MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

School Board Work Session

Tuesday February 10, 2026

10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

1. *Public Meeting*

Item 1.01: Motion to Convene a Closed Meeting

Chair S. Anderson called the public meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

The Board will now make a motion to go into closed meeting on February 10, 2026 to discuss: 1) contract matters pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, and 2) disciplinary and other matters concerning one or more students pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) and (A)(4) of the Code of Virginia and 3) consult with legal counsel regarding matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) and (A) (8) of the Code of Virginia, specifically: a) student discipline, b) contracts, and c) personnel matters.

Motion by Melanie K Meren, second by Ryan McElveen.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Karl V Frisch, Kyle McDaniel, Melanie K Meren, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St John-Cunning, Robyn Lady - Vice Chair, Sandy B Anderson - Chair, Ilryong Moon
Not Present at Vote: Seema Dixit, Mateo Dunne, Ricardy J Anderson

Item 1.02: Adjourn Public Meeting

The public meeting concluded at 10:32a.m.

2. *Closed Meeting*

Item 2.01: Closed Meeting – [When required for matters permitted by law]

The Board went into closed session at 10:34 a.m. The Board convened the closed session at 11:45 a.m.

The following School Board Members were present during the closed session:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville.)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason; **Absent**)
Seema Dixit (Sully; **arr. 11:02 a.m.**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon; **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)
Vacant (Braddock)

Dr. Anderson and Mr. Dunne were absent from the closed meeting.

The Board took a break from 11:45 a.m. to 11:51 a.m. between the closed meeting and the evening work session.

3. Work Session:

Category #3: Policy 8542, Environmental Stewardship Discussion

Item 3.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Ryan McElveen and Robyn Lady, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Melanie Meren, called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason; **arr. 1:00 p.m.**)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon; **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (providence)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large; **arr. 11:54 a.m.**)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill, **arr. 11:57a.m.**)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. Dunne was absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team Present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Division Counsel John Foster; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sloan Presidio; Chief Equity Officer Dr. Nardos King; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer Lisa Y. Hall; Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Officer Erik Gordon; Chief Financial Officer Leigh Burden; Chief Human Resources Officer William Solomon; Chief Information Technology Officer Gautam Sethi; Chief Operating Officer Andy Mueck; Assistant Superintendent, Region 5, Rebecca Baenig; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; and other staff.

School Board Staff Present: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow and Deputy Clerk to the School Board Kevin A. Jackson.

Student Representative Faith H. Mekonen was also present.

Item 3.02: Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance

In order to comply with Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia, it is necessary for the Board to certify that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed meeting on February 10, 2026 to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board during the closed meeting.

Motion by Robyn Lady - Vice Chair, second by Sandy B Anderson - Chair.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Karl V Frisch, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St John-Cunning, Robyn Lady - Vice Chair, Sandy B Anderson - Chair, Seema Dixit, Ilryong Moon
Not Present at Vote: Kyle McDaniel, Melanie K Meren, