



Board-to-Board

January, 2016

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

New Board Posts—The School Board during their first meeting of the new year named Dr. Kate Acuff as chair, and Steve Koleszar as vice-chair. Both Steve Koleszar and Jason Buyaki will remain on the Legislative Committee, while Jason Buyaki will serve on the CIP Oversight Committee. Additionally, Dave Oberg, Pam Moynihan, Kate Acuff, and Steve Koleszar will represent Albemarle County Public Schools on the CATEC Center Board.

Funding Request—Superintendent Dr. Pam Moran has presented a \$174 million funding request to the School Board. This marks a 4.2 percent increase over the previous year's adopted budget, and leaves the school division with an anticipated \$1.5 million shortfall against expected revenues. Drivers of the funding request include rising healthcare costs, compensation and benefits, and a growing population of students who require significant additional services, such as ESOL instruction or intervention and remediation services. The School Board will present their budget to the Board of Supervisors in late February.

Southwood Broadband—On January 19 Albemarle County Public Schools began transmitting a wireless broadband signal that covers the 170 Albemarle County students who live in the Southwood Mobile Home Park. This marks the first step in the school division's plan to bridge the digital divide by providing wireless broadband to all Albemarle County students.

[NBC29 Coverage](#)
[Newsplex Coverage](#)

Albemarle High School Cell Tower—The School Board voted unanimously to allow Milestone Communications to begin working on a proposal that could see a 125-foot cell tower raised at Albemarle High School. According to designs, the tower would occupy 2,600 square feet of property at its base, and would sit 600 feet from the school building, between the track and baseball field. Milestone says it was encouraged to pursue the location by AT&T, who has a hole in their service area near the school. Milestone will now have to go before the Planning Commission, and ultimately the Board of Supervisors.

If approved, Milestone would pay Albemarle County Public Schools a one-time payment of \$20,000, with an additional \$5,000 per carrier using the tower. In exchange for the use of the property, Milestone would share 40 percent of the gross with the school division. Each carrier using the tower would pay the school division \$30,000 per year in ground rent.

[Daily Progress Coverage](#)

Election Day—The School Board is likely to vote to close schools on March 1, as a result of the large volume of voters expected to vote in this year's primary. Eighteen school sites are used as polling

places, and traffic, ADA, and security concerns have all been cited as concerns for seeing as many as 18,500 voters in our schools during prime instruction hours.

High School Jazz in Savannah—The Albemarle High School Jazz Ensemble is one of 12 high school bands to be invited to Swing Central Jazz, a highly selective student program that is part of the Savannah Music Festival. Called the “pro bowl of high school jazz bands” by the *Florida Sun-Sentinel*, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will see Albemarle County students receive personalized instruction from modern jazz masters, attend a variety of performances, and compete for the prestigious Faircloth Award and a cash prize.

To-date, the students have launched a [GoFundMe campaign](#), and have organized a benefit concert featuring Terri Allard, John D'earth, Charles Owens and others, to raise funds to make their trip possible. After ACPS contributed \$3,500 to the group’s trip, the students are hopeful they will be able to raise the remaining \$11,000 needed to attend the festival in late March.

School Bus Stop Arm Cameras—This General Assembly session, legislators introduced nearly 10 bills that would permit the mailing of a summons to the owner of a vehicle that passes a stopped school bus, in violation of the bus’ stop arm. To-date, it does not appear that the bills introduced in the House will survive committee meetings. The Senate bills, which have all been rolled into SB 120, has been referred from the Senate Transportation Committee to the Senate Courts of Justice Committee.

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