



## Board-to-Board, January 2021

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

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***ACPS Vaccination Program Planning***—Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) is currently in discussions with the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) and local government to plan a COVID-19 vaccination program that will be available to **all school division employees**. The BRHD is leading vaccination program decisions in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

You may already know that vaccinations are taking place in [phases](#) that prioritize those most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. Our local health department is now in Phase 1a of its vaccination operations. The next phase, [Phase 1b](#), will include **all ACPS employees**. While the timeline for Phase 1b is in discussion, the BRHD anticipates that it could begin as early as March.

The vaccine that will be administered to our employees is being produced by Moderna. For more information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, you can view Moderna's [Fact Sheet for Recipients](#).

We will continue to keep you updated on this program as decisions are finalized. You can also learn about BRHD COVID-19 Vaccination Updates through the VDH [COVID-19 Vaccination](#) web page. For answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the VDH [Vaccination FAQ](#) page.

***ACPS COVID Recovery Focus Groups Meet***—On January 12 and 13, the school division met with employees and families to talk about the future response of ACPS to COVID-19 and the virus's impact on student learning and social-emotional well-being and development. The meeting included an overview and small group conversations about the ACPS response going into 2021-22.

During the teacher focus group meeting we held on November 18, 2020, teachers brainstormed and categorized actions according to time, content and pedagogy. They then prioritized ideas. During this second focus group meeting, ACPS leaders asked teachers to evaluate ideas under consideration based on feedback from focus group meetings we have held with teachers, families, and community members.

COVID-19 recovery with equity is now a long-term project for ACPS and a priority for schools. The project clearly needs a large-scale effort, and it must work in alignment—rather than in

competition—with our work to provide high-quality teaching and learning every day. Community input is vital in this process.

***ACPS Returns to Virtual Instruction***--Based on the increased spread of COVID-19 in our area, ACPS returned to all-virtual instruction on Tuesday, January 19, following the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday on Monday. All instruction remained fully virtual through at least the end of the month. While Stage 4 planning (which would increase the number of students in schools) continues, Dr. Haas has no plans to recommend a move to Stage 4 in the near future.

***Murray Elementary School Advisory Committee Asks Community to Participate in School Naming Review: Online Survey Now Active; Community Meeting on February 10***—The community advisory committee that is reviewing the name of Virginia L. Murray Elementary School is urging all members of the school community to participate in the review process. The committee has designed and published an online survey that asks residents for suggestions for names, including retaining the school’s current name. The survey can be accessed at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/jmy011> and will remain active for three weeks.

The committee will use the results of the survey to conduct an online community meeting on the evening of Wednesday, February 10. The committee will publish the results of the survey prior to the meeting and will seek public comment during the meeting, which will be conducted via the Zoom platform.

Following the February meeting, the committee will reconvene to select up to 10 of the suggested names, which will be the subject of a second community survey and community meeting. Based on this feedback and their subsequent deliberations, the committee will choose three names as finalists, eventually recommending one name to Superintendent Matthew Haas. In turn, Haas will make his recommendation to the School Board, which ultimately will decide on the school’s name. If different from Virginia L. Murray, the new name would take effect on July 1.

If the advisory committee selects the current school name as one of its three finalists, the school division’s naming policy requires the committee to examine if Virginia L. Murray made contributions of local, state, national or worldwide significance. It also requires committee members to determine if her personal and professional conduct exemplified the school division’s values of excellence, young people, community and respect.

Two members of the school’s faculty, Hollins Mills and Laura Richardson, are leading a student committee that will design activities to keep their peers informed of the advisory committee’s progress and to elicit name suggestions.

Updates regarding the [Murray Elementary School Naming Review](#) are accessible on the school division’s [School Naming Review](#) website, along with current information on all school naming reviews. Community members with questions or suggestions about the Virginia L. Murray naming review can email the advisory committee at [SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org](mailto:SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org).