



Board-to-Board, September 2021

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

Community Advisory Committee to Begin Work Next Week on Recommendations for Moving Brownsville Students to Crozet—When an expanded Crozet Elementary School opens next August, it will welcome more than 600 students, alleviating overcrowding this year at the school and at nearby Brownsville Elementary School.

Brownsville has almost 750 students, close to its capacity, and without redistricting, enrollment projections show steady increases will continue for the next several years, eventually exceeding 900 students. The school currently is using six classroom trailers to help accommodate its student body. Crozet, with a capacity of 328 students, has nearly 340 students. Enrollment projections for the next five years indicate that Crozet could reach 375 students.

At its work session on August 26, the Albemarle County School Board approved the establishment of a community redistricting advisory committee that will make recommendations to Dr. Matthew Haas on how to relocate Brownsville students to the new Crozet Elementary School. The committee will hold four work sessions and two public meetings to complete research and gather community input on which neighborhoods in the Brownsville attendance zone should be moved into the Crozet attendance zone.

The committee will host two online public meetings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 4, and Tuesday, November 9, at <http://streaming.k12albemarle.org/ACPS/publicmeeting.htm>. Prior to those meetings, the advisory committee will share information on various redistricting options with both school communities. Community members can offer comments and suggestions and ask questions.

The committee's final work session will be on November 16, with their recommendation to Dr. Haas shortly thereafter. His recommendation to the school board will be subject to a public hearing and a vote by board members, with an approved plan to take effect next August.

Online committee work sessions, which also can be accessed live through the [public meeting streaming link](#), are scheduled on the following Tuesdays from 6 until 8 in the evening: September 28, October 12, October 26, and November 16. As work sessions, these meetings will not include public comment.

As has been true in prior redistricting projects, once the plan is approved, the school division will begin working with families as early as March on the transition of their children to their new school.

To assist the advisory committee with its research, members of both school communities are encouraged, at any time, to send their comments to the advisory committee for the committee's deliberations at RAC@k12albemarle.org.

As called for in school division policy, the advisory committee includes four members of the Brownsville Elementary community, including Andrew Joyner, Christine Koenig, Jennifer Roper, and Jojo O'Loughlin. Also, four members of the Crozet Elementary community are on the committee, including Rich Anderson, Lauren Carter, Cathryn Davis, and Rupesh Silwal.

Jerrod Smith, a member of the school division's volunteer Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee, will also serve on the redistricting committee, as will Scott Guggenheimer as its Equity and Diversity representative. The school division will provide support from its Chief of Strategic Planning, Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, as well as the departments of finance, transportation, communications, and instruction.

Among the redistricting advisory committee's requirements is to offer a recommendation for new school attendance boundary lines that will remain in place for at least three to five years; are contiguous; consider reasonable walk-to-school areas; keep student bus ride times as low as possible; and provide student demographic balance.

In its decision, the school board may also consider grandfathering Brownsville students, that is allowing them to continue to attend Brownsville in special circumstances, even if their neighborhood is moved into the Crozet attendance zone.

Broadus Wood Elementary School Community Advisory Committee Appointed; Organizational Meeting Scheduled for September 28—The first meeting of the Broadus Wood Community Advisory Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. A total of 14 school and community members have been selected to serve on the committee, which will review the name of the school consistent with a school board directive and the school division's facility naming policy. This organizational meeting will be closed to the public.

Broadus Wood Elementary School is the sixth school in the division to have its name reviewed following the Albemarle County School Board's 2018 decision to have Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Matthew Haas, evaluate all schools named for individuals. Of the division's 25 schools, 14 are named for individuals.

At its organizational meeting, the committee reviewed and approved a community survey that will be sent to families in the school's attendance zone to solicit their preferences for the name of their school. The committee also decided on the dates of two public meetings.

Members of the community and the committee can recommend either a new name be chosen for the school or the retention of its current name. If the advisory committee selects the current

school name as one of its three finalists, the policy requires the committee to examine if Broadus Ira Wood, for whom the school is named, made contributions to the community of state, national or world-wide significance. It also requires committee members to determine if his personal and professional conduct exemplified the school board's values of equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness.

Members of the advisory committee were chosen from among those who expressed interest in serving on the committee. Two committee members are the school's principal, Amy Morris, and the division's Community Education Coordinator, Karen Waters-Wicks. Katie Breaud, who serves the school as a talent development resource teacher, and Ray Chrobak, the school librarian, will serve as the committee's co-chairs.

Two committee members are from the Broadus Wood faculty: Claudia Linton and Deborah Swanson. Both are also alumnae. Five are parents of Broadus Wood students: Tyler Ayres, Kate Hamilton, Matt Muckle, Cornell Sims, and Trevor Thraves. Three live in the school community, but do not have students attending Broadus Wood: Charles Crenshaw, Lance King, and Jodie Webber. Crenshaw is an alumnus of Broadus Wood and the founder and chair of the Albemarle High School Alumni Association. King serves as a faith leader in the Broadus Wood community.

Updates regarding the [Broadus Wood Elementary School Naming Review](#) are accessible on the school division's [School Naming Review](#) website, along with current information on all school naming reviews. Community members with questions or suggestions about the Broadus Wood naming review can email the advisory committee at SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org.

Broadus Ira Wood was born in Earlysville in 1864. He was a farmer and local businessman, and he served on the local school board for over three decades. In 1906, Wood sold four acres of his land for use as the site of Earlysville High School for \$50 and later gave the school two more acres to expand its playing fields. In 1934, two years after Wood's death, Earlysville High School burned down and a new school was built in its place, this time named after Wood. The school transitioned to an elementary school in 1954.

The committee's recommendation on a school name will be provided to the superintendent, who, in turn, will make a recommendation to the school board. The board will make the final decision on the school's name. If that decision is to change the name of the school, the new name would become effective next July 1.

Virtual School at Full Capacity, Waiting List is Established—Planning for the division's new virtual school was based upon an expected enrollment of approximately 400 students, a number derived from parent feedback. In recent weeks, following newly expressed interests, the division was able to make some modest additions to its enrollment but is no longer accepting new students and still maintains optimal class sizes.

Going forward, all requests to enroll in the division's virtual school will be placed on a waiting list. If and when there are openings in the future, virtual school enrollment will be considered for those on the waiting list in the order in which they submitted their request.