



Albemarle County Public Schools  
401 McIntire Road  
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Phone: (434) 296-5820  
[www.k12albemarle.org](http://www.k12albemarle.org)

July 26, 2017

Board-to-Board Report for July

### **CATEC Food Truck Update**

The project that will see students at CATEC convert a school bus into a fully-operational food truck continues to receive media attention. Now in the fundraising stage, the Food Truck is expected to be complete this spring. In addition to a true project-based learning, the Food Truck will be used during the summer months to assist in the distribution of nutritious food to free and reduced lunch population. Financial support and equipment donations are being accepted. To support the project contact CATEC.

*Newsplex Coverage:* <https://goo.gl/A4qnYP>

### **Bond Referendum Construction Update**

Four projects that were funded by the recent bond referendum are underway. At Woodbrook Elementary School, site work outside of the building has begun, including the driveway, and classroom renovations inside the building. The first phase of construction will be completed before the start of school. During the 2017-18 school year, construction of a full-size gymnasium will begin. A new secure entrance is currently being added to the front of Baker-Butler Elementary School, and science lab modernizations are underway at Western Albemarle High School. The secure entrance at Scottsville Elementary School, which originally received no bids, has been sent out to bid again and staff anticipate a greater level of competition for the project, which will be completed by the end of the school year.

### **Leadership Changes**

Ira Socol, the Director of Educational Technology and Innovation for Albemarle County Public Schools, has been appointed as the division's Interim Executive Director of Technologies and Innovation. In his position, Socol will provide the executive leadership for the Department of Accountability, Research & Technology (DART), succeeding Vince Scheivert in that responsibility. Scheivert recently resigned as the school division's Chief Information Officer after being appointed as an assistant superintendent for Loudoun County Public Schools. Socol has been a member of the technology team at ACPS since 2010.

The Albemarle County School Board has appointed Brandi Robertson as the interim principal for Sutherland Middle School for the 2017-18 school year. Robertson currently is the school's assistant principal, and in that role, she will be succeeded for the next school year by Cabell Guy, presently a school counselor. Robertson will lead the school following the appointment of former principal Rick Vrhovac as Monticello High School's principal on July 1.

### **Engineering Design Camp in Scottsville**

In partnership with the Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, Albemarle County Public Schools last month held *Design, Make, Launch*, an engineering design camp for students. The program provided students





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with an opportunity to construct an original product or social innovation that solved a current problem in the community. Over the two-week period, students worked through a design process, developed plans and documentation, built a prototype, and presented the purpose and solution of their idea to an audience. One creative idea was the creation of Bee Houses—birdhouse-like structures built from wood and bamboo that provide habitat to the pollinators. The students hoped the creation of additional habitat could support struggling bee populations.

### **B.F. Yancey Transition Update**

School Division and Local Government staff have continued to communicate with the Yancey community regarding potential future uses of the facility. Following a well-attended community listening session in which the community expressed interest in both near- and short-term uses, staff have summarized the night's comments and shared them with Schools and Local Government leadership. Staff will meet with community members again in early August to debrief and to continue to refine ideas, hear further input, etc. Thus far, the community has requested that two short-term uses already housed at the school—a food bank and exercise classes—return to normal levels of service.

### **Grant to Study Monuments**

Albemarle County Public Schools has received a \$20,000 grant through the LNGR Innovators Challenge. The project will see high school students studying the societal and cultural significance of monuments, presenting their findings, and creating new monuments. Albemarle was 1 of 10 school divisions in the nation to win a grant award. The work, which will include students in history classes at Albemarle High, Monticello High, and Western Albemarle High, will be lead by Angela Stokes, lead instructional coach for the school division.

*Daily Progress Coverage:* <https://goo.gl/J2WHgE>

### **Maker Learning**

Last month nearly 30 educators from around the nation visited Albemarle County Public Schools to receive valuable professional development. The Digital Promise Maker Learning Leadership Project works with school divisions to implement robust, district-wide maker education programs. Digital Promise—chartered by Congress in 2008—promotes innovation in public schools.

*Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage:* <https://goo.gl/qUZiJ2>

