



Board-to-Board, March, 2024

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

Albemarle County Public Schools Announces Nominees for Employee of the Year—Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) is proud to announce the 2023-24 nominees for Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year.

Last fall, the Human Resources Department launched the division's annual employee recognition program with a call to all school, department and program leaders to nominate one teacher and one classified employee for recognition by December 15, 2023. Leaders worked with their entire teams to nominate employees who play active and meaningful roles in the lives of their students and colleagues and in their school communities.

The nomination packet describes the ACPS Teacher of the Year as an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence and collaborates with colleagues, students and families to create a school culture of respect and success. The recipient deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large and demonstrates leadership and innovation that embodies lifelong learning both inside and outside of the classroom. The Teacher of the Year also expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way and demonstrates commitment to culturally responsive teaching practices.

Nominees for Classified Employee of the Year are recognized for contributing at a high level to the success of the school division while demonstrating a commitment to the mission, vision, values and goals articulated in the ACPS Strategic Plan. The Classified Employee of the Year should foster strong relationships with students, staff and the community and exhibit strong performance in all aspects of their work.

The Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year will be recognized at an Albemarle County School Board meeting this spring. Both award winners will receive a plaque commemorating their nomination and a \$500 cash stipend.

The nominees for 2023-24 Teacher of the Year are:

- Brittany Veith Mullinex, Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
- Debra Zehnter, Baker-Butler Elementary School
- Kate Gerry, Broadus Wood Elementary School
- Darci Palmer, Brownsville Elementary School
- Suzanne Stevens, Crozet Elementary School
- Ashley Hoffar, Greer Elementary School

- Cindy Hersman, Hollymead Elementary School
- Jayme Rowland, Ivy Elementary School
- Charlotte Geddy, Mountain View Elementary School
- Laura Richardson, Murray Elementary School
- Elisheba Cornelius, Red Hill Elementary School
- Reva Allen, Scottsville Elementary School
- Lili Houchens, Stone-Robinson Elementary School
- Keren Heckathorn, Stony Point Elementary School
- Hannah Budd, Woodbrook Elementary School
- Shanika Curry, Burley Middle School
- Jon Barber, Henley Middle School
- Chris Thomas, Journey Middle School
- Kate Syms, Lakeside Middle School
- Jennifer Graham, Walton Middle School
- Ida Mae Craddock, Community Lab School
- Sarah Reyes, Albemarle High School
- Jeremy Dove, Monticello High School
- Forrest Garrison, Western Albemarle High School
- Katie Breaud, Learning Technology Integrator, Department of Technology
- Megan Atthowe, Autism Specialist, Special Education

Our school-based nominees for 2023-24 Classified Employee of the Year include:

- Heather Ayres, Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
- Courtney Zehnter, Baker-Butler Elementary School
- Dawn O'Malley, Broadus Wood Elementary School
- Karen Shifflett, Brownsville Elementary School
- Annette Shifflett, Crozet Elementary School
- Mayrim Maldonado, Greer Elementary School
- Sandra Mitchell, Hollymead Elementary School
- Christina Stinnette, Ivy Elementary School
- Pam Gardner, Mountain View Elementary School
- Carla Dodson, Murray Elementary School
- Mason Wells, Red Hill Elementary School
- Jessica Lundgren, Scottsville Elementary School
- Lisa Spradlin, Stone-Robinson Elementary School
- Gary Courtney, Stony Point Elementary School
- Anthony Johnson, Woodbrook Elementary School
- C.J. Passalacqua, Burley Middle School
- Christian Hansen, Henley Middle School
- Janey Hearn, Journey Middle School
- Cara Costello, Lakeside Middle School
- Lutrice Cooper-Simpson, Walton Middle School
- Amy Gunnerson, Community Lab School

- Pearl Early, Albemarle High School
- Evan Coleman, Monticello High School
- Denise Moore, Western Albemarle High School

And, our department-based nominees for Classified Employee of the Year are:

- Norma Pace, Building Services
- Peggy Morris, Child Nutrition Program
- Kim Shigeoka, Human Resources
- Ethel Johnson, Special Education
- Gary Moore, Technology
- Jeannette Reynolds, Transportation Services
- Linda McDaniel, Extended Day Enrichment Programs

Albemarle County School Board Approves Superintendent's Redistricting Recommendation— At its meeting on Thursday, March 14, the Albemarle County School Board unanimously approved the redistricting recommendation made by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Matthew Haas, at the board meeting on February 22. The approved recommendation, which seeks to address enrollment issues at several elementary schools in the northern part of Albemarle County, includes the following boundary changes:

- Move students in the Cascadia and Riverview areas from Stone-Robinson Elementary School to Stony Point Elementary School;
- Move students in the Minor Ridge, Branchlands, and Pine Haven areas from Woodbrook Elementary School to Agnor-Hurt Elementary School; and
- Move students in the Timberwood Boulevard, Abington, and Monocan Lane areas from Baker-Butler Elementary School to Hollymead Elementary School.

The approved recommendation also includes selecting proffered land in the North Pointe Development on 29 North, north of Proffit Road, as the site for the new northern feeder pattern elementary school scheduled to open in the 2029-30 school year.

The boundary changes, which will go into effect at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, also include a legacy clause that provides an option for rising fifth-grade students and their siblings to remain at their current school for one year. Families impacted by the board's decision will be notified as quickly as possible.

To see maps of the approved changes and to view all committee materials, please visit the Redistricting Advisory Committee 2023-24 web page at k12albemarle.org/redistricting.

Albemarle County School Board Reinstates In-Person Public Comment Signup— At its next meeting on Thursday, March 28, the Albemarle County Public School Board will once again be offering in-person signup for public comment.

The practice was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic, when school board meetings in Albemarle County and across the nation shifted to the virtual sphere. For a time, community members could only sign up for public comment via an online Google Form.

If community members would like to sign up for public comment in person, they must check in with School Board Clerk Christine Thompson beginning at 6 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Public commenters will be able to sign up via the Clerk until the start of the public comment period.

Community members will still have access to online public comment signup beginning at 9 a.m. on the Monday of the week of the meeting through 2 p.m. on the day of the meeting, as aligns with [School Board Policy BDDH: Public Participation at School Board Meetings](#).

Public commenters will still have three minutes to speak to the Board. In instances in which there is a large number of public commenters, the Chair, with the consent of the board, may reduce the time allocated to each speaker to two minutes, as is outlined in *School Board Policy BDDH*.

Comments and concerns may be shared with members of the Board at any time by emailing SchoolBoard@k12albemarle.org. For more information on how to be involved with School Board meetings or to access the online public comment signup link, visit the [Albemarle County School Board webpage](#).