comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan. The on-line survey will end on Friday. There have been over 5,000 responses to the survey. On April 22, there will be a meeting to provide a summary of the community conversations.

Mr. Koleszar recognized Mrs. McKeel with a 15 year service award for her work on the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. Public Comment.

Mr. Fred Smyth spoke to the Board about the need to stop calculating rank and class.

Ms. Liz Palmer said that she joined a group who is concerned about the impact of sequestration on the school division. This group held a bake sale on the Downtown Mall to raise money for the school divisions and to bring awareness to the issue of sequestration. She presented the Board with a donation to the school division in the amount of $112.50.

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

Dr. Moran said that she and Mr. Koleszar attended College Night at Monticello High School. She brought back information from colleges and universities on what they are looking for in their students.

Dr. Moran said that staff is currently collecting data on where students are being accepted for their post-secondary education.

Mrs. McKeel asked staff to address the issue of ranking. Dr. Haas said that we provide a decile ranking, and we do not provide individual class rank to students.

Mrs. McKeel asked what the internal protocol was for requests for information to the school division. Mr. Davis said that we treat all requests as if they were Freedom of Information requests.

Agenda Items No. 8.1. Health Advisory Summary of Activities Since February, 2012.

Dr. Haas introduced Dr. Lori Balaban, chairman of the School Health Advisory Committee. Dr. Balaban then provided the Board with an overview of the work of the committee since February 2012. The following areas were highlighted:

1) Homework: The Board had numerous discussions about the stress many families experience due to homework including the health effects of sleep deprivation on teenagers.
2) Safe Schools Healthy Students: The Board heard ongoing reports from June Jenkins, program director, about the activities and programs implemented under this grant including data that shows the positive impact of these efforts. Ms. Jenkins will present the SSHS annual report to the School Board.
3) Concussion: Members of the Board met to evaluate the implementation of the concussion policy and plan pursuant to Senate Bill 652 of the 2010 General Assembly requiring the development of such a plan to identify and manage suspected concussions in student athletes. Based on our review, we updated the ACPS *Sports Concussion Management Plan*, re-published it on the school web page, and sent out a link to the plan to all contacts through Blackboard Connect. In addition, we made several paper copies for athletic trainers to share with local physicians.

4) Child Nutrition Program: Christina Pitsenberger, director of the Child Nutrition Program, is a member of the Health Advisory Board and regularly presents updates on efforts to improve the nutritional quality of offerings in the School Breakfast/Lunch Program. The CNS program continues to exceed federal nutritional standards, but this year the process has been very demanding and time-consuming. She would like to try new healthy and compelling recipes, but finds meeting the standards and balancing the available ingredients slows down her ability to be creative.
5) AEDs: The Board reviewed the AED program -- there are presently AED units in all of the high and middle school and two of the elementary schools.
6) School Nurses / Health Offices: Eileen Gomez, the school nurse coordinator, presented data on students diagnosed with various chronic conditions and clinic visit activity. Two-thousand three hundred and three students (2,303) have diagnoses of chronic conditions in school-year 2012-13. There continues to be increases in the numbers of students diagnosed with life-threatening food and sting allergies (271- a 12% increase from 2011-2012 and an increase of 73 % from 2008), autism spectrum disorders, seizures, diabetes as well as other chronic and acute conditions. Clinic visit data compiled annually reveals 167,010 individual visits for School Year 2011 – 2012 with an average of 927 student visits per day across the division. Please see attached documents.
7) Epinephrine Legislation: The board reviewed the implementation of the new epinephrine policy In accordance with new legislation (*Code of Virginia § 22.1 -274.2*). All schools now have epinephrine (Epi-pen auto-injectors) for use with a student believed to be experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction.
8) Environmental Issues: The Board reviewed the annual report of ongoing monitoring by Lindsay Check Snoddy, Environmental Compliance Manager of the division's Environmental Management System, and discussed concerns regarding air quality due to vehicle emissions at the four school campuses located in the path of the proposed by-pass project.

    Based on a request from our School Board Chair, the Health Advisory Board discussed the health risks of WiFi in our schools. The following points summarize our discussion.

