



## Board-to-Board, June 2019

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

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**Boys & Girls Club Lease**—At its June 13 meeting, the Board approved a 40-year lease with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Virginia to operate a new 35,000 square foot club facility adjacent to Jouett Middle School. The program will provide after-school academic and recreational support for up to 300 children between the ages of 6 and 18 each day. Participants will pay a \$35 yearly fee and the club offers financial assistance. The club will finance the building and operation of the facility. Shortly after our action, the club announced a \$13.5 million gift from Merrill and Jaffray Woodruff, that will be used to build the facility.

**School Board Retreat**—The Board continued its evaluation of the three priorities in our current strategic plan, creating a culture of high expectations for all, identifying and removing practices that perpetuate the achievement gap and ensuring that students identify and develop personal interests. Our goal is to develop specific metrics and timelines for meeting each of these priorities. Our current strategic plan, *Horizon 2020*, will be updated next year.

The Board also reviewed challenges facing the Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP), which is self-sustaining but still generating waitlists. The new Boys & Girls Club facility will have a modest impact in meeting this county-wide need but it is likely that in its current configuration, there still will be after-school care needs not being met across the county.

**Graduation**—At exercises this year at the four high schools plus Ivy Creek and Post High, just over 1,040 students received their diplomas. Nearly two out of three graduates earned Advanced Studies Diplomas, representing the most rigorous course of studies available to students. Unofficially, 64 percent of our graduates, compared to a statewide rate of 52 percent, received these diplomas. Overall, the county's on-time graduation rate of 92.7 percent exceeds both state and national averages. Albemarle's rate has surpassed the statewide average for all 11 years that on-time graduation rates have been calculated.

Also this year, 186 CATEC students participated in the center's Completer Ceremony. Overall at CATEC, 161 students this year earned 1,825 college credits.

**Leadership Changes**—Darah Bonham, who has served as Western Albemarle's principal since 2015, has been appointed as the principal of Albemarle High School effective July 1. He succeeds Dr. Jesse Turner, who announced that he will join Charlottesville City Schools as the principal of its Buford Middle School. Also announced this month was a new responsibility for the division's longest serving principal, Lisa "DeeDee" Jones, who will join the Center for

Learning & Growth as its student services officer. She completed her 12<sup>th</sup> year as Cale principal this month. The division also said that a former principal of the year for Alexandria City Schools, Seth Kennard, will join Baker-Butler Elementary School next month as its new principal. He succeeds Dr. Steven Saunders, who was appointed as Greer's new principal.

***Culturally Responsive Teachers***—At our June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we recognized the largest class of educators, 23, to receive certification in culturally responsive teaching. This program requires teachers to re-evaluate their strategies and practices for connecting with a demographically diverse group of students. There's a great deal of self-reflection and professional development work required and educators have to show evidence of academic progress in the classroom to earn certification.

***Community Panel Discussion on School to Prison Pipeline***—As part of the nationally-award winning M-Cubed Program, students in this summer's academy have been conducting research on the school-to-prison pipeline phenomenon. They will present their findings at a community town hall at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26 in Lane Auditorium. Two expert panels will react to the student findings and discuss other research that suggests students of color are several times more likely to be suspended from school than their white peers. Members of the community will be able to interact with the students and panel members.

***Summer Food Service Program***—Now in its second year, nine of our schools began offering free breakfast and lunch to any county resident 18 years of age or younger this week. The program is funded by the federal government and with the exception of the July 4 holiday, will run through July 19. Meals are available both in the cafeterias or as take-home at Agnor-Hurt, Burley, Cale, Greer, Jouett, Red Hill, Scottsville, Walton and Woodbrook.

***Cale Advisory Committee***—The community advisory panel reviewing the naming of Paul Cale Elementary School held their public comment meeting on June 18. The committee has invited members of the Cale family to meet with them later next month. The committee has one additional meeting scheduled in August. Under the School Board's revised policy for the naming or re-naming of facilities, the committee is required to make a recommendation to Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas no later than August 26. Dr. Haas will then make a recommendation to the Board. If it is decided that the school name will be changed, the advisory committee will reconvene for the purposes of recommending a new name.

***Virginia Index of Performance Awards***—Four schools received Virginia Excellence of Performance (VIP) Awards from the state Board of Education and the Governor's Office. The awards are based upon schools meeting state and federal accountability requirements for two consecutive years based upon attaining levels of proficiency in such statewide assessments as standards-of-learning (SOL) tests. Murray Elementary School received the Board of Education's Excellence Award and three schools, Hollymead, Meriwether Lewis and Stone-Robinson, received the board's Distinguished Achievement Award.