



Board-to-Board, December 2022

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

We are heartbroken to include the tragic news that Jennifer Johnston, the Albemarle County School Board Clerk, passed away on December 18.

Jennifer was a graduate of Albemarle High School and Virginia Tech. She began working for the Albemarle County School Board as the Deputy Clerk in the early 2000s and served as the Board Clerk for more than 20 years. Jennifer was devoted to providing support to the ACPS Board and, as a result, to all of our students, employees and families who serve and are served by Albemarle County Public Schools. For Jennifer's obituary, here is a link from Legacy.com: [Jennifer Johnston](#).

School Board member appointed to fill open White Hall magisterial district—Following a December 15 public hearing on the appointment of a new school board representative for the White Hall magisterial district, Albemarle County School Board members unanimously voted to appoint an experienced education professional, Dr. Rebecca Berlin, to the seat. Effective January 1, 2023, Berlin will succeed David Oberg, who represented the White Hall district for seven years. Berlin will serve the final year of Oberg's term, which expires on December 31, 2023.

Among her qualifications, Berlin has served both public and private schools in meeting various instructional priorities, including working with early learners and learners who are struggling to master content. She has been an early childhood special education teacher, an inclusion teacher, an autism specialist, and a school administrator. Berlin earned a doctorate in research, policy and administration from the University of Virginia and recently authored a chapter in the book, *Child Care Justice: Transforming the System of Care for Young Children*.

Specifically concerning the White Hall district that she will represent, Berlin counted the following among the issues on which she will concentrate: anticipating the needs that continued population growth will produce; making certain that all schools have the resources they need to support all students; improving the engagement of every family with their child's education; and strengthening the school division's capabilities to recruit and develop teachers.

The one-year vacancy on the school board was created on October 28, 2022, when Oberg announced his resignation. Berlin was one of nine residents of the White Hall district who applied for the one-year appointment. You can view her interview with the school board at this link: https://youtu.be/_lqeTzj5Wxs

Berlin's first business meeting on the school board will be its organizational meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Board members will select a chair and vice chair for 2023, decide committee appointments for the new year, and set its meeting dates for the year.