



Board-to-Board

August, 2016

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

Woodbrook Community Meeting: A community information meeting on a project that would modernize and expand Woodbrook Elementary School will be held in the school's media center beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6. The presentation will include several changes in the project's scope and design based upon feedback the school division received from residents who attended a February 10 informational meeting. Among these changes are: a reduction in the number of students who would attend Woodbrook from Agnor-Hurt and Greer elementary schools (initially, it was estimated that up to 300 students could be reassigned to Woodbrook, but that projection has been revised down to 200); the elimination of a second story in the original design plans; and a larger buffer zone between the school's proposed new construction and nearby homes.

State Education Advocacy: Last month, Tim Shea, the school division's Legislative & Public Affairs Officer, testified to members of the State Board of Education on a variety of education issues. The testimony came as part of the Board's summer listening tour to gather input on: developing a profile of a Virginia graduate; assessment and accreditation; the Standards of Quality; and other pressing issues.

Mr. Shea communicated the school division's enthusiasm for a profile and graduation requirements that emphasize academic outcomes and learning competencies; the need to assess students and schools with multiple measures, and, especially in the case of students, with authentic assessments of growth and achievement rather than standardized tests; the need for the Standards of Quality to accurately reflect the needs of contemporary education; and the need for local school divisions to have access to the same broadband infrastructure funds that are available to all other local entities.

CATEC Networking Academy: Students who attend CATEC will now have the opportunity to graduate high school with industry certifications that prepare them for employment. The Cisco Networking Academy will equip students with a Cisco Certified Network Administrator certification, or the CompTIA A+ credential, and the students will earn credits from Piedmont Virginia Community College. The newly-renovated classroom will serve 20 students in the morning, and 20 students in the afternoon, but is designed to serve 40 at a time. The school hired one new teacher to lead the courses, but will need to hire an additional IT instructor to operate at full capacity.

Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage: <http://goo.gl/oobaW4>

Shannon Foundation Grants: This school year, eight schools will benefit from 11 grants given by the Shannon Foundation, which makes grants each year to teachers in Charlottesville and Albemarle. This year the Foundation awarded Albemarle teachers with a total \$12,344. Those dollars will fund all 11 projects, each of which advances the school division's project-based learning model.

The largest award of \$4,982 was received by Western Albemarle High School's robotics club. The grant will fuel biweekly STEM-related activities in local schools, libraries, and other community facilities,

together with lesson plans that will allow learning experiences to be shared on a broader basis. Bertrand says the program will have two purposes: to involve and excite the interest of a wider group of students of all ages in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) projects and to develop higher leadership skills among the members of the robotics club, who will lead the STEM activities.

Center for Green Schools Scholarship: The United States Green Building Council has awarded the school division a \$20,000 scholarship through its Center for Green Schools (CGS) initiative. The scholarship, which runs from October 4, 2016 to October 3, 2017, will assist ACPS sustainability efforts by providing: CGS staff time; support for travel for conferences and trainings; and support for other initiatives that are “most pressing for the school system’s goals.”

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