



Board-to-Board, May 2020

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

Graduation of the Class of 2020—High school graduation plans have been adapted to accommodate public health requirements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the distribution of caps and gowns, graduates and their families from each of the four Albemarle County high schools are invited to join principals on an individual basis at the four high schools. They present students with the cover of their diploma, extend congratulations, and have a photo professionally taken. These photos are being incorporated into a professionally produced video for each school, together with prerecorded remarks by each school's principal, our Superintendent, and the Chair of our School Board.

Once all assignments are successfully completed, actual diplomas will be mailed to each graduate.

A graduating class video for each school will be uploaded to YouTube and posted on each school's homepage by June 15, at which time students will be sent a link to the video. Each high school's video will include those special moments that define a graduation ceremony, including, for instance, faculty and student speeches.

Every graduate also will receive a T-shirt with their school logo and colors and with the names of all graduating students from their school on the back of the shirt. Each family will receive a sign celebrating the graduation of their student, with their school's logo and colors, to place in their yard.

Community Asked for Their Views on the Selection of a New Name for the Division's Charter School; Opinion Survey Open Until May 28—The process to decide upon a name for the school division's new charter school has taken another step forward with the publication of an online community survey. The survey, which can be accessed at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/WHKjUZ>, will be open until 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 28.

This past February, the School Board approved the merger of Murray High School (a charter school) and the Community Public Charter School, a middle school, to create a new school serving students in grades 6-12.

Survey participants are asked whether the school's new name should primarily reflect its location, the school division's core values, or a theme that describes the school's culture and

history. They are also invited to submit names for consideration by a school community advisory committee.

The committee will publish the survey results on the school division's School Naming Review website at <https://www.k12albemarle.org/acps/division/school-naming-review/Pages/Murray-High.aspx>. The site also includes information about the division's policy on the naming or renaming of schools and information on all such reviews that have been completed, are in progress, or are planned.

The charter school community advisory committee also will schedule a public meeting to hear comments about the names proposed in the survey. Following this meeting, the committee will select up to 10 names that will be the subject of a second community survey and public meeting.

Ultimately, the committee will finalize a list of three names for review by Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas, who will recommend one name to the School Board for their approval. The school's new name will become effective for the 2020-21 school year.

Consistent with School Board policy, if one of the committee's three finalists is the name of a person, the committee will research that person's role in the community to ensure it is consistent with the school division's four core values of excellence, young people, community, and respect.

Throughout this process, members of the public can email any questions or comments they have to the advisory committee at SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org.

The head teacher for the high school and middle school, Stephanie Passman, is the committee facilitator. Other staff members on the committee include Ratliff, Lucy Akers Allen, Josh Flaherty, and Julie Stavitski. Also serving on the committee are three parents of current students, Alhena Cleveland, Daphne Latham, and Brian Veerhoff, and two parents from feeder schools, Shelley Blakey and Megan Kopley. The committee further includes three students, Gwen Cox, Seth Raffinan, and Chloe Root, and two community representatives who do not have children in a school, Shereen el Mallah and Freddy Jackson. Since any student in Albemarle County is eligible to attend the charter school, all schools in the division are considered to be feeder schools.

Learning Resources for History and Social Science Available for Public Review—Learning resources for social studies, proposed for adoption at the Albemarle County School Board meeting on May 14, 2020, are currently available for public review using the following link: <http://esb.k12albemarle.org/attachments/328baa46-bbd9-40f1-85e6-04af85192bdf.pdf>

Community members may request a copy of the book by emailing Jennifer Sublette at jsublette@k12albemarle.org and submit feedback via email to John Hobson at jhobson@k12albemarle.org.

Following the requisite 30-day public review, staff will consider any feedback received and make appropriate recommendations for action and/or adoption at the July 9, 2020, School Board meeting.

Community Advisory Committee Reviewing the Name of Sutherland Middle School Narrows List of Names Under Consideration to 10—Residents in the Sutherland, Baker-Butler, Hollymead, and Stony Point school communities are being asked to share their views on 10 possible names for Sutherland Middle School in a new public opinion survey. The survey was authorized by the Sutherland community advisory committee that is reviewing the middle school's name, as directed by a School Board policy adopted last year.

The policy required a review of the names of all 14 schools in the division that are named for individuals. Sutherland is the second school to undergo a review.

