

Board-to-Board, February 2022

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

Haas presents budget to School Board—Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) Superintendent Matthew Haas presented his recommendation to the county School Board for the 2022-2023 academic school year at their February 17 budget meeting.

He requested a \$30.8 million increase, which would increase the budget to \$242 million total, and says a main priority is recruiting and retaining quality teachers and staff. To do that, Haas says funding will go toward increasing teachers' starting salaries by six percent in the next fiscal year. This is in addition to the four percent increase that goes into effect in March, making the starting salary just under \$53,000.

He says increasing pay should help hire more special education and substitute teachers. Substitute teachers currently make \$140 per day.

Another priority in Haas's request is investing in new learning facilities. Haas says reducing classroom sizes will be beneficial for teachers and students. Students will have more one-on-time in the classroom.

Haas says the school division plans to do away with K-12 virtual learning next academic school year. However, he says the division does plan to keep online learning at the high school level. High school will also have a hybrid learning option.

He says another factor of the strategic plan is to work on community engagement. The division introduced a new communication platform that can translate messages into 100 different languages. Haas says this will serve students who are from 91 different countries and who speak 69 different languages.

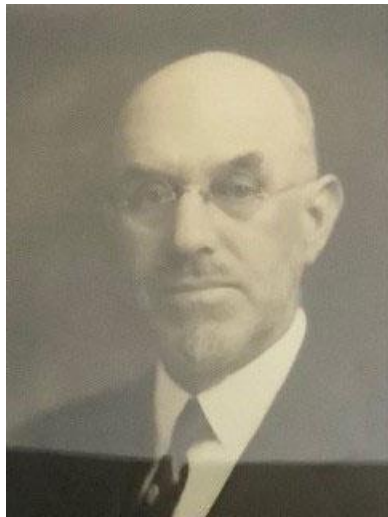
If the school board grants each of Haas's recommendations, the overall school budget would increase by 14.6 percent. That would raise spending per student by \$2,700 to \$17,735.

Broadus Wood Name Review Advisory Committee recommends leaving school's name the same—At the conclusion of their deliberations in a school board directed name review process, the Broadus Wood Name Review Advisory Committee recommended to ACPS Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Haas, that the name of their school remain Broadus Wood Elementary School.

The action taken by the volunteer committee follows an opinion survey, the third of three, that asked members of the school's community for their top three preferences among a list of five

suggested names, including Broadus Wood Elementary School, Buck Mountain Elementary School, Northern Elementary School, Piney Mountain Elementary School, and Rivanna/Rivanna River Elementary School. The survey had more than 1,100 respondents and, factoring in multiple responses from each, 882 of 1,388 (64%) expressed a preference for keeping the name the same. Those survey results are available on the [School Naming Review: Broadus Wood Elementary School](#) web page under the “Survey Results” tab.

The school board policy governing school naming reviews requires that in the event a school is to be named for an individual, community advisory committees must determine if the person’s personal and professional life exemplified the school division’s four core values of equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness.



Broadus Ira Wood, born in Earlysville in 1864, was a farmer and local businessman. He served as a member of the Rivanna and Albemarle County school boards for over three decades, as a member of the Board of Public Welfare, and as president of the School Trustee Association of Virginia. In addition to those interests related to improving public education, Wood served many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the People’s National Bank, the Chief Forest Warden of Albemarle County, and as deputy commissioner of revenue for the Charlottesville and Ivy District.

In 1906, Wood sold four acres of his land for use as the site of Earlysville High School for \$50, a fraction of its value, and later gave the school two more acres to expand its playing fields.

