



Board-to-Board, May 2019

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

All School Board Meetings Available on Live Video Feed as of April—Live video feed of all Albemarle County School Board meetings is now being streamed online as of the last meeting in April. The link is on the Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) division website (www.k12albemarle.org). The school board generally holds meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the County Office Building. The public can access agendas on the Monday prior to each meeting through our ElectronicSchoolBoard website at esb.k12albemarle.org. To display the agenda, use the calendar to click on the desired meeting date.

National Signing Day at CATEC Will Match Nine Students With Jobs, Apprenticeships With Local Skilled Trades Companies—On Wednesday, May 8, nine students from the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) signed letters of intent to accept apprenticeships or employment with companies in the skilled trades. This event was part of SkillsUSA's *National Signing Day*, taking place in 300 schools across the USA. The event was sponsored by Klein Tools, whose co-president Mark Klein has said that six out of ten open skilled production positions are currently unfilled due to a shortage of workers. This constitutes a significant step forward in meeting the goal of preparing students for lifelong success and partnering with local businesses to meet their workforce needs.

The six CATEC students who signed employment offers include Liam Bibb, with Bibb Construction; Christopher Meadows with Spruce It Up Construction; Luke Page with Page Construction; George Rogers with Cavanaugh Cabinets; James Watkins with Tiger Fuel; and Justin Woody with Lam Electric. Three students signed up to be apprentices, including Adrian Rosas with Design Electric; Eli Shaner with Overhead Doors of Charlottesville; and Jacob Shaner with Pro Link, Inc.

Additionally, CATEC is the first in the state to offer a summer pre-apprenticeship program for upcoming high school students. This program puts students in position to earn paid apprenticeships during the school year while also earning academic and professional certification credits.

Second Annual "School to Work" Signing Event at CATEC Celebrates Students and Employers—On May 14, CATEC held a signing event to recognize the students and employers who have committed to "School to Work" partnerships in the community. The youth apprentices, interns, and employees involved completed work-based learning training that

aligned with their CATEC program competencies. Such partnerships are intended to bridge industry and academics and to give students the most relevant education possible. Forty CATEC students were honored at this event. Additionally, fifteen students were honored for their work as volunteers in the Charlottesville-Albemarle community.

Western Albemarle High School Piloting New Anonymous Reporting System Beginning This Monday, May 6—Starting Monday, May 6, members of the school community at Western Albemarle High School have been using a web application to anonymously report threatening, abusive or unsafe behavior at school. Western is piloting the new system, *Anonymous Alerts*, through the end of the current school year prior to the division making the app operational for all schools in the fall.

Anonymous Alerts currently is in operation in more than 5,000 schools across the country. It allows any member of a school community, including students, parents or staff, to file an online report of an incident or concern in one of nine subject categories. Categories include bullying, drug possession, alcohol or weapons on campus, sexual harassment or assault, vandalism, theft, violent behavior, suicidal expressions, and threats made against people or a building. This initiative is meant to be a major step forward in safeguarding the well-being of ACPS students, staff, and families.

Users of *Anonymous Alerts* can click on a link on the school's homepage to open the computer reporting app. The app guides them through a series of simple steps to file their report. The *Anonymous Alerts* app also will be available to download. All reports are sent electronically to the school principal for investigation and follow-up. In some instances, such as social-emotional concerns, the report also will be sent to a school counselor. All reports of dangerous substances or items on campus also will be sent to the school division's central office.

Among the special features of the system is an option that enables a person who is making a report to engage in an online conversation with the principal while still remaining anonymous. The person also will be able to request a face-to-face meeting.

ACPS Partners in Community Town Hall on E-cigarette Use—On Tuesday, May 14, the Tobacco Free Community Coalition held a town hall on e-cigarette use in our community in partnership with Albemarle County and Charlottesville City schools, Region Ten, the Thomas Jefferson Health District, and UVA Cancer Center. The town hall served as an opportunity to talk with experts about the latest harmful products on the market, their use in our community, and recommended preventive measures to safeguard the health of your children.

