

Report on Yancey Elementary School

May 11, 2017

During the course of the 2016-2017 school year, staff has been providing the School Board with a series of reports and updates on Yancey Elementary School. Specifics of these reports can be found as part of the School Board agendas on the following board meeting dates:

- August 11, 2016
- January 12, 2017
- March 9, 2017
- April 27, 2017

The first three updates addressed student achievement and climate survey information. The April 27th update addressed the current status of two major grants that are significant to Yancey Elementary School. For both grants, a 21st Century Grant and a Title I School Improvement Grant, staff cautioned the School Board that it was likely that the funding would not be available for the 2017-2018 school year.

At the April 27th meeting, staff also informed the School Board that it now appears that Yancey may not reach the original student enrollment projection for the 2017-2018 school year. The 2016-2017 enrollment is 118 and the projection for next year is 108 as the graduating 5th grade class is larger than the projected kindergarten class. Updated estimates for the kindergarten class suggest that it may be less than projected such that Yancey may have an enrollment next year of fewer than 105 students.

All of the above information was discussed by the School Board. The School Board asked staff to bring back to the board meeting on May 11 information related to the potential of closing Yancey and absorbing its students into Scottsville and Red Hill Elementary Schools. The purpose of this report is to provide the School Board with relevant information so that the board has the information that it needs to make decisions on next steps.

This report consists of the following sections:

1. Enrollment
2. Community Use
3. Capital and Operating Budgets
4. Student Transportation
5. Demographics
6. Yancey Workgroup Report (2014)
7. Scottsville and Red Hill Capacities
8. Yancey Climate Survey
9. Yancey Staff
10. Legal Authority
11. Options Available to the School Board

SECTION 1: ENROLLMENT

Yancey K-5 Enrollment History & Projection

| 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 | 21/22 | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| 144 | 131 | 131 | 158 | 168 | 168 | 165 | 138 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 108 | 110 | 113 | 114 | 106 | |
| Projections from Fall 2008 | | | | | 168 | 172 | 169 | 167 | 171 | 178 | 178 | 182 | 191 | 201 | 206 | | | | |

Yancey’s student enrollment peaked at 168 for both the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 school years. At that time, the projection for the 2017-2018 school year was 201 students. In the 2010-2011 school year there was a significant drop in enrollment to 138 students. For the next four years, enrollment stayed in the 130’s but then dropped to 118 in the 2014-2015 school year. That enrollment has remained constant for the past three years but is expected to drop to 108 students for the 2017-2018 school year. The five year projection for the 2021-2022 school year is 106 students.

In the fall of 2016, the school system contracted with the Weldon Cooper Center to prepare a report on future enrollments at all Albemarle County schools. Weldon Cooper used the same basic methodology for calculating enrollment with the exception of kindergarten classes. Kindergarten classes are the most difficult to project as most of those students are not already registered in the school system other than the small number who participate in preschool programs.

Weldon Cooper’s projection for Yancey for the 2017-2018 school year is 110 students and for the 2021-2022 school year is 99 students. It should be noted that Weldon Cooper then has Yancey’s enrollment growing to 116 students over the next five year period. The full Weldon Cooper projections are included as an Appendix.

Red Hill K-5 Enrollment History & Projection

| 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 | 21/22 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 178 | 181 | 159 | 173 | 182 | 185 | 175 | 158 | 158 | 152 | 141 | 153 | 146 | 132 | 129 | 135 | 141 | 140 | 138 |

As with other rural schools in Albemarle County that are outside the county’s defined development areas, student enrollments at Red Hill have been declining and are projected to continue to do so. Red Hill’s enrollment peaked at 185 students in the 2008-2009 school year. Staff projects that Red Hill’s enrollment will be 129 students for the 2017-2018 school year and 138 students in the 2021-2022 school year. Five years later, the staff projection is for 134 students.

Weldon Cooper projects enrollment will be 126 students for the 2017-2018 school year and 112 students in the 2021-2022 school year. Five years later, their projection is for 133 students.

