



Albemarle County Public Schools
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Phone: (434) 296-5820
www.k12albemarle.org

July 5, 2017
Board-to-Board Report for June

Senator Visits to Discuss Medicaid Funding

Forty-six percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries are children, and last month Senator Tim Kaine met with local educators to discuss the impact proposed cuts to Medicaid would have on Virginia's Special Education Students. The roundtable discussion, held at Albemarle High School, included Albemarle County Public Schools, Charlottesville City Schools, the Virginia Institute for/of Autism, Piedmont Regional Education Program, the Virginia Department of Education/Governor's Office, parents, teachers, and students.

Public school division that have the ability to provide a direct service to a special education student in the school—occupational and physical therapists, autism and cerebral palsy specialists, mental health counselors—the division has the option to seek Medicaid reimbursement for those services. As a division, Albemarle seeks about \$150,000 per year in reimbursements for services provided in schools. The proposed health care bills in Washington seek to decrease Medicaid spending by establishing lifetime caps. This would result in either a significant decrease in the level of care received by special education students, a massive cost shift to states and localities, or a combination of the two.

Daily Progress Coverage: <https://goo.gl/YHsnPh>

Support the CATEC Food Truck

This summer and fall, students who attend the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) will convert a school bus into a food truck. Donated to CATEC by the ACPS Department of Transportation, the old school bus will serve as a project-based learning experience for thousands of students. The project is currently in the fundraising stage, and the conversion should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

As planned, the renovations will largely be completed by students studying plumbing, electrical, the building trades, and the automotive trades. Once outfitted, the mobile kitchen will serve as a classroom for students studying culinary arts, as well as a marketing resource for the region's career and technical education center.

We plan to identify project sponsors with signage on the bus, and we are planning media events to highlight these partnerships. We are actively reaching out to the business sectors that align with the programs involved. To-date, we have held planning discussions with CATEC's Culinary Arts Advisory Board, conducted an information-gathering session with Mr. Robert Berry, a local expert who has built or





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converted many of the region's food trucks and carts, and we have already received \$5,000 in seed funding from the Shannon Foundation. For more information contact Daphne Keiser, CATEC's Strategic Planning Officer, dkeiser@k12albemarle.org, or Tim Shea, Legislative & Public Affairs Officer, tshea@k12albemarle.org.

Principal changes

- Rick Vrhovac will succeed Dr. Jesse Turner as principal of **Monticello High School**. Vrhovac has served as an educator and administrator in Central Virginia for more than 25 years, and he has been Sutherland's principal since 2014. He also served as an assistant principal at both Walton Middle School and Albemarle High School. Under Vrhovac's leadership, Standards of Learning student test scores at Sutherland consistently have improved, with more than four out of five students passing the statewide assessment tests. Additionally, the school has become one of the leaders in the school division for the quality of its mechatronics curriculum, which blends the study of engineering and technology, and in the performance of its students in the region's annual science fair.
- Chad Ratliff will succeed Ashby Kindler as the principal for the division's two charter schools, **Murray High School** and the **Community Public Charter School**. Ratliff also has been a strong influence on the division's award-winning technology and maker education programs in his curriculum role. He is an advocate of project-based learning and for the development of entrepreneurial skills among all students. He serves on Governor McAuliffe's Council for Youth Entrepreneurship, is a former member of the State Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education, and recently was named to the National School Boards Association's "20 to Watch" list of emerging educational leaders.

Redistricting Advisory Committee accepting applications

Albemarle County Public Schools is seeking community representatives to serve on a redistricting advisory committee to address overcrowding at Agnor-Hurt and Greer elementary schools. Students would relocate to an expanded Woodbrook Elementary School, beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

Over the past five years, enrollment for these schools has increased by 250 students, and projections indicate that enrollment increases will continue. To address the need for more classroom space, the School Board proposed the equivalent of a 16-classroom addition to be built at Woodbrook in time for the 2018-19 school year. Albemarle County voters approved the use of general obligation bonds to finance the project in a referendum last November.

The Woodbrook addition would increase the capacity of the school by about 300 seats, moving the entire school's capacity to nearly 600 students. This expansion is projected to serve the capacity needs of the urban ring elementary schools for at least the next 10 years.





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Specifically, the redistricting advisory committee is asked to develop recommendations that address current and projected overcrowding at the three schools and to consider middle school student assignments that might be impacted by a change in elementary school attendance boundaries. Several guiding principles were set forth by the School Board:

- Attendance areas should largely be contiguous.
- When possible, elementary and middle school boundaries should align.
- Transportation routes should reflect the minimum ride times possible.
- Neighborhoods should be assigned to the same schools whenever possible.

The redistricting committee will consist of 12 community members: two apiece from the Agnor-Hurt, Greer, and Woodbrook school communities; one representative each from the Burley and Jouett middle school communities; and two at-large representatives. The final two members will be appointed from the school division's Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee and its Equity and Diversity Committee. More information and applications available at: <https://goo.gl/rckyp3>.

Broadband Initiative Coverage

Albemarle County Public Schools received more national news attention for its wireless broadband initiative, which aims to provide all Albemarle students with access to broadband, regardless of their location in the county. The story highlights the division's use of the Educational Broadband Service, spectrum that years ago the federal government set aside for schools.

Coverage in *Wired*: <https://goo.gl/QkSXyG>
Hechinger Report: <https://goo.gl/aZn7NW>

