



Board-to-Board

February, 2014

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

Election of Officers--The School Board elected new officers at its first meeting of 2014. Ned Gallaway, who served as Vice-Chair last year, will lead the Board as Chair, while Barbara Massie Mouly, member since 2004, will serve as Vice-Chair.

Superintendent's Funding Request--Dr. Pamela Moran presented her needs-based funding request for the 2014-2015 school year to the School Board on January 16. State mandates, board-directed compensation increases to maintain market competitiveness and student enrollment growth will require \$7.64 million in additional expenditures, which exceed the projected funding gap of \$6.98 million in the request. The gap largely is based upon projected expenditure increases of six percent while revenues are estimated to increase by just over one percent. The Board has begun its detailed review of the funding request, which will follow its January 30th public hearing.

MESA Program Wins State Award--The Math, Engineering, and Science Academy was honored by the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition in January. MESA was selected as one of the 2014 "Programs That Work", which recognizes innovative, exemplary programs that have proven effective and that demonstrate important science concepts, skills, and processes. An exhibition of the winners at the Virginia General Assembly building was followed with a reception attended by legislators and state education officials, including Albemarle representative Delegate Steve Landes, who chairs the House Education Committee and is vice-chair of House Appropriations.

Robotics Competition-- Teams from each of the comprehensive high schools participated in the First Tech Challenge Robotics Competition at the University of Virginia on January 11 against students from across the Shenandoah region. Teams from Albemarle and Western Albemarle qualified for the state competition to be held in Richmond later this year.

Composite Index--Delegate Rob Bell has re-introduced a budget amendment to revise Albemarle County's composite index calculation, taking into account the county's revenue sharing agreement with the City. If it is approved, the change could net the county as much as \$2.9 million in additional state aid. Steve Koleszar has visited Richmond to support the amendment. We will know next month whether the amendment will be included in the House's budget bill.

ACPS Graduates Receive Outstanding Faculty Award--The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Dominion Resources named two Albemarle High School graduates as recipients of their 2014 Outstanding Faculty Award. Mrs. Allison Orr Larsen of the College of William and Mary and Dr. Jeffrey McClurken of the University of Mary Washington were recognized for excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration, and public service with the award.

Meriwether Lewis Principal Search— The search process for a new principal at Meriwether Lewis Elementary School is underway and members of the Meriwether Lewis school community will have the opportunity to offer input during the process. Karen Marcus, who has previously served as principal at the division’s Woodbrook and Crozet elementary schools, has been appointed as the acting principal at Meriwether Lewis during the search. The search committee’s objective is to have a new principal in place prior to the end of the current school year.

Agnor-Hurt Renovation—The School Board approved the design for the Agnor-Hurt Elementary School Addition/Renovation project. The construction project will now go out to bid with an award made in time for the work to begin in June. The addition will eliminate overcapacity at the school by adding 132 seats. In keeping with the emphasis of the division’s strategic plan on 21st century learning environments, the addition will include a core instruction pavilion for multi-age instruction including the sciences, interactive communications and literacy curriculum, mathematics work, and project based learning. The addition will provide flexibility for teachers to tailor the learning to the different capabilities of learners and content/curriculum interactions. Site improvements also will include additional parking and building security and a separate entrance and drop-off area for buses. The new space will open for students with the 2015-2016 school year.

School Board website: www.k12albemarle.org