



Board-to-Board, April 2020

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

Sutherland's Community Advisory Committee Suspends Its Review of Names—In support of COVID-19 public health guidance limiting public meetings, Albemarle County Public Schools announced on March 30 that the school naming review of Sutherland Middle School has been suspended.

Sutherland's school name is being reviewed by the committee as part of a process across the school division that is examining the names of all 14 schools named for individuals. Earlier this year, the first school to undergo a community review was Cale Elementary, which on July 1, will become Mountain View Elementary School.

Sutherland's community advisory committee was appointed on February 25 and held its first meeting on March 2. It approved an online survey which sought recommendations from the public on names for their school for the committee's consideration. A March 20 public meeting to obtain comment on the names suggested in the survey was postponed in alignment with COVID-19 public health measures.

Jason Lee Appointed Western Albemarle High School's New Principal—Jason Lee, currently an assistant principal at the school division's largest high school, Albemarle, has been appointed as the new principal at Western Albemarle High School, effective July 1. He will succeed Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, who is completing his term as the school's interim principal. Dr. McLaughlin will be returning to his role as the school division's Chief of Strategic Planning, also on July 1.

Lee formerly served as an assistant principal at Ivy Creek School and Fluvanna County High School as well. At Albemarle, his responsibilities included assisting with the development of the school's crisis management plan; managing its budget and its student transportation network; overseeing after-school activities, staff professional development, discipline, career and technical education, physical education, and fine arts instruction.

Throughout his career, Lee has had the opportunity to work with teachers across a range of disciplines and has built strong relationships with students and their parents. He also has been an advocate for two important areas of interest across the division—the expansion of its culturally responsive teaching strategies and practices as well as the current redesign of high school learning experiences.

Lee's career as an educator began as a special education teacher for Cumberland County Public Schools before joining Prince Edward County High School. He became an assistant high school principal for Fluvanna County in 2011, moving to Ivy Creek in 2017 and Albemarle High School a year later.

Lee is a graduate of Longwood University and received his Master's in Administration and Supervision from Liberty University. His experience also includes coaching high school football and basketball and designing elementary and high school physical education and health classes, in which he integrated lessons in math and English.

School Board Adds Virtual Meetings on COVID-19 at 2 p.m. on April 2, May 7, June 18 & July 16—At their virtual meeting on March 26, the Albemarle County School Board added four COVID-19 related meetings to their upcoming schedule. These meetings began on Thursday, April 2 and are intended to provide Board members with updated information on the school division's COVID-19 management plan and on any additional resources needed for the plan's implementation and providing instructional support for students over the next two months.

The plan can be accessed on the division's COVID-19 Management Plan web page at www.k12albemarle.org/coronavirus. The division is completing its instructional plans for all students.

These meetings are all scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Members of the public will be able to virtually attend the meeting by using the school division's link for live streaming school board meetings at <http://streaming.k12albemarle.org/ACPS/player.htm?xml/schoolboard.xml>.

The Albemarle County School Board's virtual meetings follow an opinion issued by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring that said, in part, Virginia law allows public bodies to conduct meetings electronically if "the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency," which includes meeting "to make decisions that must be made immediately and where failure to do so could result in irrevocable public harm."

The opinion also cited a provision in state law that allows local governing bodies to adopt local ordinances to support the continuity of government. This past Friday, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors adopted such an emergency ordinance that waives in-person quorum requirements for public bodies and expands the scope of business that can be conducted at virtual meetings. The ordinance includes meetings of the School Board.

Also added to the School Board's schedule are virtual meetings on May 7, June 18, and July 16. All begin at 2 p.m.

Community members can address Board members on school division issues by email at schoolboard@k12albemarle.org or by postal mail at 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Albemarle County School Board Creates Virtual Opportunities for Public Comment—In support of safety measures to protect against COVID-19, the Albemarle County School Board has created new ways for speakers from the community to engage in public comment virtually at board meetings. Speakers are asked to sign up using the “Public Comment Sign-Up” link available at www.k12albemarle.org/board. The sign-up window will open on the Monday prior to the meeting, and speakers must sign up to speak by 4 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

Those who have signed up to speak will receive a link from the School Board Clerk on the day of the meeting. The link will allow speakers to access the virtual meeting via Zoom. If there are multiple speakers, all will enter a virtual waiting room until it is their turn. They will be able to hear meeting proceedings while they are waiting.

