



Board-to-Board

July, 2015

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

Samuel Miller Seat—Jon Stokes was appointed by the Board to represent the Samuel Miller district seat vacated by Eric Strucko earlier this year. Stokes was selected after a review of six applicants for the seat and he was the only applicant who ruled out being a candidate in the fall special election. Stokes currently serves as the Superintendent's representative on the division's Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee, and previously held the Samuel Miller district board seat from 2006-2010. He is Director, Standards Development and Education at CFA Institute, and will serve on the board until the November 3rd special election.

School Division at the White House—The division's Chad Ratliff was a facilitator at a White House Conference this past week, which included school superintendents from across the nation. Subject was the impact of the maker movement on public education. On Sunday of this past week, two teachers met with the U.S. Patent Office to talk about our maker curriculum. This past week, we were one of the few public school divisions in the nation invited to make presentations at the National Maker Faire in Washington. The event also included a roundtable on Capitol Hill on maker education, where we were represented by Superintendent Moran.

Leadership Team Changes—Two principals are moving into new roles for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Patrick McLaughlin will leave Henley Middle School to become the division's Strategic Planning Officer, working to advance the vision and goals of the School Board through continuous improvement processes. Dr. Nicholas King will leave Stone Robinson Elementary School to become the division's Student Services Office. Dr. King will oversee strategies and practices to reduce the division's two percent drop-out rate, in-school suspensions and the division's alternative education program. Neither of these positions will add expenditures to the budget approved for the new school year. The search process for successors to Drs. McLaughlin and King is expected to culminate in appointments by the School Board by the end of the month.

Student Receives International Award-- A rising senior at Albemarle High School earned international recognition earlier this month when he received the 2014-15 National Mentee of the Year Award from 100 Black Men of America. Kai Millner was recognized for his contributions to the school division's M-Cubed program, which won the top award from the National School Board Association for innovative school programming in 2013, along with his academic record, participation in other student activities, and volunteer service. Kai received the award at the national organization's annual convention in Houston, where he delivered a speech and had the opportunity to network with several civic and business leaders. The Central Virginia Chapter of 100 Black Men was the national organization's Chapter of the Year in 2014 for the quality and effectiveness of its mentoring program.

Redistricting Update—The advisory committee appointed by the Board to make recommendations to address the capacity issues at Albemarle High School and Greer Elementary School has held three community meetings to discuss the various scenarios under consideration. Each scenario included

moving Albemarle High School students to Monticello High School and moving Greer students to either Murray, Agnor-Hurt or Broadus Wood elementary schools. These changes would impact one or more feeder middle schools with the exception of Walton.

The advisory committee is on hiatus for the summer and will resume its meetings in the fall. The School Board is expected to conduct a public hearing before the end of the calendar year on a specific redistricting proposal and make a decision soon thereafter. Any changes in school attendance zones will go into effect in August of 2016. The advisory committee also is studying how northern feeder pattern enrollment projections might impact future additions at Woodbrook Elementary School and at either Western or Monticello High School.

AVID Programs-- The division's participation in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college readiness system is making a difference in the lives of ACPS graduates. AVID trains teachers in the use of established teaching practices to prepare students, especially those typically underrepresented in college, for college and career success. Notably, 100% of the Division's 42 AVID seniors achieved college acceptance to 46 colleges and universities, and the AVID graduating class included the 2014-15 Emily Couric Scholar.

Investing in Innovation Grant—With the generous contributions of local supporter Battelle and FableVision, the required 15% private sector match requirement of the i3 grant project has been met. Summer activities planned with the total \$3.45 million dollar award include professional development activities with educators in Albemarle, Charlottesville, and Fluvanna, to build advanced manufacturing capacity and engineering curriculum across the region.

Mobile App and Student Software Access-- The division activated a mobile app for use on both the Apple and Android platforms, recognizing the increasingly prominent role mobile devices occupy in communications. The app will make it more convenient for families to stay connected to important school activities regardless of their location. Available content includes all social media and news feeds; up-to-date information on upcoming school events and activities; resources for students, parents and staff; and access to the parent and student portals. Users also can choose to follow individual schools or academies and receive instant notifications of news and developments that are specific to those sites.

Separately, in an agreement reached with Microsoft, Albemarle County Public Schools students can download, at no cost, Microsoft Office 365 on up to five computer devices in their home. The mobile app and software accessibility add to the division's robust technology services, which includes expanded access to broadband services and a 1:1 device initiative.

School Board website: <http://www2.k12albemarle.org/Pages/default.aspx>