



Board-to-Board, June 2021

A monthly report from the Albemarle County School Board to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Jouett Volunteer Advisory Committee Selects Five Names for Consideration and Asks Community Members for Input—The volunteer community advisory committee that is reviewing the name of Jack Jouett Middle School has selected five names as semi-finalists, based upon an initial community survey and the committee’s June 2 public meeting.

The semifinalists include the school’s current name. Jack Jouett was a captain in the Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War. He was dubbed the “Paul Revere of the South” for his horseback ride to warn then Governor Thomas Jefferson of a British plan to capture the future president. Jouett also owned a farm in the late 1700s and relied on enslaved labor for its operation. As many as 25 men, women and children were reported to have been enslaved by Jouett during his life.

Other names also under consideration are Hope, Peace and Justice, which committee members said was consistent with the division’s values of excellence, young people, community, and respect; Journey, representing the paths in life to which education leads; Monacan, in honor of the indigenous people who inhabited the Piedmont Region for thousands of years; and Katherine Johnson, one of the first Black students to integrate West Virginia State College and a long-time NASA official whose work as a mathematician supported such space missions as the moon landings. Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

A new online survey at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/ntvQwS> asks Jouett school community members to choose up to three of the five names as finalists. The advisory committee will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 7, to hear public comment on the survey results. The meeting can be accessed at <http://streaming.k12albemarle.org/ACPS/player.htm?xml/publicmeeting.xml>.

People wishing to speak at the July 7 meeting can sign up by sending an email to SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org. This same email address can be used to submit comments or questions to committee members.

In accordance with the school board’s naming review policy, the advisory committee will identify their three name finalists before recommending one name to the division’s superintendent, Dr. Matthew Haas. In turn, the superintendent will review the committee’s work and selection before making his recommendation to the school board. The school board will decide if the school’s name should be changed, and if so, they will select the new name, which will be effective on July 1, 2022.

Jouett is the fifth school in the division to conduct a naming review. In directing that all schools named for individuals in the division have their names reviewed, the school board said the purpose should be to ensure that the names of all schools represent the division's four values of excellence, young people, community, and respect.

The policy requires advisory committees to research the history of individuals for whom schools are named as part of their review. The research by the Jouett advisory committee to date is catalogued on the School Naming Review: Jouett Middle School web page.

The four previous school naming reviews also were conducted by volunteer community advisory committees. The school board changed the name of three schools and retained the name of another. Summaries of all completed reviews and those in progress are accessible from the school division's School Names Under Review web page.

The advisory committee, which was appointed last month, has 16 members, including the school's principal, Ashby Johnson; school staff and faculty; parents of students at the school; parents of elementary school students who attend feeder schools to Jouett; members of the broader community; and an Albemarle High School student who attended Jouett.

Changes to ACPS COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies—In response to a steadily declining number of COVID-19 cases in Albemarle County, ACPS is reevaluating health and safety practices and policies in consultation with local health officials. Beginning in June, ACPS will implement some changes to the health mitigation strategies for summer programming and operations.

ACPS has updated COVID-19 screening tools to reflect current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The updated screening tools differentiate questions based on vaccination status.

- **Parents/Guardians:** Each school day, prior to allowing their child to board a school bus or enter a school building, parents/guardians are responsible for completing an at-home health screening of their child for COVID-19 symptoms. View the updated Daily At-Home COVID-19 Screening for Students.
- **Employees & Visitors:** All employees are required to perform a self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to work and again upon building entry. All visitors to ACPS facilities will be required to undergo a health screening for COVID-19 symptoms upon building entry. View the updated ACPS Facilities COVID-19 Screening for Employees & Visitors.

In consultation with health authorities, ACPS will no longer perform temperature checks at facilities. Evidence shows that fever is not always present with COVID-19 infections. Temperature readings also require a lot of resources, are not accurate when the air temperature is very high or low, and may actually make people less safe by giving the false impression that COVID-19 is not present. Families, employees and visitors are still responsible for monitoring their own temperatures and reporting a fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms as part of their daily screening.

ACPS remains committed to transparency and will continue to provide notification to families and employees in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case at a school or department, and will continue to maintain the [ACPS COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which tracks cases and quarantines across schools and facilities. However, administrators will no longer provide notification when a classmate is sent home from school with COVID-19-like symptoms.

When necessary, ACPS may reduce social distancing between students in classrooms to 3 feet. This decision is based on updated recommendations from the CDC (see [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)). ACPS will continue to maintain greater distance between students when they are eating, taking a mask break, or engaging in physical activity.

