

Attachment B: Transition Team Statements

Two statements from the BF Yancey Transition Team were composed and disseminated to the community and the School Board during August 2017, copied below.

August 5, 2017

Dear Esmont neighbors, friends, and alumni of B.F. Yancey Elementary School,

We're writing to you as members of the B.F. Yancey Transition Committee that came together at the June 29th meeting at the now-closed school. We have since met to summarize the night's input. We want to take these ideas to the Board of Supervisors and the School Board, but we would like your input first.

The B.F. Yancey Transition Committee met three times over the summer, including the well-attended June 29th community meeting. Following that community meeting, Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent of Albemarle County Public Schools, tasked our Committee with representing Esmont as this process moves forward by recommending potential future uses for the B.F. Yancey school building.

The Committee has worked with staff from Albemarle County and Albemarle County Public Schools to organize the community's initial input, and to develop language so we can effectively communicate our community's vision for the B.F. Yancey school building to the School Board and Board of Supervisors. **So tell us what you think of this plan and please help us distribute this proposed plan to your neighbors:**

The B.F. Yancey Transition Committee proposes that the school building now serve as a regional hub offering a variety of services to all of Southern Albemarle. We envision this process occurring in phases that are both near- and long-term. While specific programs and organizations are still to be identified, the Committee feels strongly that:

1. the building continue to provide educational services to the community, and
2. that the cultural and historical significance of B.F. Yancey, and B.F. Yancey Elementary School be recognized.

Phase I - Immediate

Open the B.F. Yancey Elementary School so residents can use the gym, library, and cafeteria. Immediate activities would include the food pantry, internet access, movie nights and other events. The school system needs to create a simple, efficient, affordable and widely known permission process for Southern Albemarle residents who want to continue to use the school as a centerpiece of their community.

Phase II – Completed by October 2017

Transfer the management of the elementary school to Albemarle County so existing community educational programs and social services can be moved into the building. Create an officially recognized decision making structure that gives Esmont and Southern Albemarle residents the authority to design and implement programs at B.F. Yancey that serve the needs of the community, including the possibility of reopening the school at some point.

Potential programming includes:

After-school Programs

Tutoring

Little Learners Pre-School

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other extracurricular clubs and activities for children

ESOL, GED and literacy classes

PVCC classes for Albemarle, Fluvanna, Nelson and Buckingham residents

Senior Center with intergenerational learning

Polling Place

Region Ten Services

Other programs for Disabled People

Social Services to aid families with children

Health Department clinics

JABA

Satellite police services

Phase III – Begins October 2017

Empower and provide initial funding for this community-based structure, including resources for staffing, to build the relationships necessary to expand the variety of programs and services at B.F. Yancey. Ideas for this expanded set of activities (in addition to the potential continuation of all the programs listed above) include:

- Satellite Library

- Food kitchen serving hot meals and fellowship once a week
- History Exhibit and Memorial to B.F. Yancey
- Heritage Library that hosts public events with artists, poets and writers
- New business incubation center
- Home of the B.F. Yancey Alumni Association and Esmont Day
- The reopening of the B.F. Yancey as an elementary school

Please let us know if you have other ideas or would like to discuss any of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

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August 31, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the future of B.F. Yancey School at the August 24, 2017 School Board meeting. We appreciate the opportunity given to Peggy Scott, representative of the B.F Yancey School Transition Team, to discuss the proposed plan for the school building.

We are grateful that the School Board and Superintendent seem to share our sense of urgency that the wonderful Yancey building be quickly and fully put to use as a Community Center to provide educational, recreational, and social services for the Esmont and Southern Albemarle community.

Our immediate vision for the building is an Intergenerational Community Center which houses educational, recreational and social service programming. To preserve the rich history of the school, we envision a living history museum managed by representatives of the Esmont Community in partnership with the County and the school system. Our long-term vision is based on demographic changes that will allow B.F. Yancey to reopen as a fully functioning school.

Our understanding is that on September 14, 2017, the School Board will vote on a resolution to turn the school over to the county as a surplus building so the County can manage it as a Community Center. At that same meeting, the School Board will also consider a separate Memorandum of Understanding that will describe the intention of Albemarle Schools to continue to be engaged in the educational activities that will be offered at Yancey, beginning this fall. We hope that MOU will also:

- * propose an ongoing partnership with the Esmont community to document and display the history of the school;
- * express support for the continuation of the Transition's Team engagement; and
- * keep open the possibility of reopening B.F. Yancey as a school.

We look forward to the decision-making process in September that will allow us to build the partnership that turns the vision into a wonderful reality.

Sincerely,

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for the entire B.F. Yancey Transition Team