MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

School Board Work Session

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1. ***Work Session:***

Category #1: World Languages Forum

Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Ryan McElveen and Mateo Dunne, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Ryan McElveen, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Seema Dixit (Sully-arr. 11:01am)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon)
Karl Frisch (providence-**Absent**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill-**Absent**)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia - Virtual)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. Frisch was absent from the World Language Forum.

Leadership Team present : Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Chief of Staff Marty Smith; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sloan Presidio; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Safety and Security Officer Brian Lambert; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer Lisa Y. Hall; Assistant Superintendent, School Improvements & Supports Marie Lambert; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard; and Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services Department Dr. Ellen Reilly

School Board Office: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow; Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

In accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3708.3(B), members of a public body who have a disability or are caregiving for someone with a disability count toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. In this case, Ms. St. John-Cunning notified the Chair and Clerk of the Board that she was using remote participation as she was caregiving for an individual with a disability. Thus, she was counted as in-person for the purpose of quorum and

did not need to be voted in by the Board and was located in Great Falls, Virginia during the meeting.

Item 1.02: Forum Topic: World Language

Staff Contact: Christina Setlow, Clerk to the School Board

Other Staff Present: Janet Brown, Deputy Clerk to the School Board
Summary: As reflected in the discussion during the May 7, 2024 School Board Work Session, there appears to be consensus among the board on the need to revitalize the FCPS World Languages Programs, including language immersion. There also appears to be consensus to discuss Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) and how to integrate FLES with STEAM. This forum topic is intended to start a conversation that will enable the board to deliberate on the future of World Language programming across the division and develop a strategic framework to guide the evolution of World Language Programs in FCPS. This forum topic will also explore establishing an ad hoc or community advisory committee to support world languages within FCPS.

Discussion Highlights:

The Board discussed the Form Topic: World Language in Fairfax County Public Schools. The Meeting Managers, Ryan McElveen and Mateo Dunne discussed the current efforts within FCPS at the elementary, middle and high school levels. They then recommended moving forward with three areas of concern: immersion offerings, Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) and middle school and high school offerings. A plan was made for discussion about this topic, with input from staff, at an upcoming work session.

The Board adjourned the World Forum at 11:08 and took a brief break from 11:08 p.m. to 11:12p.m. between the World Language Form and the Work Session topics.

Category #2: Strategic Plan Goal Three: Academic Growth and Excellence

Item 2.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Ricardy Anderson and Ilryong Moon, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Dr. Ricardy Anderson, called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon-**Absent**)
Karl Frisch (providence-**arr. 11:26 a.m.**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill-**arr. 2:59 a.m.**)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia - Virtual)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. Dunne was absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team present : Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Chief of Staff Marty Smith; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sloan Presidio; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Safety and Security Officer Brian Lambert; Assistant Superintendent, School Improvements & Supports Marie Lambert; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard

Auditor General Esther Ko is also present

School Board Office: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow; Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

In accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3708.3(B), members of a public body who have a disability or are caregiving for someone with a disability count toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. In this case, Ms. St. John-Cunning notified the Chair and Clerk of the Board that she was using remote participation as she was caregiving for an individual with a disability. Thus, she was counted as in-person for the purpose of quorum and did not need to be voted in by the Board and was located in Great Falls, Virginia during the meeting.

Item 2.02: Strategic Plan Goal 3 Report: Academic Growth and Excellence

Summary: Fairfax County Public Schools' new Strategic Plan was adopted in June 2023 (Strategic Plan 2023-30) and presents our vision and goals as a leading public school division that is committed to delivering excellence, equity, and opportunity in education.

The Strategic Plan contains 5 goals:

- Goal #1 - Strong Start: Pre-K-12
- Goal #2 - Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered
- Goal #3 - Academic Growth and Excellence
- Goal #4 - Equitable Access and Opportunity
- Goal #5 - Leading for Tomorrow's Innovation

The purpose of annual goal reporting is to provide an update on the Division's progress towards meeting the 2030 goals of the Strategic Plan.

Discussion Highlights:

The board meeting focused on reviewing academic growth and excellence initiatives, particularly examining language arts performance and reading proficiency across various assessments. The discussion covered multiple strategic priorities including early literacy instruction, family engagement programs, and support for multilingual learners, with particular attention given to the Project Momentum initiative targeting 29 schools with high

learning needs. The conversation ended with conversations about equity commitments, student performance metrics, and achievement gaps, emphasizing the importance of early childhood education and addressing systemic issues affecting student outcomes.

