



Board-to-Board

December, 2015

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

Pam Moran National Finalist for Superintendent of the Year—The American Association of School Administrators announced this week their four finalists for National School Superintendent of the Year and Pam Moran is among that group. The Superintendent of the Year for each of the 50 states is eligible for consideration. Others states represented in the final four are Washington, North Carolina and Ohio. Each of the finalists will appear before a panel of educators to discuss their views and accomplishments with a Superintendent of the Year announced early in 2016.

Community Survey—Approximately 2,000 responses were received to the school division's online survey that asked residents their views on upcoming budget priorities, next year's school calendar and school climate. Top three budget priorities cited by respondents were maintaining current class sizes, teacher compensation and funding enrollment growth. Among the items people were asked about on the school calendar was the possibility of extending the school day by up to five minutes to reduce the need to add makeup days during the year to account for weather closures.

Closing the Digital Divide—This week, the first phase of the school division's program to provide broadband access to under-served areas of the county, began with the debut of WiFi in the Southwood mobile home community. Approximately 170 students will benefit from the program, which will allow them to take advantage of more technological resources for research and collaborative work beyond the school day. The school division is planning to connect thousands of students across the county over the next two years.

National Ranking places Albemarle in top state and national tiers—Niche, a national education assessment company has ranked Albemarle County Public Schools among the top five school divisions in Virginia and within the top two percent of all school divisions in the nation. The ranking is based upon student academic performance and on input from parents and students. This despite the fact that the other four divisions in the top four spend considerably more per pupil than does Albemarle, in one case, by 70 percent. The division was rated A+ for academics, educational outcomes (college readiness) and teaching staff.

Budget Update—At its December 10th meeting, the School Board voted to transfer \$200,000 from its fund balance to the CSA program as the result of actual program experience that exceeds projections. Aon a related note, Governor McAuliffe's budget proposal on December 17th was in line with expectations with increases for K-12 education and the hiring of teachers. There is a two percent compensation increase for employees but for the second year of the budget. We are expecting details on how the monies will be provided in the near future; that will give us a better sense of how next year's budget will be impacted.

Advisory Committees—The division is seeking five new volunteers for its Long-Range Planning Committee, representing the Rivanna, Samuel Miller, Scottsville and White Hall districts and an at-large representative. All appointments are for two-year terms. Also open are six seats on the School Health Advisory Committee; one at-large seat and representatives from the Jouett, Rivanna, Samuel Miller, Scottsville and White Hall districts.

Capacity Options—Following the decision by the School Board not to redistrict students from Albemarle High School or Greer Elementary School, the school division is considering several options to relieve overcrowding at both schools. Among options for Albemarle High School is allowing open enrollment for any Albemarle student who would like to attend Monticello High School; a closer working relationship with CATEC to enable more Albemarle students to voluntarily consider CATEC as an educational option and the possibility of a 10-classroom modular unit on the property. Mobile classrooms also are a Greer option.

Albemarle's "Rising Star in Science"—The Sunday *Daily Progress* profiled the achievements of Albemarle High School junior Ayoade Balogun, who was one of a small group of students from across the nation who made a presentation at the White House last month. Ayoade also is a Northrop-Grumman intern, heads a summer camp for middle school girls interested in engineering and is working on an at-home science project that would allow someone to take their own eye pressure as a test for glaucoma To read the story, visit:

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/at-ahs-a-rising-star-in-science/article_5b7841de-a1fb-11e5-9be2-efa802eca981.html

Red Hill Modernization—A recent NBC 29 report looked at the need for modernizations at Red Hill Elementary School, which heavily relies upon trailers for several classes during the school day. Among the major challenges for teachers is a media center, which according to state standards, can accommodate 100 students although there are 170 students who attend the school:

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/30719003/albemarle-co-school-board-hears-school-renovation-plans>

New Director of Accountability—India Haun, formerly Brownsville's principal, is the new Director of Accountability and Research, succeeding Bonnie Pendleton, who is retiring. Barbara Edwards, who served as the principal at Broadus Wood Elementary School before retiring in 2010, is serving as Brownsville's interim principal while the division conducts a search for Ms. Haun's successor.

-end-

School Board website: www.k12albemarle.org