Scottsville K-5 Enrollment History & Projection

| 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 | 21/22 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 180 | 179 | 175 | 170 | 171 | 170 | 170 | 191 | 186 | 180 | 162 | 172 | 178 | 181 | 184 | 188 | 181 | 185 | 182 |

Scottsville’s enrollment peaked at 191 students in the 2010-2011 school year. Staff projects that Scottsville’s enrollment will be 184 students for the 2017-2018 school year and 185 students in the 2021-2022 school year. Five years later, the projection is 182 students.

Weldon Cooper, on the other hand, projects enrollment will be 172 students for the 2017-2018 school year and 162 students in the 2021-2022 school year. Five years later, their projection is for 187 students.

SECTION 2: COMMUNITY USE

The following building use information was extracted from our Building Use System. It is possible that other activities took place without having been scheduled through this system. It is noted that most of the 2016-2017 information is through the end of April and not for the entire school year.

| Organization | Event | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Parks and Recreation | Parks & Rec Open Gym | 24 | 40 | 38 | 33 |
| | Summer Playground Program | | 25 | 18 | |
| | Summer Camp | | | 25 | 40 |
| Yancey Community Work Group | Meeting | 1 | | | |
| Club Yancey | Club Yancey | | 21 | 34 | 145 |
| | Quick Start Tennis | 15 | | | |
| Albemarle County Board of Elections | Elections | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Albemarle County Community Education | Cyber Sundays | 16 | | | |
| Albemarle County Office of Housing | AHIP Community Meeting | | | 1 | |
| Albemarle County Board of Supervisors | Community Meetings | 2 | | | |
| Yancey Elementary School | Various Events/Meetings | 1 | 6 | 11 | 15 |
| | Summer School | | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| | Summer Invention Camp | | | 12 | 8 |
| Girl Scouts | Meetings | | | | 13 |

SECTION 3: CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS

The Yancey operating budget for the 2017-2018 school year is \$1,751,120. If the School Board made the decision to close Yancey, approximately \$990,000 of the operating budget funds would not follow the students to their new schools. Please read the Yancey Staffing section of this report to note that some of this funding might be required to ensure that current Yancey staff have jobs for the 2017-2018 school year.

There is \$205,000 programmed in the capital program for maintenance at Yancey in the next five years. In FY17/18, the capital program has \$15,000 programmed to replace the clock system in the school and another \$80,000 to fund bathroom upgrades. For FY19/20, \$60,000 is planned for kitchen upgrades and \$50,000 to install a new generator.

DART estimates that the cost to bring broadband fiber to Yancey is about \$313,000. This was scheduled to be completed in 2 years and is programmed in the capital program.

These total capital expenditures would no longer be required if the school did not remain open.

