



Board-to-Board, December 2019

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

School Board Seeking Volunteers to Serve on Planning, Health Advisory Boards—The Albemarle County School Board is accepting applications from county residents who are interested in serving their community as a member of either the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee or the School Health Advisory Board. Both committees contend with issues that significantly influence the future quality of public education in the county.

The school board will appoint five individuals to the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee, including representatives from the Jack Jouett, Rivanna, Scottsville, and White Hall magisterial districts, and a member at-large. Also open are eight seats on the School Health Advisory Board, including representatives from the Jack Jouett, Rio, Rivanna, Samuel Miller, Scottsville, and White Hall magisterial districts, plus an at-large member and an additional health professional member. For both advisory groups, the term of office is two years.

The Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) informs and advises the superintendent and school board in the development of comprehensive, long-term plans for facility needs in the most effective way and in support of the school division's strategic plan. Committee members must reside in the magisterial district they represent, with the exception of the at-large seat, which any resident of the county may hold.

The School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) assists with developing health policy in the school division and evaluating the status of school health, health education, the school environment, and health services. The advisory board typically meets quarterly and reports annually on the status and needs of student health in the school division to any relevant school, the school board, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Education.

Albemarle County Public Schools Satisfaction Survey Opens—Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) has released its annual [Community Satisfaction Survey](#). The community survey results, together with input from the school division's advisory committees, which includes parents and teachers, will help inform Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas's funding request for the next school year. The superintendent will deliver his 2020-21 school year proposal to the School Board at its meeting on January 23, 2020. Responses are due by 11:59 PM on Friday, December 20.

Mountain View Will Be Recommended to the School Board as the Cale Elementary School's New Name—Following its meeting on December 10, the Cale Community Advisory Committee unanimously agreed the new name should be Mountain View Elementary School.

Committee Chairman Dennis Rooker said he plans to attend the Albemarle County School Board meeting on January 9 to formally present the Board with the committee's recommendation. The name was chosen by the school community, who took a vote in which more than 800 Cale students and teachers participated. Their overwhelming choice was Mountain View, a suggestion that originally came from students last month.

In addition to the election held at the school to decide upon the six names that were proposed by the advisory committee, the school also had a suggestion box, which yielded more than 300 entries for consideration. In choosing the six finalists, the advisory committee picked from among those suggestions. In a community survey earlier this year, the majority of respondents said the new name should be based upon the school's location. In addition to Mountain View, the advisory committee also considered Avon, Avon Ridge, Biscuit Run, Mill Creek, and Southside as possible new names for the school.

Paul Cale, after whom the school was originally named, served as superintendent of schools from 1947 until 1969; a plaque to be displayed in the school to note his service.

State of the Division Report—In November, ACPS staff presented the [2019 State of the Division report](#) to the School Board. The report is titled, "A Work in Progress," meant to convey that the public school system is an engine of progress and also a place where continuous improvements are being made.

Included in the report is information on student academic performance and the performance of individual schools, as well as reports on equity and department operations. According to school division officials, there are three primary objectives in sharing this information publicly. First, the school division uses the State of the Division report as an accountability mechanism through which it can identify weaknesses, address root causes, and track future progress in meeting targets. Second, the report becomes the rationale for the decisions school officials make. Third, sharing this report with our stakeholders, including students and their families, employees, and community members, provides another opportunity for engagement.

Stakeholder feedback is an essential component of the continuous improvement process. Parents, for example, are encouraged to engage with their child's school and provide input to the school's improvement plan. (Improvement plans can be accessed from each school's homepage.)

Community members also encouraged to contribute to our efforts to learn, adapt and succeed by participating in school board and community meetings, serving on advisory committees, and completing online surveys.