This summer, as other school divisions have done, the school division will increase the number of students per seat on school buses from one to two. ACPS will continue to maintain 6 feet of separation between the bus driver and student riders. Also this summer, High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters will be installed on each bus with a goal of outfitting the fleet as soon as possible. For the 2021-22 school year, ACPS plans to return to the normal practice of allowing two or more students per seat. The school division will continuously monitor conditions to ensure the risk of virus transmission remains low, and will act immediately to make adjustments if necessary.

The Albemarle County School Board is considering revisions to the [Policy on Masks and Acceptable Face Coverings](#) that would allow masks to be removed during outdoor time. Staff and students would still practice social distancing whenever possible. The soonest that the board can vote on revisions to the mask policy is during their meeting on July 8. Until then, the current mask policy remains in effect. Any future changes to the mask policy will continue to be made in accordance with the guidance of public health officials.

In addition to the efforts explained above, and in an effort to support a healthy and safe physical environment for students, employees, and community members, ACPS will continue to implement the following practices in alignment with guidance from public health officials:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection;
- Operation of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems that can reduce airborne exposures;
- Absence monitoring;
- Hand hygiene;
- Contact tracing in partnership with the local health department;
- Exclusion of staff and students with illness symptoms; and
- Exclusion (quarantine) of staff and students who have been in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated.

Learning Resource for History Available for Public Review—A learning resource for World History, proposed for adoption at the Albemarle County School Board meeting on May 27, 2021, is now available for public review. Community members can view the rationale of the learning

resources evaluation committee and a summary of the textbook at the following link:
<http://esb.k12albemarle.org/attachments/4c446a82-be04-46d4-98c5-9ec939c67946.pdf>

Community members can also schedule an appointment to review a copy of the textbook in person at the County Office Building by calling 434-296-5820 to schedule an on-site review. Feedback may be submitted via email to John Hobson at jhobson@k12albemarle.org.

Following the requisite 30-day public review, staff will consider any feedback received and make appropriate recommendations for action and/or adoption at the School Board meeting on July 8, 2021.

In accordance with School Board Policy IIAA, a textbook selection and adoption committee developed specific evaluation checklists to determine alignment of materials with Albemarle County curriculum goals, correlation to the related discipline area competencies, and lifelong-learner competencies. The committee also reviews learning resources to ensure they meet the selection criteria outlined in Policy IIAA, including overall instructional purpose, educational suitability, age appropriateness, timeliness, subject matter importance, and product quality.

Virtual Golden Apple Awards Held to Honor Teachers—Better Living Building Supply and Cabinetry once again sponsored the Golden Apple Awards for outstanding teachers in the community's school systems. The ceremony was held on June 23, 2021. These awards are annually presented to faculty members from the public and private schools in Albemarle County and Charlottesville City, including the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC). Eligible private schools are those that are members of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS).

The Golden Apple Award is a means of selecting and honoring some of the school division's outstanding teachers. Teachers are most important in nurturing children's inquisitive minds and preparing them for the challenges of the future.

One winner was selected from each school. In addition to receiving a Golden Apple, every Golden Apple recipient earned a grant of \$500, which can be used for classroom materials or to support the teacher's professional development.

The 2021 Golden Apple Award recipients from ACPS are:

Brittany Mullinex from Agnor-Hurt Elementary School;
Charlotte Wood from Albemarle High School;
Gabriel Gomez from Baker-Butler Elementary School;
Meghann Wymer from Broadus Woods Elementary School;
John Donnelly from Brownsville Elementary School;
Lori Linville from Burley Middle School.;
Jackie Walker from CATEC;
Amanda Blevins from Center I;
Lori Phillips from Crozet Elementary School;
Claire LaPlante from Greer Elementary School;

Christine Booz from Henley Middle School;
Shauna Hogg from Hollymead Elementary School;
Kailyn Gilliam from Jouett Middle School;
Dena Lafluer from Meriwether Lewis Elementary School;
Jessica Eisenhower from Monticello High School;
Susan E. B. Zeanah from Mountain View Elementary School;
Don Barnes from Murray Charter School;
Courtney Dillard from Murray Elementary School;
Sylvia Jenkins from Red Hill Elementary School;
Morgan Wagoner from Scottsville Elementary School;
Kelly Oehler from Stone-Robinson Elementary School;
Sheller Bolton from Stony Point Elementary School;
Samantha Forsythe from Sutherland Middle School;
Douglas Bloor from Walton Middle School;
Michael Shutt from Western Albemarle High School;
Grace Dalton from Woodbrook Elementary School.