SECTION 4: TRANSPORTATION

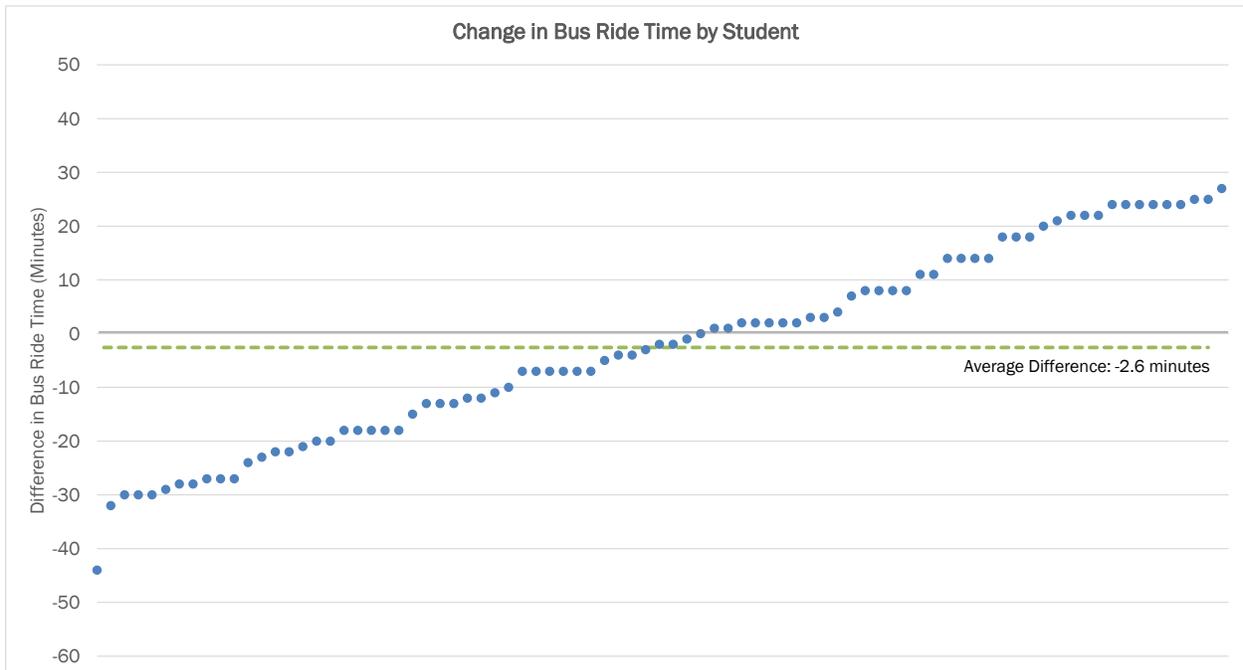
Yancey Elementary School is currently served by 4 school buses. The current average and longest run times for Yancey and Albemarle’s other rural elementary schools are as shown below:

Bus Ride Times (in minutes)

| | Average | Longest |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Brownsville | 22 | 64 |
| Crozet | 23 | 63 |
| Meriwether-Lewis | 26 | 61 |
| Murray | 27 | 55 |
| Red Hill | 28 | 81 |
| Scottsville | 30 | 60 |
| Stony Point | 36 | 58 |
| Stone Robinson | 32 | 60 |
| Yancey | 33 | 62 |

It is feasible that about a third of Yancey’s enrollment could be districted to Red Hill and two-thirds to Scottsville. This is based on the most efficient and reasonable transportation routes and keeping existing neighborhoods and communities together at the same school. A map of the potential redistricting is included as an Appendix and was the basis for the analysis of ride times shown below.

The following graph shows the changes in bus ride times by student based on transportation’s recommendations on student placements from Yancey to either Scottsville or Red Hill. As can be noted, 44 students would have a shorter bus ride and 42 students would have a longer bus ride. The average change would be a reduction of 2.6 minutes daily. This analysis was done only for current Yancey students in grade K-4 and assumed the continued use of 4 school buses.



SECTION 5: DEMOGRAPHICS

If students were redistricted from Yancey to Red Hill and Scottsville, the demographic changes to each school would be as illustrated below. The data are based on K-5 enrollment at all three schools as of April 2017.

Current Student Demographics:

| School | Black | Hispanic | White | Disadvantaged ¹ | Limited English Proficiency | Students w/Disabilities ² |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Red Hill | 7% | 10% | 73% | 46% | 4% | 27% |
| Scottsville | 2% | 5% | 86% | 40% | 1% | 20% |
| Yancey | 18% | 17% | 59% | 76% | 9% | 26% |

Student Demographics if Redistricting Occurred:

| School | Black | Hispanic | White | Disadvantaged ¹ | Limited English Proficiency | Students w/Disabilities ² |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Red Hill | 6% | 11% | 75% | 54% | 3% | 25% |
| Scottsville | 10% | 9% | 74% | 50% | 4% | 23% |

¹"Disadvantaged" students are those who receive free and reduced price meals under the federal program.

²"Students with Disabilities" are those identified for special education services, from speech pathology and learning disabilities to severe and profound disabilities.

