



Board-to-Board, January 2022

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

ACPS to continue with its health protection measures, including requiring masks in schools— Following an executive order by Governor Glenn Youngkin January 15 that said protective masks should no longer be required in schools, ACPS announced today that they will continue to comply with Virginia state law that masks be worn by all students in all schools and facilities. The division also said that it will continue to follow the federal government’s order that masks be worn on all school buses. Additionally, in accordance with the standard issued by the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Administration, there will be no change to the requirement that all school division staff continue to wear masks when inside school facilities.

According to the latest information from the Blue Ridge Health District, the level of community transmission of the COVID-19 virus in Albemarle County is in the health district’s highest risk category. The most current data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that daily infections in Albemarle County have more than quadrupled in recent weeks, and the percentage of positive test results has increased from less than 4% to nearly 30%.

The division said that given the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant and the fact that the county is in the midst of winter and flu season, it is important to keep its current health protection safeguards in place.

The state law requiring that school divisions provide in-person instruction for students while adhering to the CDC masking requirements for schools remains in effect until August.

Broadus Wood Elementary School name review updates—Members of the Broadus Wood Elementary School (BWES) community have received a third and final survey seeking their perspectives on potential names for the school as part of the Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) naming review process. This survey asks participants to choose from among five possible school names: Broadus Wood Elementary School, Buck Mountain Elementary School, Northern Elementary School, Piney Mountain Elementary School, and Rivanna/Rivanna River Elementary School.

The survey, which can be accessed at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/TKswb1>, is part of a school naming review being conducted by a 14-member community advisory committee in accordance with a division-wide policy. The policy requires a community review of all schools in the division that are named for an individual to ensure those school names reflect the division’s four values of equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness. The survey will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 3.

The committee includes two members of the Broadus Wood faculty who are also alumnae, five parents of students, and three residents of the school community who do not have students attending the school.

In order to engage students with the naming review process, Ray Chrobak and Katie Breaud, co-chairs of the advisory committee, hosted a school assembly on Friday to talk with students about the name options. Students voted on their favorite name and received an “I voted” election sticker similar to that distributed to voters in federal, state and local elections.

The school division will post the survey results on the [School Naming Review](#) web page on Monday, February 7, and the advisory committee will have its final meeting to discuss the survey results on Tuesday, February 8. During this meeting, the committee will consider all of the information obtained through public comment, survey results, and its own research.

The committee will send its name recommendation, along with all supporting evidence, to the school division’s superintendent, Dr. Matthew Haas, and announce their choice on Friday, February 11. Haas will take the advisory committee’s recommended name for the school under advisement and submit a formal recommendation to the school board, who will make the final decision.

In all, 14 schools in the division will undergo a naming review. To date, naming reviews of five schools in the division have been completed, resulting in four schools changing their name and one school retaining its name.

The committee welcomes suggestions or questions about the review process at any time. All committee members can be emailed at SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org.

Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week—Governor Ralph Northam signed a [proclamation](#) designating January 8-14 as Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week. In the proclamation, he speaks of principals being leaders, inspirations to their school community, and sharing the responsibility of our educators to guide children through learning and growing at school.

In an announcement that he sent out to the ACPS community, Superintendent Matthew Haas said, “There is not a team of educators more representative of our Governor’s affirmation than our team right here in Albemarle County. As the year has progressed, I see each day that we can have schools open; each day, each student is able to come to school and go home well after a day of hard work and play with you; and, each day you—Albemarle’s educators and support staff—are able to be safe at work and see your plans turn into learning and go home well, as a success for our community...I believe that in spite of the setbacks caused by COVID19, you are having a truly positive impact on your students and their families and, as a result, keeping our whole community moving forward a few steps at a time. ACPS principals remain a powerful catalyst for our collective progress by working in collaboration with educators and support staff and families.”