



Board-to-Board, August 2022

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

ACPS appoints experienced STEM educator and administrator as director of Center I— Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) has appointed Jeff Prillaman as the new Director of Center I. Prillaman succeeds Michael Craddock, who became the principal of Lakeside Middle School on July 1 of this year.

Prillaman began his employment at ACPS in 1999, where he taught math, science, engineering and design. Starting in 2008, he spent seven years as the Director of the ACPS Math, Engineering & Science Academy (MESA). During that time, he placed a great deal of emphasis on student choice in the classroom in combination with innovative and creative project ideas among students.

Based on MESA's success, Prillaman went on to become the ACPS Specialty Center Planner in 2019. During that phase of his career, his responsibilities included developing policies for Center I, evaluating its instructional programs, and contributing to the hiring process. This gave him a valuable understanding of Center I students as well as the administrative side of operating a non-traditional educational center.

Baker-Butler Elementary School holds evidence-based safety training—As a required professional development for its staff, Baker-Butler Elementary School held an ALICE training prior to the start of the school year. The training, which gives tips on how to deal with emergencies in school buildings, is based on research related to prior high-profile tragedies that have taken place in our country, including the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech.

The training involves working with staff as they think through a variety of options for dealing with school shooters and other safety risks that can take place in schools. The techniques considered are meant to empower teachers and other school personnel with the knowledge of the ways they could react if it became necessary in their school.

Baker-Butler is the only school that has implemented the ALICE training as a required one in ACPS, but in November all school principals will have the training available at the ACPS Making Connections professional development event. After that time, ACPS will start rolling the training out further in the school division.

ACPS holds first annual employee convocation—On Tuesday, August 16, ACPS held an employee convocation at Ting Pavilion. There were nine speakers sharing stories and inspiration related to the importance of public education.

Among the speakers were Albemarle County Supervisor Donna Price and County Executive Jeff Richardson, Paul Matherne, the president of the Albemarle Foundation for Education, Katrina Callsen, the vice-chair of the Albemarle County School Board, and three ACPS Golden Apple winners. The keynote speaker was Coach Kevin Sauer, who leads the UVA Women's Rowing Team.

This was the first time the division held this gathering, which was meant to bring school division personnel together as a team—something that ACPS official felt was especially important after two years of abnormal school years due to COVID-19.

Transportation to the event was provided by the ACPS Transportation Department, and a survey soliciting feedback on the event is currently circulating.

Updates at Albemarle High School—Wednesday, August 24, marked the first day of school for ACPS, and Albemarle High School (AHS) has made history this year in two big ways.

First, their enrollment just surpassed 2,000 for the first time, an increase that is especially meaningful after dips in enrollment related to the pandemic. The school attributes this to being dedicated to enriching the lives of every student and making them feel welcome.

Additionally, AHS is, for the first time in its history, a majority-minority school, which means that minority groups comprise the majority of the school's population.

Principal Darah Bonham attributes the latter of these to the former, stating that he believes that AHS has created a welcoming environment for all of its students, bringing an even larger number of students of all demographic backgrounds to the school this year.