SECTION 6: YANCEY WORKGROUP REPORT

In December 2012, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board approved the charter for a workgroup whose members were to be appointed by the County Executive and Superintendent of Schools. The purpose of the work group was to explore and recommend potential community-wide use of Yancey Elementary School to serve the southern Albemarle community. In April 2014 the Yancey Work Group presented its report to the Board of Supervisors. Many of the recommendations in the report, but not all, were implemented. This is the link to the referenced report:

<http://esblogin.k12albemarle.org/attachments/07028cca-310a-4957-b4c1-90ed9e248b1a.pdf>

SECTION 7: SCOTTSVILLE AND RED HILL CAPACITIES

Red Hill

Red Hill could accommodate the additional ~35 students in their existing classes and would not require additional classes or classrooms. Their current class sizes are small and could absorb the additional students. The school would continue to need to utilize 2 trailers for auxiliary functions including ESOL, Speech, Family Support Workers and community partners.

Scottsville

Scottsville is currently slightly over their building capacity. For this reason the school currently utilizes mobile classrooms for Art, Music, guidance, psychologist, family support workers, and other auxiliary functions.

If approximately 70 students were redistricted from Yancey to Scottsville, the school would require 2-3 additional K-5 classrooms in addition to the 10 classrooms it currently utilizes. There are several options to accommodate the additional classrooms:

- The school currently has one available classroom in their 4/5 wing that is unassigned.
- As a part of the security addition, an additional classroom will also be constructed. This will be completed sometime during the 2017/18 school year. A mobile classroom could be used until it is complete.
- The Bright Stars class could be relocated to an existing mobile classroom that has a bathroom. This is where the program was previously located two years ago.
- The round room is underutilized. It is smaller than a regular classroom but could accommodate a small class (<15) if staffed in that manner.
- Install additional mobile classrooms

In summary, the situation would be challenging but workable in the short-term. In the long-term, it is advised to accelerate a previously requested capital project to construct additional classrooms. If funding was made available by the next fiscal year, the earliest this could be built would be for the 2020/21 School Year.

SECTION 8: CLIMATE SURVEY

Shown below are the Yancey students' climate survey results for the past 4 school years:

| | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|--|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| I like school a lot | | | | |
| ACPS | 77 | 76 | 76 | 74 |
| Yancey | 54 | 45 | 80 | 67 |
| School is boring | | | | |
| ACPS | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Yancey | 44 | 46 | 35 | 36 |
| My schoolwork makes me more curious about learning | | | | |
| ACPS | XXXX | 67 | 67 | 64 |
| Yancey | XXXX | 51 | 57 | 54 |
| I have fun at recess on most days | | | | |
| ACPS | XXXX | 92 | 92 | 91 |
| Yancey | XXXX | 91 | 95 | 90 |
| Getting good grades is very important to me | | | | |
| ACPS | 95 | 93 | 93 | 92 |
| Yancey | 95 | 91 | 92 | 97 |
| Students at this school are friendly | | | | |
| ACPS | XXXX | 87 | 87 | 87 |
| Yancey | XXXX | 44 | 55 | 49 |
| Adults at this school treat me respectfully | | | | |
| ACPS | XXXX | 86 | 89 | 87 |
| Yancey | XXXX | 55 | 65 | 56 |
| If I have a personal problem at school I can find a friend or adult who can help me | | | | |
| ACPS | 89 | 84 | 85 | 86 |
| Yancey | 71 | 78 | 78 | 77 |
| Students at this school get teased about how they look | | | | |
| ACPS | 37 | 30 | 30 | 28 |
| Yancey | 68 | 59 | 58 | 64 |
| If I tell an adult about bully, they will help | | | | |
| ACPS | 88 | 89 | 92 | 91 |
| Yancey | 59 | 55 | 60 | 69 |

SECTION 9: YANCEY STAFF

Over the past 3 years, class sizes and grade level configurations have been changed to increase collaboration among and between teachers. The following diagram shows the shifts in the configurations.