Earlier this year, Governor Northam signed into law a bill that prohibits anyone under the age of 21 from purchasing or possessing tobacco and related products, such as e-cigarettes. This new law, which takes effect on July 1, follows evidence that e-cigarette use among young people is continuing to increase.

As one U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner has said, there is an “epidemic of e-cigarette use that has gripped the nation's youth ... The disturbing and accelerating trajectory of use we're seeing in youth, and the resulting path to addiction, must end.”

ACPS principals report a significant amount of e-cigarette use among students. These products come in many different varieties (such as vapes or JUUL) and easily are concealed because they do not emit smoke or an odor. The hope is that these changes in legislation paired with increased information and community dialogue will lower the incidence of e-cigarette use amount ACPS students.

Dr. Stephen Saunders Appointed as Greer Elementary School's Next Principal, Effective July 1—Dr. Stephen Saunders, who has served as the principal at Baker-Butler Elementary School for the past five years, has been appointed as Greer Elementary School's next principal, effective July 1. Saunders will succeed Jill Lee, who is relocating. Saunders is returning to a familiar area, as he served as an assistant principal at Jouett Middle School, which is located on the same campus as Greer, from 2008 until 2012. While at Jouett, he was a literacy volunteer for Greer students, which led him to want to serve at the elementary school level.

During his leadership, Baker-Butler received both state and national recognition for its innovative work around design thinking, which is a methodology for collaborative problem solving through empathy. Other achievements included significant increases in the state's Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores and noteworthy decreases in the achievement gaps for every student demographic group.

"Dr. Saunders is the obvious choice to lead Greer going forward," Keiser said. "The emphasis he places on collaboration between school and community, his welcoming of new ideas, and his focus on tapping the highest potential of every student and every professional all will build on Jill Lee's accomplishments in taking Greer to new heights," she said. Greer is the most diverse school in the division, with a student body that is 31 percent Black, 26 percent Hispanic, 26 percent White, and 11 percent Asian. One-third of its students are English Learners.

Saunders received his B.A. with Honors from Hampden-Sydney College and earned both a Master of Arts and a Master of Education from the University of Virginia (UVA). He also earned his Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from UVA. His doctoral dissertation examined how to support the motivation and reading skills of students struggling in school. He began his career in education teaching undergraduates at UVA and taught in the Charlottesville City school division for seven years before joining Albemarle County schools.

After Highly Successful Pilot Year, Center I at Seminole Place Is Expanding Enrollment for High School Seniors This August; Students Can Earn up to 16 College Credits—High school seniors who attend Albemarle County Public Schools' self-directed learning center, Center I at Seminole Place, will be able to earn up to 16 college credits in English, Government, and Information Technology courses next year as the result of a new Early College Learning Experience being offered at the center.

Much like collegians, students will manage their weekly schedules, providing them with the flexibility to also pursue such work-based learning experiences as internships or part-time employment or to choose additional course work.

Michael Craddock, whose experience as an educator includes the development of an award-winning computer science program at Monticello High School, has been appointed as the Center's first director. Craddock currently oversees the Virtual Learning and Career and Technical Education programming for all of the division's schools as a Lead Coach.

Billed as a "center for innovation and invention," Center I opened last August and serves 21 seniors in a pilot program. Students build a portfolio of work that demonstrates their learning experiences across disciplines. Portfolios can be presented to earn a course credit and/or can apply as evidence of learning toward other classes. Participation at Center I is only part of a student's overall schedule; they still have access to additional coursework at their base high school as part of an alternating day rotation. Center I students also continue to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities and events at their base school.

Following a successful pilot year and based upon demand, the school division is expanding Center I enrollment to serve as many as 60 students. Any student who will be a senior this August at any one of the division's four high schools is eligible to attend the center. Students should consult with their school counselor if they would like to know more about the center experience or to register their interest.

