

Baycliff Civic League Minutes
Alanton Elementary
March 16th, 2011

President Claire Polley called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. There were 26 in attendance.

Frank Cunningham introduced Principal Walker from Alanton Elementary and Assistant Principal Sergeant who presented some exciting changes happening at Alanton Elementary.

Alanton Snapshot:

- 650 Students
- Every classroom has an interactive white board.
- Selected as a pilot school with a focus area of responsiveness to student needs leading the way for other schools.
- Pre-K-5 school, Early Discoveries program, Math Coach, Gifted Resource Teacher, Music, Art and PE Specialists.
- 46 instructional staff, 17 paraprofessionals (TA's) over ½ of instructional staff has a graduate degree and the average years of teaching experience is 15 years.
- K-3 initiative school with a ratio of 20:1 which is part of the state's class size reduction effort.
- Diverse school with approximately 1/3 of population as economically disadvantaged.
- 100% fully accredited school by the commonwealth and met all requirements for no child left behind..

Recent Recognition:

- Battle of the Books City Champs where 5 boys read 11 books in 11 weeks coached by Debbie Torres and Tom Stahl.
- 5th Grade teacher Robyn Backer was videotaped by a professional team and is featured as a premier teacher for the best instructional practices for all Virginia Beach City Public School employees to view. The team was looking for a teacher who can seamlessly integrate instructional strategies with technology and 21st century skills.
- Alanton and Horizons (summer enrichment camp for under privileged students) were selected as a model partnership for the 2010-2011 school year which promotes school community partnerships.

Global Citizens:

- About 200 students are participating in the Shamrock run.
- One 5th grade student participated in a mission trip with her father to Honduras for Operation smile. Each year a child receiving the surgery to correct cleft palate visits Alanton Elementary and stays with a host family.
- Jump Rope for heart raised close to \$3000 for the American Heart Association led by Mrs. DeMartini.
- Some classrooms have global connections with other schools and are reading common novels and books and then Skyping with each other conducting literature circles and Socratic Seminars.
- One 1st grade classroom teleconferenced with Astronaut Kelly of Mission 26 while in space.
- Alanton students participated in World Math day and are also participating in World spelling day.

New Staff Members:

- Kindergarten Teaching Assistant, Lynn Jansen, Former Virginia Beach Teacher with several years of experience and a masters degree in education.
- Mary Annese from New York with dual certification in general education and special education (Masters Degree) as well as several years of experience.

Facility:

- PTA Funding to assist with some special landscaping and some “TLC” this spring.
- New lights installed outside and inside at the start of the school year from a federal grant.
- Classroom lights are motion censored to save energy.
- Additional Security cameras installed at the start of the school year.
- Alanton was selected as the summer school site from June 28th through August 4th with feeder schools of Trantwood, Linkhorn Park, John B Dey.

Technology:

- New Microscopes that is hooked to the computer and science probes (that measure and report data) in the science lab. Teachers received training on the probes and Alanton was featured in the school divisions Kaleidoscope.
- 7 lap Top Carts with 24 laptops per cart. Whole school is wireless.
- Promethean Interactive whiteboards in every classroom with supporting document cameras.
- ActivSlates in the computer lab, library, and one used by the math coach becomes a computer screen so teachers can move around the room.
- 2 sets of 32 Active Votes which allow students to respond to teachers questions using a voting “bug”. Brings technology to the classroom and is a “safe” way for all students to participate. Teaches get instant response to gather information.
- Library media specialist received a grant funding the purchase of Tag Readers (Leap Frog) that 1st grade students use in the library and classroom during literacy centers.
- Teachers receive weekly learning sessions with new technology; transitioned now to developing assessments, activities and instruction to engage the students.

Academic:

- Hands on Equations – Math coach is working with all 4th and 5th grade students preparing them for success in Algebra in middle and high school to meet the requirement of all students taking Algebra one by 8th grade.
- Alanton is starting an Elementary Honor Society (only 3 approved charters in Virginia Beach City Public Schools and Alanton is one of them)
- Vocabulary initiative in grades 3, 4 and 5 with direct, targeted vocabulary instruction- thinking beyond elementary school to high school SATs.
- Library has launched another reading incentive program encouraging student reading with the aim of increasing reading stamina.
- Book fair at the end of March open to public. Book Fair money is used to generate new books and technology for student and teacher use.
- March 30th is “Young Author’s night featuring student books.

Alanton is a great place to be! Please be the spokesperson for public education and be our conduit to share the great things going on at Alanton!

General Meeting:

Claire Polley passed around three documents

- City bulletin
- Copy of Proposed budget
- List of nominations from the committee

Claire was called on a meeting open to the public that UVA and ODU are doing on a study on the sea level rise – Meetings scheduled

- March 30 1-4 at the Virginia Aquarium or at 5:30 to 8:30 at Red Mill Elementary School
- March 31st at the Central Library from 8:30 to 11:30 or at Bayside Recreation center from 1 to 4pm.