| 2011-2012 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 4** |
| 4 | 1 | |
| 5 | 2 | |
| Int/Spec.* | | |
| Totals | 8 | 16 |

| 2012-2013 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K/1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 4** |
| 4 | 1 | |
| 5 | 2 | |
| Int/Spec.* | | 8 |
| Totals | 8 | 16 |

| 2013-2014 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K/1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2/3 | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Int/Spec.* | | 8 |
| Totals | 8 | 16 |

| 2014-2015 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2/3 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Int/Spec.* | | 8 |
| Totals | 8 | 16 |

| 2015-2016 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K-2 | 3 | 6 |
| 3-5 | 3 | 6 |
| Int/Spec.* | | 4 |
| Totals | 6 | 16 |

| 2016-2017 | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| Grade | Classes | Teachers |
| K-2 | 3 | 6 |
| 3-5 | 3 | 6 |
| Int/Spec.* | | 4 |
| Totals | 6 | 16 |

*Interventionists/Specials

**Completely Departmentalized

As can be found on page C-64 of the School Board's Funding Request, Yancey has 26.44 Full Time Equivalent (FTE's). It is estimated that approximately 13.5 of these positions would follow students to their new schools and the balance of the positions could be eliminated albeit there is no budgetary necessity for that to occur immediately. Considering the potential for a School Board decision in May, it appears appropriate that all Yancey staff be allowed to find existing positions within the school system or to be placed in overstaffed positions for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year.

SECTION 10: LEGAL AUTHORITY

The following section of the State Code describes the School Board's authority to consolidate schools and the requirement to hold a public hearing prior to making such a decision.

§ 22.1-79

Powers and duties

A school board shall:

1. See that the school laws are properly explained, enforced and observed;
2. Secure, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the conduct of the public schools in the school division and take care that they are conducted according to law and with the utmost efficiency;
3. Care for, manage and control the property of the school division and provide for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and noninstructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;
4. Provide for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;
5. Insofar as not inconsistent with state statutes and regulations of the Board of Education, operate and maintain the public schools in the school division and determine the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued, the methods of teaching and the government to be employed in the schools;
6. In instances in which no grievance procedure has been adopted prior to January 1, 1991, establish and administer by July 1, 1992, a grievance procedure for all school board employees, except the division superintendent and those employees covered under the provisions of Article 2 (§ ~~22.1-293~~ et seq.) and Article 3 (§ ~~22.1-306~~ et seq.) of Chapter 15 of this title, who have completed such probationary period as may be required by the school board, not to exceed 18 months. The grievance procedure shall afford a timely and fair method of the resolution of disputes arising between the school board and such employees regarding dismissal or other disciplinary actions, excluding suspensions, and shall be consistent with the provisions of the Board of Education's procedures for adjusting grievances. Except in the case of dismissal, suspension, or other disciplinary action, the grievance procedure prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to § ~~22.1-308~~ shall apply to all full-time employees of a school board, except supervisory employees;
7. Perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Education or as are imposed by law;
8. Obtain public comment through a public hearing not less than 10 days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing (i) for the consolidation of schools; (ii) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all instructional services for any public school classroom or all noninstructional services in the school division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization; or (iii) in school divisions having 15,000 pupils or more in average daily membership, for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of 15 percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the meeting of the school board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken. If a public hearing has been held prior to the effective date of this provision on a proposed consolidation, redistricting or pupil assignment plan which is to be implemented after the effective date of this provision, an additional public hearing shall not be required;
9. At least annually, survey the school division to identify critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter, and report such critical shortages to the

Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Virginia Retirement System; however, the school board may request the division superintendent to conduct such survey and submit such report to the school board, the Superintendent, and the Virginia Retirement System; and

10. Ensure that the public schools within the school division are registered with the Department of State Police to receive from the State Police electronic notice of the registration or reregistration of any sex offender within that school division pursuant to § 9.1-914.

SECTION 11: OPTIONS

- Keep the school open in its current status.
- Close the school effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.
- Close the school effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.