When it is a speaker’s turn, their access to Board members will be activated by the Clerk and they will have up to three minutes to deliver their remarks. Their access will be completed after no more than three minutes.

Two More Neighborhood Locations Added to School Division’s Student Meal Service Program, Now at 20 Locations—Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) added two additional sites to its breakfast and lunch distribution program beginning Monday, April 6. The new locations are Broadus Wood Elementary School and the Four Seasons complex, in the lower parking lot parallel to Four Seasons Drive.

These new locations bring the number of sites to 20 where Albemarle County students and siblings are able to pick up “grab-and-go” breakfasts and lunches. Meals are available to all Albemarle County students and siblings ages 18 or younger, free of charge and regardless of family income. Meals can be picked up by a representative for the student. The program is currently providing 1,100 meals a day to students. School buses are used to deliver the meals to all neighborhood sites.

Although schools were closed by Governor Ralph Northam in response to public meeting restrictions to contain and prevent COVID-19 illnesses, the meal program will continue through June 5 when the school year was to end. The only weekday that meals will not be available is on the Memorial Day holiday, which is Monday, May 25.

The school division began offering meals to students at six school locations on Tuesday, March 17, and added 11 more sites throughout the county on Wednesday, March 25. Yancey Community Center was added on March 30.

With the exception of Memorial Day, May 25, meals are available Monday through Friday at the following locations and times:

Northern Albemarle Service Sites

10:30 to 10:55 a.m. (*New service location as of April 6*)

- North Woods at the Four Seasons (lower parking lot parallel to Four Seasons Dr)
Timber Trail Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22901

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Albemarle High School (back covered patio across from stadium)
2775 Hydraulic Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901
- Sutherland Middle School (front-right walkway entrance)
2801 Powell Creek Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22911
- Woodbrook Elementary School (walkway in front of school)
100 Woodbrook Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22901

11 to 11:30 a.m.

- Abbington Crossing Apartments (near the pool)
1000 Old Brook Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901
- Granite Park Apartments (upper-back parking lot)
2407 Peyton Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22901

11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Mallside Forest Apartments (near the pool)
816 Mallside Forest Ct, Charlottesville, VA 22901

11:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

- University Heights Apartments
250 Colonnade Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22903

12:20 to 12:35 p.m. (*New service location as of April 6*)

- Broadus Wood Elementary School
185 Buck Mountain Rd, Earlysville, VA 22936

Southern Albemarle Service Sites

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Monticello High School (front walkway near auditorium)
1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, VA 22902

- Walton Middle School (front entrance walkway)
4217 Red Hill Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903

11 to 11:15 a.m.

- James River Boys & Girls Club
300 Page St, Scottsville, VA 24590

11 to 11:30 a.m.

- Southwood Boys & Girls Club
383 Hickory Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902
- Wilton Farm (main office)
1475 Wilton Farm Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22911

11:30 to 11:45 a.m.

- Yancey School Community Center
7625 Porters Rd, Esmont, VA 22937

11:45 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

- Cismont Market
5412 Louisa Rd, Keswick, VA 22947

12:10 to 12:25 p.m.

- Red Hill Elementary School
3901 Red Hill School Rd, North Garden, VA 22959

12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

- Stone-Robinson Elementary School
958 North Milton Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22911

Western Albemarle Service Sites

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Western Albemarle High School (front walkway near dining area)
5941 Rockfish Gap Turnpike, Crozet, VA 22932

11 to 11:30 a.m.

- Claudius Crozet Park
1075 Claudius Crozet Park, Crozet, VA 22932

A complete list of student meal service locations and times may be found on our website at www.k12albemarle.org/meals. Families and students are reminded at all locations to exercise social distancing while obtaining their meals. Anyone with special needs, including being unable to get to any of the distribution sites, should call Child Nutrition at 434-295-0566.

Albemarle County Student Wins Grand Award at Virginia State Science Fair, Students Earn 46 Regional Science Awards, Including Both “Grand Award” Honors, One with Applications for COVID-19—An ACPS student has won the Grand Award at the Virginia State Science Fair, and ACPS students earned both Grand Awards at the 39th annual Virginia Piedmont Regional Science Fair (VPRSF) held on March 4 in John Paul Jones Arena. One of the Grand Award-winning projects, that of sophomore Katharina Ravichandran, examines the effectiveness of quarantine, hygiene and vaccinations in dealing with infections like COVID-19. Overall, students from Albemarle, Western Albemarle, and Monticello high schools received 46 awards at the show, including nine first-place awards in the 17 show categories. Students from Sutherland and Henley middle schools received eight awards in their division, including first place in Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, and Environmental Management.

