



# Board-to-Board

October, 2015

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

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**Governor's Roundtable---**More than 90 community leaders were at Agnor-Hurt on October 5 for Governor McAuliffe's roundtable discussion on education with 17 students from Albemarle County, Charlottesville City and Fluvanna. Students were unanimous in support of SOL reforms, strongly supportive of more creative opportunities in schools including visual and performing arts programs and also called for improvements to provide more natural lighting in classrooms. In his comments to the media after the roundtable, the Governor noted the need for natural lighting. During the roundtable, Governor McAuliffe called for community and legislative support for his upcoming budget, which will include increases in state aid for K-12 public education. Earlier, he met with teachers and students in Agnor-Hurt's multi-age classroom.

**Redistricting---**Superintendent Moran forwarded her recommendations to the School Board at its October 22 meeting, endorsing most of the options from the Citizens Advisory Committee on Redistricting. These proposals include relocating 214 Albemarle High School students to Monticello High School beginning in August of 2016. Albemarle is 100 students overcapacity and is projected to be 200 students overcapacity in five years. There were no recommendations to move Greer Elementary School students but the advisory committee said staff should be tasked to evaluate several options to address the school's overcapacity, which could reach 100 students in five years.

The Advisory Committee proposed a grandfather clause that would permit currently enrolled siblings of Albemarle High School students to stay in the feeder pattern through graduation. The Superintendent suggested the Board also consider limiting grandfather provisions to siblings who are in middle school.

The School Board added one option to Greer: relocating 64 students to Murray Elementary School. It moved up the time of its next meeting, on November 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. to accommodate all members of the community who would like to participate in the public hearing on redistricting. The Board also is examining the possibility of live-streaming the hearing.

**Samuel Miller Seat---**The October 22 meeting was the last one for interim board member Jon Stokes. Three candidates, Mike Basile, Graham Paige and Brian Vanyo, are candidates for election next Tuesday to fill the remaining two years of Eric Struko's term. If the winner is certified by November 5, the newly-elected board member will be sworn in and take their seat on November 5.

**Accreditation**—The state Board of Education published their accreditation report for all school divisions in the Commonwealth this week, with 19 of the county's 26 schools rated as fully accredited. One school, Jouett Middle School, was listed as "approaching accreditation" and six others were "partially accredited." The school division will be reviewing the results with each of the schools that were partially accredited and developing specific actions to improve their student performance on Standards-of-Learning (SOL) tests next spring. Earlier in the week, the [Washington Post](#) reported on efforts by the Obama Administration to deemphasize standardized testing in the nation's schools.

***School Bus Safety Cameras***—An recent opinion by the state attorney general said that violations of law captured on school bus cameras when motorists pass stopped school buses must be delivered in person as opposed to mail. [NBC 29](#) recently reported on how this problem impacts county school bus drivers and students. Earlier last week, a bus driver intervened to prevent a Jouett student from crossing the street in front of a SUV that sped past her stopped school bus. Both the school division's chief operating office and the county's chief of police are planning to talk with state legislators in the next session on a change in the state law that would permit violations to be issued by mail similar to the program in place for red light violations at Rio Road and Route 29.

***Digital Divide***—Another [NBC 29](#) story examined how the digital divide in the county is affecting students at home as well as the school division's plans for expanding home access to broadband.

***ACPS Invited to Join League of Innovative Schools***—Albemarle County Public Schools was one of 21 school divisions across the country invited this week to join the League of Innovative Schools. The League was established by *Digital Promise*, an independent, bipartisan nonprofit authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in the classroom. School divisions are accepted for membership based upon quality of leadership, evidence-based classroom results, vision for learning and a commitment to collaborate with and share best practices that promote lifelong learning.

***Two New CATEC Academies***—At its joint board meeting this week with Albemarle County and Charlottesville City Schools, the CATEC Board approved the establishment of two new academies at CATEC: Health & Medicine and Information & Engineering Technology. The academies will begin operation in the fall of 2016. Two other academies are planned for future operation, one for customer service and the trades and one for culinary arts. In accordance with its strategic plan, CATEC also is working to expand internships and enhance dual credit programs with three community colleges, PVCC, J. Sargeant Reynolds and Germanna.

***John Baker Legacy Dinner***---More than 250 community and business leaders turned out for the fifth annual John E. Baker Legacy Dinner held on October 23 at Farmington County Club. The dinner, which annually raises more than \$30,000, is the principle fund-raiser for the African-American Teaching Fellows (AATF), founded ten years ago to increase the number of teachers of color in local schools. Since its founding, the organization has supported 32 fellows with scholarships and professional development opportunities, seven of whom currently are teaching in Albemarle County and six whom are in Charlottesville City. Another 13 Fellows are training to be certified as teachers. This year, Superintendent Pam Moran received the organization's Baker Legacy Award and Holly Edwards received the Community Education Award. John Charles Thomas, Virginia's youngest state Supreme Court Justice and the first African-American appointed to the court, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Bernard Hairston, executive director for community engagement for the school division, was a dinner co-chair. Two former Baker-Butler students, Amy McDonald and Teddy Cross, received student leadership awards.

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