Three Elementary Schools, Murray, Stone-Robinson and Woodbrook, Will Have New Principals on July 1, All of Whom Have Served as Principals in the Division—ACPS announced today that three elementary schools will be receiving new principals on July 1. The schools are Murray, Stone-Robinson and Woodbrook, and in each case, the new principal is serving or has served as an elementary school principal in the division.

Lisa Molinaro, who has been Woodbrook's principal since 2010 and led the school through its recent modernization and expansion, will be joining the division's central staff as a Lead Coach. Her responsibilities will include working with instructional coaches and teachers on the sharing of best instructional practices.

She will be succeeded by Kristen Williams, Stone-Robinson's principal since 2015. Under Williams' leadership, student test scores on the state's Standards of Learning (SOL) exams have steadily improved and the school expanded its project partnerships with community organizations.

In turn, Williams will be succeeded by Mark Green, now completing his ninth year as the principal of Murray Elementary School. Under his leadership, Murray students have consistently outperformed their peers across the state on SOL exams, with pass rates often exceeding 90 percent. This school year, the state Board of Education presented Murray with an Award of Excellence for their student achievement.

Alison Dwier-Selden, a Lead Coach in the central office, who previously served as the principal of Yancey Elementary School and Walton Middle School, will be the new principal at Murray. Dwier-Selden's current responsibilities include supporting K-8 Language Arts instruction in the division as well as the preschool program and Title I schools. While she was principal at Yancey,

students earned among the top SOL reading scores in the division. At Walton, she introduced a program to strengthen the social and emotional development of students.

Albemarle, Charlottesville Communities Honor 40 Teachers From Public, Private Schools for Their Classroom Excellence in 18th Annual Golden Apple Award Celebration—The 18th annual Golden Apple Awards celebration on May 16 in Lane Auditorium of the County Office Building honored 40 teachers from public and private schools across Charlottesville City and Albemarle County for their service to students. Honorees were selected for the award based upon demonstrated excellence in the classroom, innovative instructional strategies and techniques, and their involvement in the local community. Students, parents, members of the community, and other educators submitted nominations. Teachers selected for the award represent less than two percent of all teachers in our area's public and private schools.

Better Living Building Supply and Cabinetry has sponsored the Golden Apple Awards since their inception. The company's chairperson, Mr. Richard Nunley, often has talked about the impact that an exceptionally talented and caring teacher can have on the life of a student.

Honorees were chosen by a selection committee including retired Albemarle County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kevin Castner, as chair; Bekah Saxon, who represented Blue Ridge Uniserve; Jakki Crocker from Charlottesville City Schools' Parent Council; Rhonda Angel from the Parent Council for Albemarle County Public Schools; and retired Albemarle County principals, Karen Marcus and Jo Vining.

In addition to a brass Golden Apple, eight teachers received a \$1,000 grant from Better Living Building Supply and Cabinetry for classroom programs next year. Drawn by lottery, those teachers included Will Cooke of Charlottesville High School; Scottsville Elementary School's LeAnna Dalton; Meaghan Fenton from Jackson Via Elementary School; Kathleen Kogge from the Community Public Charter School; Western Albemarle High School's Monica Laux; Lindsay Lowdon from Charlottesville Catholic School; Melissa Mitchem from Buford Middle School; and from Meriwether Lewis Elementary School, Rachel Shamey.

This year's Golden Apple honorees include:

April Barefoot, Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
Christopher Lennon, Albemarle High School
Cynthia Shepard, Baker-Butler Elementary School
Peter Bonds, Blue Ridge School
Elizabeth Strauss, Broadus Wood Elementary School
Trevor Bricker, Brownsville Elementary School
Melissa Mitchem, Buford Middle School
Andrew LaPrade, Burley Middle School
Christopher Lorigan, Burnley-Moran Elementary School
Olivia Eads Delph, Cale Elementary School
Megan Panek, CATEC
Lindsay Lowdon, Charlottesville Catholic School
Will Cooke, Charlottesville High School