Meena Ambati, an Albemarle High School sophomore, won a Grand Award and first place in Medicine & Health Sciences for her project, “Triangulating Fluoxetine Into a Novel Macular Degeneration Therapy via Biochemical, in Vivo & Big Data Approaches.” There is no FDA-approved treatment for dry macular degeneration. Meena discovered that Fluoxetine, a drug already approved by the FDA for treating clinical depression, protects the retina, and could be repurposed for dry macular degeneration as potentially the first treatment for this disease. Meena went on to the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair and won first place in the Biomedical Engineering and Translational Medical Science Category, a US Air Force Award, and an overall Grand Award (3rd place). This is the first time in over a decade that an ACPS student has won a Grand Award at the state science fair.

The second Grand Award was earned by Katharina Ravichandran, an Albemarle High School sophomore, for her first-place project in Mathematical Sciences. Her study, “Application of Mathematical Modeling to Herd Immunity,” focused on identifying the minimum percentage of the population that needs to be vaccinated to achieve protective herd immunity for measles. “Herd immunity” is a population's resistance to the spread of an infectious disease due to a sufficiently high proportion of individuals that are vaccinated/immune, and it is critical to protect the immunocompromised, who cannot be vaccinated. By simultaneously considering 13 different parameters, she found that a minimum of 93% of the population has to be vaccinated to achieve the herd immunity necessary to protect the immunocompromised and the greater population.

Meena and Katharina automatically qualified for the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair and are receiving \$2,000 scholarships from VPRSF.

Also among the first-place winners are:

- James Henter of Monticello High School, who won in the Biochemistry category for his study on pain relief. In this experiment, he compared different formulations of three pain

medications using simulated stomach acid and intestinal fluid. His teacher is Corinne Lindemann.

- Krishan Perumal of Albemarle High School, whose teacher is Alan Tarrab and who won in the category of Cellular & Molecular Biology. In this study, used CRISPR & viral approaches were examined in order to better understand novel osteogenic genes.
- In the Materials & Bioengineering category, Darrah Sheehan and Kimball Sheehan of Western Albemarle High School. They won for their investigation of the tumoricidal effects of sound therapy on malignant brain tumors. Their teacher is Carol Stutzman.
- For the Environmental Management category, Emily Chang and Calel Colon of Albemarle High School. Chang and Calel took first for their examination of the prevention of climate change-induced flooding in pipe infrastructure on the coast. Their teacher is Adrian Lorenzoni.
- Opeyemi Balogun, Anya Le, and Kevin Lee of Albemarle High School, all taught by Alan Tarrab. They won the Environmental Sciences category for their project that mapped the sources of microplastics in rivers and streams.
- Charlie Vavrik of Albemarle High School. His win in the Plant Sciences category addressed accessions of flowers and bacteria recruitment. His teacher is Alan Tarrab.
- In the junior division, three Sutherland Middle School entries won first place for their projects. In the Computer Science Category, Sara Czirkjak, Veronica Vitko, and Amalia Keshap won for their project called, “Hedbanz Strategy.” In Environmental Management, Suah Kwon won for a study on the decomposition of peroxide in wastewater, and William Barber won the Environmental Sciences category for a study on plastic waste. These students are all taught by Diana McCullough.
- Blair Stilley, Eliza Thorndike and Elizabeth Yow of Albemarle High School, who won for their project called The Effect of Music on Student Productivity in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category. Their teacher is Alan Tarrab.

According to the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, millions of students worldwide compete each year in local and school-sponsored science fairs. The winners of these events go on to participate in Society-affiliated regional and state fairs in order to qualify for the international event.

Approximately 1,800 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories participate in the international fair to showcase their independent research and compete for up to \$4 million in prizes.

The 2020 Awards Program<http://vprsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020_Awards_Program.pdf>, including a complete list of award recipients from the 39th annual Virginia Piedmont Regional Science Fair, is available online at <http://vprsf.org/fair-information/award-winners/>.