Minutes from the January 19th meeting were read by recording secretary Janie Cecelic and approved.

Claire Polley passed around a copy of the current budget for review.

Proposed budget will be in the April Bugle for vote at that time.

VBCCO report from John Hogan – meeting was last night, discussion on Virginia Beach Tax Alliance – city needs more revenue – over the last 10 years the spending has doubled – citizenship has declined its value by 7% - city considers this a shortfall of revenue instead of a spending increase. City solution is to find more revenue a suggestion would be to pay to have our trash collected. 2011-2016 council has three priorities –

- Convention Center Resort Hotel – no rooms available during summer peak time.
- Dome sight renovation
- Light Rail - Be sure to tell Bill Desteph and Jim Wood how you feel. (VBTA stated that we probably will not see anything on this until 2013 after the election)

Claire suggested that we try to get John Moss to come speak to our group about Light Rail.

Round of applause went out to Christine Westendorf who was not able to make the meeting but was recognized for her efforts in getting the new directory to our residents.

Jill Frazier reported on the annual Egg Hunt scheduled for April 9th. She needs volunteers for sign in, set up and clean up!

Weaver Wrenn reported that 25 boat keys have been distributed and that the ramp area has been cleaned up.

Claire reported on an update from the city on the flooding of Baycliff Dr. and Hidden Cove. The city has installed a new trash collection devise that will cut down on the high flow. Survey and research have been done now they need to go into field verifications which mean a survey of ALL Baycliff sewer lines, change in elevation, etc. We are 3rd in a 9 back log. Modification and pipe inlet to be further discussed.

3 houses in Baycliff have reported for “bad maintenance” and the zoning commission will be visiting these stores. Not mowing grass, bamboo going out of control, etc.

New Business:

Marian Buis and Bill Seith presented a power point presentation on some suggestions for the community area.

Frank Cunningham announced that we will not be voting on these suggestions tonight. This was all just informational. Hope to be able to vote at the May 18th meeting.

Suggested projects covered were:

- 1. Picnic Pavilion**
- 2. Common Area Entry Gate**
- 3. Tree Work**
- 4. Paving upper/lower levels**

Picnic Pavilion:

- 20 x 20 wood gable structure kit
- 20 x 28 Cement Slab
- Located at the end of the drive to the boat ramp on upper ramp
- Need to check if insurance would allow for a Fire Pit
- Could Possibly get a small fee if resident wanted to “rent” for special event
- Can be used for all our community events
- Includes Power (electricity) for our events (open box with 6 circuits with lock box for access during events)
- Baycliff can work as own contractor
- Cost \$16,500

Entry Gate:

- 2 Large Columns with 10 foot gates
- Can be wood or wrought Iron on wheels and still look nice
- Concrete or Rock Façade
- Cost \$3000

Tree Work:

- 4 trees need to be removed
- Red Tips Need trimming
- Cost \$1395

Paving Estimate:

- Upper \$11,000, Lower \$13,000
- Includes flattening out the current pavement
- Includes the drive
- Adding curbing to prevent breakage would be an added expense but may extend the life of the pavement.
- Do we need to excavate the lower level?

Claire will be meeting with Mike with Nationwide on Friday to determine what our liability is. Damage covered by fire, trees, etc.

Frank mentioned that while we would like to do it all, we can not spend all our funding.

Martin suggested we should keep \$10,000 in reserve. Can move some money (about \$4000) from the checking account to savings.

Frank suggested that we may want to stagger jobs work Pavilion now, paving in fall after summer boating. If we are looking at dredging, we may want to delay any repaving until after the dredging to utilize the boat ramp area as a staging area for dredging.

John Hogan reported on a city project on storm water management program. Started 4-5 years ago about water way quality. Determined that a long range strategy and plan was needed. City had an analysis done on water quality to collect sediment. 417 assessments with 207 neighborhood source assessments. 3 stages of study to be completed in November. Baycliff determined to have high pollution severity; however there were only 3 residents per neighborhood collected.

Dredging Update:

- Met at Bill Page's home to discuss options.
- City brought a couple of options.
- We need a survey to determine the amount of material to be removed.
- Bill Page has arranged to get a survey done at no cost for an estimate.
- Not sure if survey will be accepted by city.
- We need to ask for what we want – possibly just the last 12 houses – no issue for homes on the other end of the creek.
- Suggested that a flyer be put together to put in mail boxes to inform residents of what we are trying to accomplish.
- More information to follow.

Nominate committee met and came up with recommendations. Any other suggestions please contact Marian Buis or Claire Polley. We will be approving the budget at the May vote. April Newsletter will include absentee ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectively submitted,

Recording Secretary, Janie Cecelic