



Board-to-Board

March, 2016

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

School Board Funding Request Update—At the March 24 School Board meeting, the school division’s Chief Operating Officer provided an updated budget picture that will see just over \$100,000 in additional state aid. Combined with revised healthcare expenses in the School Board’s Funding Request, the schools believe the \$1.1 million deficit will be nearly eliminated. This elimination, however, is predicated on the .4 cent dedicated tax increase proposed by the County Executive.

Bond Referendum Projects—The School Board has approved a preliminary list of projects to help inform the Board of Supervisors’ decision to pursue a bond referendum. Totalling \$35.5 million, every Albemarle County Public School building would see improvements, under the plan. The list includes: \$15.2 million for an addition at Woodbrook Elementary; \$10.9 million to modernize classrooms in all schools; \$6 million for science labs at Western Albemarle High School; and \$2.9 million for security improvements at Baker-Butler Elementary, Henley Middle School, Scottsville Elementary and Murray High.

Newsplex Coverage: <http://goo.gl/tSesFM>

Compensation Pilot—At the March 10 School Board meeting, the Board approved a pilot succession management program aimed at building instructional leadership capacity within the school division. The Compensation Broadbanding Pilot Program is intended to include more flexibility in salary administration for voluntary movement from one role to another, facilitate career enrichment opportunities, provide greater emphasis on succession planning, and support strong team building. The Pilot will run July 1 – June 30, 2019, and is anticipated to be cost neutral.

School Bus Cameras—The Virginia General Assembly has passed legislation that would allow the school division to mail summonses for passing stopped school buses. Senate Bill 120, which is now awaiting Governor Terry McAuliffe’s signature, would allow the school division to curb the reckless driving practices ACPS bus drivers are reporting throughout the County. Based on a 41-day pilot ACPS conducted in 2012-13, more than 6,000 violations are committed each year. Installation and operating costs are expected to be covered by fines. The law is expected to take effect July 1, 2016.

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

Newsplex Coverage: <http://goo.gl/iUhqHm>

Congressional Visit—On Wednesday, March 9, Congressman Robert Hurt visited three of our schools. The Congressman began his day at Walton Middle School, where he spoke with students about the Stock Market. The second stop featured Burley Middle School students pitching a school redesign concept to the Congressman, who was impressed with the level of care students put into their work. The Congressman completed his visit with a brief conversation and flag presentation to the Albemarle High

School Young Conservatives Club, as well as a congratulatory meeting and certificate presentation to two MESA students who participated in the Congressional App Challenge.

NBC29 Coverage: <http://goo.gl/PCTPBu>

Piedmont Regional Science Fair—For the second year in a row, two projects by Albemarle High School students were chosen as Best in Show at the Piedmont Regional Science Fair. At least four students will represent the region at the International Science and Engineering Fair, being held in Phoenix in May. Ishpreet Singh, Ryan Scholes, and Sander Abraham collaborated on “The Design of a Versatile Ultralow Field MRI Machine,” which is a prototype for a portable MRI. Ashwin Swaminathan also won for his project “Drought Resurrection: A Novel Method to Induce Drought Resistance in Plants.” Ashwin developed a process that reduces the amount of water required by a plant. The state competition is the first weekend in April and it is possible that another county public school student will qualify for the international fair.

On to the World Championships—Robotics competitions almost uniformly feature high schools vying for state, regional and international honors, but the winner earlier this month of a northeastern U.S. challenge was Henley's Nerd Herd. Out of some 1000 teams across the region, 72 qualified for the Super Regional Tournament. Henley's team was the only one to be undefeated for the entire tournament. They qualified for the Global Championship in St. Louis from April 27-30, where they will square off against 127 of the world's finest robotics teams.

Grease—Over the weekend of March 25, students at Western Albemarle High School produced four performances of the hit musical *Grease*. Even Western’s Principal, Darah Bonham, played a role. Caitlin Pitts, Western’s Drama Director, used the play’s themes for teachable moments, saying that the play shows young people how to deal with social challenges and find their identities. This year, Western’s students decided to donate a portion of the proceeds from *Grease* to Equality Now, an international advocacy organization that advocates for the human rights of women and girls

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