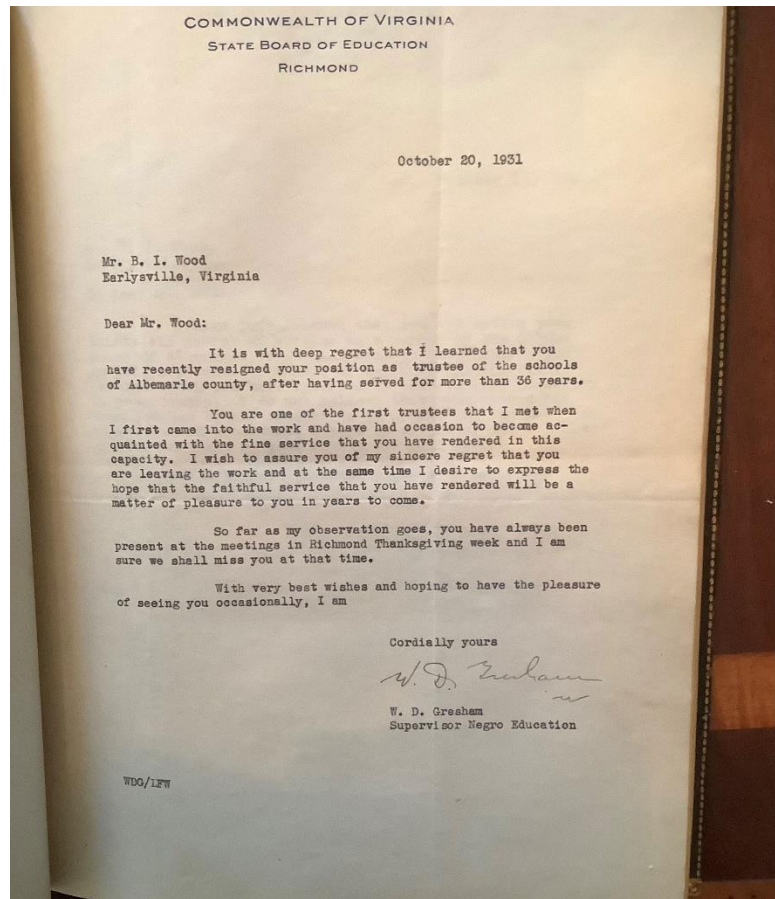
When Earlysville High School burned down in 1934, a new school was built in its place, this time named after Wood. The school transitioned for use as an elementary school in 1954.

In their deliberations, the Broadus Wood advisory committee members used several source materials as references, including the books *Distant Echoes of Broadus Wood High School* (1998) and 1931’s *An Appreciation of B.I. Wood*. They also drew from research performed by local historian [Jordy Yager](#), creator of *Mapping Cville* in partnership with Dr. Shelley Murphy, University of Virginia Descendant Project Researcher, testimonials given by members of the Wood family and other artifacts and pieces of community wisdom that had been submitted throughout the name review process.

Taken into consideration during the committee’s deliberations was Yager’s research into Broadus Ira Wood showing that 15 members of the Wood family—five of whom are known to be direct relatives of Broadus Ira Wood—are listed in the 1850 Slave Schedule as having enslaved Black people. Among those, Wood’s grandfather, William M. Wood (1799-1856) and his four siblings are known to have enslaved at least 52 Black people.

The advisory committee noted, however, that based on the evidence they had compiled, Broadus Ira Wood himself was known to have been an advocate for the education of all Virginians and members of his community. One artifact that they consulted was a letter from W.D. Gresham, who at the time was Supervisor for Negro Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, dated October 20, 1931. In this letter, Gresham spoke of his regret that Wood was leaving his role as trustee of the schools of Albemarle County, and of his appreciation of Broadus Wood's "fine service" on state committees.

Notes from the Albemarle County School Board meetings held during his tenure recognize Wood's dedication to advancing education opportunities for African American and rural students, which continue to be key demographics at Broadus Wood Elementary.



The advisory committee stated that what they have learned about Wood over their months of reviewing his legacy has suggested that his personal values aligned with those of ACPS. According to Katie Breaud, one of the committee's two co-chairs, "The school division recently approved a new strategic plan, which is named *Learning for All* and includes as its values equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness. Based on everything we have learned through this process, Broadus Ira Wood consistently acted in a manner that exemplifies those and encouraged them throughout his community—even when that was not the norm among his peers."

