



Board-to-Board

May, 2018

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

Capital Budget—At our May 24 work session, we considered several scenarios for funding our capital priorities, ranging from the full needs-based budget we submitted earlier in the year to various options that would scale back, delay projects for several years, or eliminate them. Capital request options considered ranged from \$47 million over two years, less than half of what the School Board prioritized to our original request of \$96 million. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board voted to support our original request of \$96 million to meet current and future instructional requirements, ensure equity of opportunity for all students across the division and resolve the capacity deficits now facing Albemarle and Western Albemarle High Schools and Scottsville Elementary School.

Boys & Girls Club—We long have had a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, which has been scouting for property on which to build a new facility that would serve a greater number of students, comparable to the Cherry Avenue facility in the City. At our work session, we received a proposal from the Club to build a 30,000 square foot program facility behind Albemarle High School, adjacent to Ivy Creek School. The facility would offer programming for up to 300 students, ages 6-18, for 280 days per year. We currently have 65 Greer students in a Boys & Girls program at Jouett Middle School with a waiting list. We also bus students from Agnor-Hurt and Woodbrook Elementary Schools to the Cherry Avenue facility. With the proposed new site behind AHS, travel time for these students would be significantly reduced and students from Greer, Jack Jouett and AHS easily can walk to the facility.

The Club has advised us not only that they will fully fund the new facility but they have already raised the necessary funds to do so. In addition to providing after school and summer options for students, the facility would be available to the school division for professional development of our teachers and staff.

Although several sites within the AHS/Jouett/Ivy Creek Campus were considered, the only site that would work for the new facility is now occupied by the driver education training course. As a result, the School Board asked staff to provide additional information at our June 14 meeting on the impact of either closing down or re-locating the driving range. As part of this information gathering, a program evaluation of entire driver education programming at county schools was requested. Most of our students do not get their driver education through our schools and, although WAHS has an area of its parking lot used for a driver education training course. Monticello does not use a driving range.

A Memorandum of Agreement, if approved, would expand after school program opportunities for more families in the county, especially from economically disadvantaged homes since the Boys & Girls Club program fee is \$35 per year compared to tuition for our Extended Day Enrichment Program, which can range as high as \$2,000 per year.

Graduation—The high school graduation season begins on Thursday, May 31 when 31 Murray students will graduate at ceremonies th at Burley Middle School beginning at 6 p.m. Western Albemarle follows with 190 students set to graduate at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 1 at the school. Albemarle High School will graduate 365 seniors on Tuesday, June 5 at John P. Jones Arena at 7 p.m. and finally, on Wednesday, June 6, also at 7 p.m., 170 Monticello seniors will graduate with the ceremonies also at John P. Jones Arena. We expect that 68 percent of all graduates will earn an Advanced Studies Diploma, continuing the school division’s strong outperformance of graduates across the state. Last year, 52 percent of all state graduates earned Advanced Studies Diplomas.

New Principals—Five new principals were appointed during our May 24th meeting, all with July 1 effective dates. Jill Lee, who was a principal in the Alexandria City School Division before transferring to Santa Fe, New Mexico, is returning to the Commonwealth and will be Greer’s new principal. She has extensive experience and success with diverse schools and schools with majority economically disadvantaged families. Kim Candler, an experienced principal with Nelson County Public Schools, has been appointed as the new principal for Hollymead. Three assistant principals were appointed as principals—Staci England from Hollymead to Scottsville; Nancy McCullenf from Brownsville to Red Hill and Latishia Wilson from Greer to Stony Point.

Superintendent Cabinet Appointments-Deputy Superintendent Matt Haas announced three cabinet members effective July 1. Debbie Collins, currently the Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, will succeed Dr. Haas as Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Clare Keiser, who is now the Director of educator quality, will become the Assistant Superintendent for Organizational Development and Human Resources Leadership and Rosalyn Schmitt, will succeed Dean Tistadt as the Chief Operating Officer for the school division. She currently is Director of Budget & Planning.

Golden Apple Awards—The 17th Annual Golden Apple Awards celebration was held on May 16 in Lane Auditorium. Teachers were nominated for innovation, classroom excellence and community outreach by their peers, students and parents. Each of the division’s 25 schools were represented. A complete listing of all honorees from the county, city and private schools is [available here](#).

Pilot Student Center—The Planning Commission has approved the use of 42,200 square feet of space in the former Comdial building for our new student center pilot program, Albemarle Tech. Student interest in attending Albemarle Tech is exceeding our initial projections of 20-25 students and we could accommodate up to 40 students beginning in August. Work has begun on renovations at the site and David Glover from Monticello High School has been appointed as the Albemarle Tech's head teacher. Albemarle Tech will focus on project-based learning opportunities for students, including expanded internship opportunities with local businesses and our LEAD professionals.

School Safety—The first meeting of our newly-organized School Safety Advisory Committee will be May 31 at 5 p.m. The Committee is chaired by Dr. Nicholas King, our student services officer and includes representatives from the school division, parents, community organizations, the police department and experts such as the University of Virginia’s Dewey Cornell. The Committee will review existing school division safety practices and policies and offer recommendations for improvements.

On a related topic, we are finalizing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Albemarle County Police Department on the role of School Resource Officers (SROs). Among the most important

provisions are school division input into the hiring and evaluation processes for SROs, clarification on when student information can be shared with law enforcement authorities during emergencies and the circumstances under which police officers can have access to videos from school security cameras.

National Award for Albemarle High School—The student services team at Albemarle High School has earned the highest national award for excellence for the quality and effectiveness of the school’s student support and college and career readiness programming. The American School Counselor Association selected the school as a Recognized Model Program. Only two percent of school counseling programs in the nation receive such status. The school’s on-time graduation rate of 96 percent is well above state and national averages and its 1.5 percent drop-out rate is 75 percent better than state and national averages. Additionally, Chris Lennon, a member of the student services team, has been named an ACT College and Career Readiness K-12 Champion for his work at the school in advancing student college and career readiness.

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