



Board-to-Board

February, 2016

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

School Board Funding Request—On February 9 the School Board approved a \$174,163,445 million funding request, which has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The spending plan is \$7.1 million greater than last year’s adopted budget, which marks a 4.2 percent increase. Directed and mandated expenses are driving just over \$5 million of the increase, while growth accounts for \$860,000—or 12 percent—of new expenses. New resources that include adding full-time nurses to all schools, expanding the world languages program to Woodbrook and Meriwether Lewis elementary schools, and returning professional development spending to 2008 levels total \$1.22 million.

Red Hill Modernization Design—The School Board has approved the design for a modernization of Red Hill Elementary School. RRMM Architects have drawn plans to upgrade and provide new furnishings for 13 classrooms and the library, and to construct a secure entrance for school visitors. The project’s price tag totals \$1.37 million, and if approved in the Capital Improvement Program, would see construction begin this summer.

Increased Pre-K Funds—Earlier this month, the Virginia Preschool Initiative awarded Albemarle County Public Schools \$100,000. As a result, increased numbers of at-risk four-year-olds will be able to attend preschool in Albemarle. Due to a lack of capacity at many of the elementary schools that have the greatest need, this money will place students in preschool programs run by either the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, or by Foundations Childhood Development, both of whom will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with Albemarle to ensure quality standards are met. This marks a positive step forward in serving Albemarle’s at-risk four-year-old population, which the United Way last year estimated at between 250 and 500.

Inclement Weather Impacts—As a result of recent snow storms, Albemarle County Public Schools will now be open on all four the make-up days on the school calendar: Monday, February 15; Friday, April 1; and Monday and Tuesday, June 6 and 7. All schools will remain closed from Monday, April 4, through Friday, April 8, for spring break. Because the division’s calendar exceeds the required 990 instructional hours, no additional changes to the calendar are anticipated.

Schools to Close on Primary Day—The School Board voted to close schools on March 1, as a result of the large volume of voters expected to vote in this year’s primary. Eighteen school sites are used as polling places, and traffic, ADA, and security concerns have all been cited as concerns for seeing as many as 18,500 voters in our schools during prime instruction hours.

March 1 will also mark the first Green Work Day, in which all eligible staff will telecommute, and the first My Choice ACPS Day, in which all students are being encouraged to choose a challenge or problem to solve, an idea to explore, or a dream to turn into reality as part of an independent learning experience for that day.

The school division has developed a website for teachers to guide students: <https://goo.gl/59JgX3>

11th Annual Spelling Bee—Twenty-two Albemarle County Public School students participated in the 11th Annual Spelling Bee, which lasted more than 10 rounds. The contest went late into the night, with the contest ultimately ending in a tie between two excellent spellers.

Concert to Support Victims of Domestic Violence—On Sunday, February 27, female vocalists from Albemarle County Public Schools will team up with female singers from Charlottesville City Schools and the University of Virginia to perform a fundraising concert for Shelter for Help in Emergency, which supports victims of domestic violence. This year marks the second year for *Headlined*, which last year raised \$3,000. The concert begins at 5 p.m. and will be held at Monticello High School.

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