The Board took a brief recess from 12:22 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #4: Strategic Plan Goal Three: Academic Growth and Excellence Part 2

Item 4.01: Strategic Plan Goal 3 Report: Academic Growth and Excellence

Summary: Fairfax County Public Schools' new Strategic Plan was adopted in June 2023 (Strategic Plan 2023-30) and presents our vision and goals as a leading public school division that is committed to delivering excellence, equity, and opportunity in education.

The Strategic Plan contains 5 goals:

- Goal #1 - Strong Start: Pre-K-12
- Goal #2 - Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered
- Goal #3 - Academic Growth and Excellence
- Goal #4 - Equitable Access and Opportunity
- Goal #5 - Leading for Tomorrow's Innovation

The purpose of annual goal reporting is to provide an update on the Division's progress towards meeting the 2030 goals of the Strategic Plan.

Discussion Highlights:

The board meeting focused on reviewing academic growth and excellence initiatives, particularly examining language arts performance and reading proficiency across various assessments. The discussion covered multiple strategic priorities including early literacy instruction, family engagement programs, and support for multilingual learners, with particular attention given to the Project Momentum initiative targeting 29 schools with high learning needs. The conversation ended with conversations about equity commitments, student performance metrics, and achievement gaps, emphasizing the importance of early childhood education and addressing systemic issues affecting student outcomes.

Category #5: Capital Improvement Program

Item 5.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Kyle McDaniel and Melanie Meren, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Kyle McDaniel, called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)	Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)	Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)	Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Seema Dixit (Sully)	Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon)	Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia-)
Karl Frisch (Providence)	*Vacant* (Braddock)

Mr. Dunne was absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Chief of Staff Marty Smith; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sloan Presidio; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Safety and Security Officer Brian Lambert; Assistant Superintendent, School Improvements & Supports Marie Lambert; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard

School Board Office: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow; Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

Item 5.02: Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Staff Contact: Erik Gordon, chief of facilities services and capital programs

Other Staff Present: Jessica Gillis, executive director, Capital Improvements and Planning, Brian Davis, executive director, Office of Facilities Management, Leanna O'Donnell, director, Office of Facilities Planning Services, Scott Eschbach, director, Office of Design and Construction

Summary: The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a planning and fiscal management tool used to coordinate the location, timing, and funding of capital projects over five years. The FCPS CIP is updated annually to reflect changing conditions within our schools and communities and builds upon the previously approved program of capital expenditures. This includes the development of a five-year membership projection set, facility capacity evaluations, an annual update to the schedule and funding of capital construction cash flow, and a facilities management program.

The updates in the FCPS Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-31 CIP identify current and anticipated funding from general obligation bond referendums for the following capital projects as outlined below.

Five years:

- New School Construction: Construction of Dunn Loring Elementary School, planning/design and construction of modifications to the Western High School, and the planning/design and construction of the Silver Line Elementary School.
- Renovations: Construction of Bonnie Brae, Bren Mar Park, Brookfield, Lees Corner, Armstrong, Willow Springs, Herndon, Dranesville, and Cub Run elementary schools and Falls Church High School; the planning/design and construction of Union Mill Elementary School; the planning/design of Centre Ridge, Poplar Tree, Waples Mill, Sangster,

Saratoga, and Virginia Run elementary schools and Franklin and Twain middle schools; and the planning/design and construction of Centreville High School.

Discussion Highlights:

The Board discussed the FY 2027-2031 Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP highlighted new construction of schools, planned renovations and funding from the bond referendums. School Board Members had questions regarding projections in enrollment, school vestibules, and the use of modulars and trailers at school sites. Board Members requested having additional information in the CIP regarding the use of (and reduction in use of) trailers and modulars historically throughout the county.

The Board took a brief break at 3:47 p.m. The Board returned at 3:56 p.m. for a conversation about a follow-up to the Comprehensive Boundary Review process.

The Board discussed the updates to the Comprehensive Boundary Review Recommendations after the January 10, 2026 Public Hearing. Board Members had questions about phasing and transportation and changes made from previous recommendations to schools made by the Division Superintendent.

Category #6: Adjournment of Work Session (Item 6.01)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Sandy Anderson, Chair of the Board

Approved: February 26, 2026