Robin Ellis, Clark Elementary School
Kate Kogge, Community Public Charter School
Susan Love, Covenant School
Atlanta Hutchins, Crozet Elementary School
Kathleen Claus, Greenbrier Elementary School
Lori Alridge, Greer Elementary School
Lisa Boyce, Henley Middle School
Marie Decker, Hollymead Elementary School
Gabe Planas, Jouett Middle School
Meghan Fenton, Jackson Via Elementary School
Maelys Croce, Johnson Elementary School
Michael McCrory, Lugo-McGinness Academy
Rachel Shamey, Meriwether Lewis Elementary School
Meghan Streit, Monticello High School
Emilie Pastorfield, Murray Elementary School
Frances Racette, Murray High School
Matt Ewen, Red Hill Elementary School
LeAnna Dalton, Scottsville Elementary School
Jared Passmore, St. Anne's Belfield School
Tal Thompson, Stone-Robinson Elementary School
Keren Heckathorn, Stony Point Elementary School
Heidi Morse, Sutherland Middle School
Melissa Combs, Venable Elementary School
Kevin Paquette, Walker Upper Elementary School
Makenzie Crawford, Walton Middle School
Monica Laux, Western Albemarle High School
Marian McCullough, Woodbrook Elementary School

32 ACPS Students From Six Teams Selected for Destination Imagination's Global Competition; Albemarle High School Team Is State Champion

—Six teams and 32 students from Albemarle County Public Schools have earned spots in Destination Imagination's Global Finals at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri, following the Virginia state competition earlier this month. One team from Albemarle High School took first place at the regional and state tournaments and received a Renaissance Award for proposing a distinctive solution to its challenge.

Destination Imagination (DI) is a worldwide program that began in 1999. Its mission is to “develop opportunities that inspire the global community of learners to utilize diverse approaches in applying 21st century skills and creativity.”

Each year, 150,000 students and 38,000 parent volunteers from 48 states and 30 countries compete in one of seven challenge categories. The categories include technical, scientific, engineering, fine arts, service learning, early learning, and improvisation. Students work on presentations and exhibits that solve a challenge posed to them in the fall. Regional and state competitions determine which teams will compete in the Global Finals, which brings together more than 1,400 teams from around the world.

Each student team can include up to seven members with an adult serving as a mentor or an advisor. Mentors are not permitted to assist students as they develop their ideas into presentations. Most teams begin work in September with local tournaments in February. Competition levels span pre-K through college.

The Global Competition this year took place on May 22-25 and, for most teams, presents perhaps the most difficult challenge of all: It's estimated that it costs over \$10,000 per team to be able to make the trip to Kansas City. Students now are engaged in various fundraising activities to make the trip possible.

Albemarle County students who qualified for the Global Finals include:

From Albemarle High School, Kevin Cain, Julia Duvas, Cassidy Guyton, Katy Haden, Sabrina Shisbey, and Elly Zarzyski; Mentor is Steph Haden. Members of a second team from Albemarle include Jackie Joyce, Alia Konold, Emma McMullen, Samantha Sanford, and Sophia Yu; Mentor is Lynette Sanford.

From Sutherland Middle School, Ben Baker, Sean Fu, Landon Hall, Adam Kester, Jack Liebengood, and Bennon Papin; Mentor is Sarah Papin. A second team from Sutherland includes Quiming Fu, Evelyn Flasscheon, Luke Leroux, and Maggie Leroux, as well as Sarah Leroux from Hollymead Elementary School; Mentor is Diane Leroux.

From Brownsville Elementary School, Thomas Crabtree, Payton Haium, Harper Kalergis, Maddox Nauman, and Riley Warnick; Mentors are Jacqueline Thomas and Susan Kalergis. Members of a second team from Brownsville are Ava Cairns, Angelina Gao, Clemente Norambuena, Hannah Miller, and Samuel Miller; Mentors are SalleeAnn Miller and Yingjiu Nie.