



Board-to-Board

June, 2016

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

New Principals: ACPS has named new administrators at three schools. Amy Morris is returning to lead Broadus Wood Elementary School, where she previously taught for 10 years. Joshua Walton, who has served as assistant principal of Walton Middle School for two years, has been tapped for the principal job. CATEC will also welcome new administrators this school year. Dr. Daphne Keiser, former principal of Clark Elementary, is now CATEC's Strategic Planning Officer, while Carl Kiehn—a 15-year Albemarle High School veteran—will now serve as CATEC's Director.

High School Graduation: Last month, more than 1,000 seniors graduated from Albemarle County Public Schools. This year, more than 80 percent of all public high school graduates in the county are planning to attend college, with 61 percent opting for a four-year school, and 22 percent for a two-year community college. This year, all graduation ceremonies were streamed live.

Professional Development: June 14-16 saw 250 ACPS teachers and staff designing learning experiences to be implemented in their classrooms next school year. At this year's annual Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Conference, teachers focused on project-, problem-, and passion-based opportunities for students. This focus on shifting away from a traditional model of instruction based on the memorization of facts coincides with recent General Assembly legislation that will re-write high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for deeper learning through real-world experiences.

Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage: <http://goo.gl/WD50wj>

Newsplex Coverage: <http://goo.gl/aW4nfz>

NBC29 Coverage: <http://goo.gl/ZM6Mni>

Culturally-Responsive Teaching Certification: In early June, ACPS certified its inaugural class of Culturally Responsive Teachers. Culturally Responsive Teaching is a program that began in Albemarle County Public Schools in 2009. It consists of strategies and practices that more closely connect curricula with student backgrounds and experiences. In a school division where families speak more than 90 different native languages, the program is designed to broaden teaching skills to reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of all students. The year-long certification program culminates with a Diversity Conference, in which newly-certified teachers present their findings to their colleagues.

Newsplex Coverage: <http://goo.gl/9sfSF0>

Project XQ: ACPS has been named a semi-finalist in XQ: The Super School Project, which is a \$10 million grant competition aimed at redesigning the high school experience. ACPS' submission, CONNEXT, is a student-centered experiential learning pathway that would see some high school students using their community as a classroom. "The proposal we developed largely was influenced by students who uniformly told us that in addition to mastering content, they most valued experiential learning," said Chad Ratliff, Director of Instructional Programs. At present, more than half of the

division's high school students are engaged in some type of experiential learning through internships, mentorships, job shadowing, or community service.

Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage: <http://goo.gl/vxChz0>

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