



Board-to-Board

April, 2016

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

New Principal for Brownsville Elementary—Jason Crutchfield, who has served as an assistant principal at both Henley Middle School and Brownsville Elementary School, has been appointed as Brownsville’s new principal, effective May 1. Crutchfield joined Albemarle County Public Schools in 2007 as an assistant principal at Henley, where his responsibilities included faculty recruitment and development, school health and safety, and response to intervention programs. At Brownsville since 2014, his concentration has been on developing the school’s technological learning capabilities, working with teachers on their professional growth, and community outreach, both with parents and support organizations such as Region 10. Crutchfield serves on the school division’s Health Advisory Board and on the Board of Directors of the African American Teaching Fellows. He also was a member of Virginia’s education leadership consortium, a professional development program for school leaders.

Internship Learning—On April 14, Adam Mulcahy, Director of the Environmental Studies Academy at Western Albemarle High School, hosted a conversation about internships with the Chamber of Commerce’s Agri-business Roundtable. A well-attended event with approximately 15 organizations and businesses represented, Mr. Mulcahy provided the group with an overview of the Academy, and highlighted ways in which the Academy tries to place students in real-world internships as part of the course of study.

School Board Budget Update—The School Board has adopted a \$172.7 million budget for FY17, which is a 3.35 percent increase from FY16.

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

Smart Schools—All three of Albemarle County’s public comprehensive high schools are in the top five percent of public high schools in the country according to Niche, a national organization that annually analyzes and ranks the top performing schools in the nation. In its ranking of “America’s Smartest Public High Schools,” Niche used a combination of school climate measures, student test scores and input from parents to determine its rankings. Among the data points the survey incorporated were academic performance, health & safety data, student culture and diversity, sports, fitness and extracurricular programs, resources and facilities and teaching excellence. Western Albemarle and Monticello each earned five “As” among the seven data point categories that were evaluated, while Albemarle earned four “As.” Both Western Albemarle and Albemarle received an A+ for academic achievement and an A for teaching. Monticello also had the highest score among the schools for overall high school experience as reported by students and parents.

Science Fair—Albemarle County Public Schools students captured 82 awards at the 35th annual Piedmont Regional Science Fair this month, including 13 first place awards in the 17 high school categories and both Best in Show awards. The students and their projects gained immediate eligibility to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair that will be held in Phoenix in May. In

addition to the 13 first place awards in the senior division, including 10 that were earned by students from Albemarle High School's Math, Engineering & Science Academy (MESA), students from Albemarle, Monticello and Western Albemarle high schools received 20 other divisional awards.

XQ Super School Grant—Albemarle County Public Schools has advanced to the second round of judging for XQ Super School, an educational reform grant opportunity from Microsoft. If selected, ACPS would receive \$2 million per year for 5 years to run what we are calling CONNEXT, a student-designed, district-backed school. In this model, students would engage in passion- and project-based learning in both the classroom and community while working with a team of advisors.

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

Business Honor Roll—At the May 12 School Board meeting, ACPS plans to honor three community partners for their commitment to the Health and Medical Sciences Academy at Monticello High School. HemoShear, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital have all worked with students, hosted internships, or helped inform curriculum decisions. As we move toward an educational model focused on competency learning, developing strong partnerships such as these will be paramount for the success of our older students.

Community Technite— ACPS staff have held a number of Community Technite, which include presentations and discussions about how to support children's' healthy and responsible use of technology. Topics have included internet safety, social media, screen time, and digital citizenship. Upcoming meetings include: Tuesday April 26 at Walton Middle School; and Thursday April 28 at Western Albemarle High School. All meetings are from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

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