An initial survey seeking suggestions about the school's name from the public generated more than 400 responses. Following a community meeting on May 11, the advisory committee narrowed the list of names under consideration to 10. They include Hidden Trails, Lake Ridge, Lakeside, Mortimer Y. Sutherland, and North Piedmont. Also, Northern Albemarle, Northside, Rivanna, River Ridge, and Willow Creek.

In the new survey, available at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/9D4fJ2>, members of the public are being asked to select their top three choices for the school's name. The survey will be active until Friday, June 5, at 5 p.m., and results will be posted on the division's School Naming Review website at <https://www.k12albemarle.org/acps/division/school-naming-review/Pages/Sutherland-Middle-School.aspx>.

On Tuesday, June 9, the community advisory committee will conduct its second public meeting at 6:30 p.m. using the Zoom online platform. At this meeting, members of the public will have the opportunity to offer their comments about the survey's findings and the 10 names under consideration.

Following this meeting, the advisory committee will select three names that will be recommended to Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas for his consideration. If any of the names are of individuals, the policy requires that the advisory committee research that person's role in the community in view of the school division's four core values of excellences, young people, community, and respect.

The committee is seeking a parent who has a child at Hollymead to represent their school community as well as a local resident who does not now have a child attending school in our division. Anyone who is interested in serving their community or knows of someone who might be interested should email SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org.

The same email address can be used to send comments or questions to the advisory committee.

The school division has created a website to enable members of the public to track the progress of the Sutherland name review. The site also has information on the relevant School Board policy and about other reviews that have been completed or are planned. The division's School Naming Review website is available at <https://www.k12albemarle.org/acps/division/school-naming-review/Pages/default.aspx>.

Distinguished Expert Panel to Examine COVID-19's Alarming Impact in Black and Latino Communities—Among the more alarming trends associated with COVID-19 illnesses over the past several weeks has been its disproportionate impact in Black and Latino communities. A group of Albemarle County public high school students, who are on the front line of the school division's implementation of its anti-racism policy, put together an expert panel to talk about the reasons for this trend and possible solutions.

On May 23, students from the school division's four high schools examined these issues through a virtual community town hall. The conversation brought together health policy experts and an Intensive Care Unit professional to talk about COVID-19 and its community impact.

Among the panelists was Dr. Cameron Webb, a director of health policy and equity at the University of Virginia and a gubernatorial appointee to the state Board of Medical Assistance Services. Joining Dr. Webb was Dr. Janice Underwood, Virginia's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Lawrence Pilkey, who serves in Sentara Martha Jefferson's Intensive Care Unit, was also on the panel.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the students were working on ideas on how best to implement the school division's anti-racism policy, which was adopted by the School Board in 2019. The policy requires all students, staff, and school board members to participate in training sessions to better understand how structural, institutional and individual racism cause unequal educational outcomes.

Among the priorities already identified by the students for next school year is generating greater awareness among their peers and within the broader Albemarle and Charlottesville communities of the school division's online reporting system, *Anonymous Alerts*. The system can be used to notify school administrators of incidents of racial harassment and bullying in schools so that these incidents can be investigated and resolved.

The students titled Saturday's event, *2020 Vision: Seeing COVID-19 through an Anti-Racist Lens*, and to underscore their most important message, they have named their leadership group, the Student Equity & Advisory Team (SEAT), with an acronym that symbolizes the importance of everyone having a place at the table.

CATEC Holds Virtual Completer Ceremony—Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) hosted its annual Completer Ceremony as a virtual celebration on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. CATEC staff and school board members from Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) and Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) led the graduation ceremony for 170 high school students and 38 adult apprentices. Families and community supporters will be able to watch the ceremony live at 2 p.m. through CATEC's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoHMN6CX4HMQUHsSkBRDyEQ/featured>.

The ceremony included many elements customary to its graduation, including guest speakers and a celebration of accomplishments. CCS Superintendent Dr. Rosa Atkins and ACPS Superintendent Dr. Matt Haas gave commencement addresses. CATEC Center Board Chair

Jennifer McKeever, as a CCS School Board Member, delivered an address to students. Abigail Norton, 2018-19 Building Trades Completer, and Michael Sadikoglu, 2019-20 Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Service Completer, spoke to their classmates.

Five CATEC scholarship recipients were recognized, along with graduates who received awards from their programs. High school students will be honored with a verbal presentation of their certificates, which will physically be distributed later. The Adult Education and Apprenticeship Programs verbally presented their certificates to adult apprenticeship students who have completed four years of technical training through a local employment sponsor. Students are being celebrated with an end-of-year video acknowledging their hard work and dedication throughout the 2019-20 school year.