Dr. Haas took the advisory committee's recommendation to the school board on February 10. The board will make the final decision as to whether Broadus Wood Elementary School will retain its name.

Members of the public can track the progress of all school naming reviews on the school division's [School Naming Review](#) website. The site provides information on relevant school board policy and the school naming review process. Information compiled to date on the Broadus Wood naming review, including survey results, can be accessed on the [School Naming Review: Broadus Wood Elementary School](#) page.

To contact Albemarle County Public Schools regarding the naming or renaming of a school or the naming review process, please email SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org

ACPS holds community forum to discuss Lambs Lane Master Plan—On Tuesday, February 15, ACPS held a community forum to discuss long-term planning related to its facilities located at Lambs Lane. These include Albemarle High, Jouett Middle, Greer Elementary, and Ivy Creek schools, as well as the Transportation and Building Services departments. The area is also the site of a future Boys and Girls Club facility. The forum is an opportunity for members of the community to assist the school division and its outside planning consultant in its development of a Lambs Lane master plan. Among the plan’s objectives is to imagine future uses of the Lambs Lane property.

The property is centrally located within the county, and the schools on site represent approximately a quarter of the division’s student population. The forum centered on its potential to become a flagship campus, serving the county’s population in practical, innovative and sustainable ways.

The forum asked those in attendance to factor in many implications of the plan, including pedestrian safety, green space, secondary access, transit and accessibility, traffic congestion and parking, natural resources, and student safety. Additionally, the possibility of moving the Transportation and Building Services departments to a new location will be considered.

Currently, there are no sidewalks at the Lambs Lane area, which restricts access to its facilities for those who do not own cars. There also is no public transportation that goes directly to Lambs Lane, with the closest bus stop several blocks away. Bus loops are severely congested and parking is very limited. The natural resources at the site are currently underutilized by members of the community.

The school division will keep an updated [Lambs Lane Master Plan](#) web page, which will include recordings of these meetings, along with other relevant information.

ACPS holds annual spelling bee—ACPS conducted its 16th division-wide Spelling Bee earlier this month in the Albemarle High School auditorium. The competition, comprising scholars who won the spelling bees conducted at their respective schools, included 15 elementary school champions and six middle school champions.

More than a thousand students in grades 3-8 competed in their school-wide spelling bees, beginning in classrooms last month.

This year’s elementary school champions include:

1. Vivien Largiader, Agnor-Hurt;
2. Dhiya Nagappan, Baker-Butler;
3. Henry Zeanah, Broadus Wood;
4. Reese Estes, Brownsville;
5. Neil Handa, Crozet;

6. Robert Klapmust, Greer;
7. Claire Meng, Hollymead;
8. Sofia Montini, Meriwether Lewis;
9. Lyla Thiede, Mountain View;
10. Ellie Canoles, Murray;
11. Madeleine Rasmussen, Red Hill;
12. Sheldon Yeagley, Scottsville;
13. Luke Brijbassie, Stone-Robinson;
14. Nathaniel Matz, Stony Point; and
15. Autumn Wilson, Woodbrook.

Thiede, a fifth grader, placed first, Meng, also a fifth grader placed second, and Rasmussen, a fourth grader, placed third. The winning word was “strudel.”

Among the middle schools, competitors included:

1. Catriona Shuve, Burley;
2. Henry Mathewes, Henley;
3. Landon Hahn, Jouett;
4. Riley Gray, Lakeside;
5. Nicholas LeRose, Walton; and
6. Auden Nunes, Community Lab School.

Mathewes, an eighth grader, placed first, and was joined by Shuve, a seventh grader, at second place and Gray, also a seventh grader, at third place. The winning word was “delirious.”

These six students have qualified for the next stage of the competition, which will take place on March 12, beginning at 9 a.m., also at Albemarle High School. One winner will move on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held on June 2 at Maryland’s National Harbor.