



Albemarle County Public Schools
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Board-to-Board Report

High School Options

Consultants recently shared with the School Board three scenarios for addressing: 1) capacity at Albemarle High School, and 2) the facility needs of future high school instructional spaces. This discussion is the first formal step in a process that will extend over the next few months. Our School Board has been discussing high school planning for more than a year based upon Albemarle High School's overcapacity and Crozet's continued growth, which will result in Western Albemarle High School being overcapacity in the near future. Another driver has been our current work around High School 2022. We asked our consultants to think broadly about how best we can design high school facilities that will enable us to meet our capacity needs through a thoughtful, innovative and efficient plan. At the same time, we asked that these options also support and promote our High School 2022 objectives. Options presented ranged from the traditional construction of new buildings to the establishment of community-based learning hubs at a few or more locations throughout the county.

NBC29 Coverage: <https://goo.gl/jzkFrP>

Statewide Teacher Shortage

Governor Terry McAuliffe, school superintendents, and policy makers from around the Commonwealth gathered at the Curry School of Education at UVa last month to offer solutions to a teacher shortage in Virginia. While enrollment in Virginia's public schools has increased in recent years, the number of teachers has decreased. In 2015, public schools in Virginia had over 800 teacher vacancies. That figure jumped to over 1,000 teacher vacancies in 2016. While vacancies are not distributed evenly around the state (rural areas are experiencing greatly difficulty staffing schools) no division is immune to the impacts of the teacher shortage. Research on the subject shows that numerous factors have contributed to the current teacher shortage, including but not limited to: declining and/or stagnate salaries; the cost of higher education paired with the 5th year many education programs require; negative social perception of teaching as a career; opportunities in numerous other industries. Currently our School Board is reviewing the division's teacher compensation strategy to ensure competitive salaries for teachers. Additionally, division staff will be working with policy makers in the General Assembly this session to address the issue.

NewsPlex Coverage: <https://goo.gl/emGm7i>

