



## Board-to-Board, February 2020

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

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***Albemarle County Public Schools (“ACPS”) Funding Request Next Steps***—On Tuesday, February 25, the Albemarle County School Board will present its funding request to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors for review and adoption as part of the county’s overall budget for the new year. The School Board will then formally adopt a budget in April. For more detailed information, the request is on the ACPS Fiscal Department’s website (<https://www.k12albemarle.org/dept/osp/fiscal/budget/Pages/2020-21-Budget-Development.aspx>).

***Proposed Merger of Division’s Two Charter Schools***—At the February 13 Albemarle County School Board meeting, Chad Ratliff, the principal of Murray High School and the Community Public Charter School (CPCS) proposed to the Albemarle County School Board that the two schools be merged into one beginning next August.

Students from the middle and high schools already share the same building within Murray High School, but students receive instruction in separate portions of the building. Currently, 81 students attend Murray and 58 are enrolled in CPCS.

Mr. Ratliff’s proposal was in the form of an amendment to the Murray charter, which is before the School Board for its five-year renewal. The Board could decide to merge the two schools as early as their work session on February 27.

Average scores by both schools on the state’s required Standards of Learning (SOL) tests this past year exceeded their counterparts across the state. Compared to two years ago, applications to the two schools have grown significantly, from six new applicants for CPCS to 130 this year, and from 12 new applicants to 90 for Murray High School.

***Layla Boubier Wins Division Spelling Bee for the Third Time***—An eighth-grade student at Henley Middle School became the school division’s first three-time champion at the division’s 15th annual Spelling Bee. In 21 rounds of competition among the 21 students who won their individual school championships, Layla Boubier captured her title by spelling both *sotto voce* and *resiliency* in the final round.

More than a thousand students in grades 3-8 competed in their school-wide spelling bees beginning this past November.

Ingrid Flaherty, a seventh-grade Burley Middle School student, finished second. The top six placements qualify for the regional competition, which will include champions from public and private schools throughout Central Virginia. The Regional Bee will be at Albemarle High School on Saturday, March 7, beginning at 10 a.m.

In addition to Layla and Ingrid, the four students who qualify for the Regional Bee are all elementary school students and include Maximilian Alhusen from Brownsville; Sophia Aylor from Woodbrook; Louis DeFranzo from Agnor-Hurt; and Hayden Castle from Meriwether Lewis.

This is the fifth consecutive year in which Layla will be participating in the Regional Bee, with the winner qualifying for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held the week of May 24-29 at National Harbor, Maryland.