    Excerpts from the World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/index.html>.

    "The strength of RF fields is greatest at its source, and diminishes quickly with distance. Recent surveys have indicated that RF exposures from wireless technologies in publicly accessible areas (including schools and hospitals) are normally thousands of times below international standards.

    In fact, due to their lower frequency, at similar RF exposure levels, the body absorbs up to five times more of the signal from FM radio and television than from base stations. This is because the frequencies used in FM radio (around 100 MHz) and in TV broadcasting (around 300 to 400 MHz) are lower than those employed in mobile telephony (900 MHz and 1800 MHz) Further, radio and television broadcast stations have been in operation for the past 50 or more years without any adverse health consequence being established."

    The WHO concludes that considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from wireless networks cause adverse health effects.

9) Influenza Vaccination: Per a parent request, the board discussed the possibility/feasibility of offering influenza vaccination to students at school.
10) Head Lice: Eileen presented information on lice and feedback on the standard operating procedure that was developed in response to new recommendations from the AAP, NASN and CDC. The Board acknowledges that lice is an emotional issue for many people and is likely to cause distress no matter the management strategy. Although there is no evidence that parental notification letters help prevent the spread of lice and authorities do not recommend that schools send them, the standard operating procedure has left that decision up to individual school principals and nurses.

After the presentation, Board members noted or asked the following: 1) does the Board want to send a letter to Virginia Department of Transportation regarding the western bypass, 2) it was requested that a copy of the report from Lindsey Check Snoddy regarding the bypass be provided to the Board, 3) is the chronic conditions numbers about average, is it high, is it low, 4) is there a suggestion that some homework is not meaningful, 5) AEDs are not expensive and if we were to buy them for the schools that do not have them what would be the cost associated with that purchase, and 6) what are the budget initiatives coming from the report.

Agenda Item No. 8.2. Special Education Annual Plan.

Mr. Kirst provided the Board with an overview of the draft Special Education Annual Plan including assurances and transparency/accountability of funds.

Board members noted that the set aside is based on the number of students not the need of each student, is that accurate?

Agenda Item No. 8.3. Break.

There was a break from 7:44 p.m. until 7:56 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 8.4. 2013-2014 Middle School Program Guide.

Mr. Ratliff provided the Board with a presentation on the process and next steps for the Middle School Program Guide. Board members then noted or asked the following: 1) there is a need for this program along with the high school program to be written in language students will understand, 2) to make sure that the descriptions for the courses truly reflect the class, 3) it is important for the courses to be rigorous, and 4) how does this fit in with the need to individualize learning for students.

Mr. Buyaki offered a **motion** to approve the middle school program guide. Mrs. McKeel **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 8.5. 2013-2014 Budget Update.

Dr. Moran and Mr. Davis provided the Board with a presentation on the current state of the funding request. The presentation included a review of the funding gap, a review of the tiered initiatives, recommendations from staff on potential reductions, and a list of recommendations for alternative reductions.

After the presentation, Board members noted or asked the following: 1) electrical services under Building Services seems to be under budget for the last several years and possibly be a place to look at for savings, 2) did local government fund their portion of the school resource officer, 3) what does the funds for the Community Public Charter School cover, 4) has the School Board used the School Board Reserve for the last couple of years, 5) how is enrollment at the Community Public Charter School and do they collaborate with AVID, and 6) what is covered with the reduction in funds in central office.

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

Dr. Moran recognized Chad Ratliff for his work with a group of eduentrepreneurs that came to Charlottesville for a meeting in Charlottesville.

Mr. Davis said that Christina Pitsenberger indicates the information she is receiving regarding sequestration will have no impact on the Child Nutrition Department in the next fiscal year.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting.

At 8:43 p.m., Mr. Gallaway 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 the assignment by transfer of an administrative employee within the school division. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed**.

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 9:01 p.m., Mr. Gallaway 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. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:**

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

Motion carried by a 6:0:1 vote.

Mr. Gallaway offered a **motion** to approve the reassignment of employee number 1. Mr. Buyaki **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 12.1. Adjournment.

At 9:02 p.m., hearing no objections, Mr. Koleszar adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

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Chairman

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Clerk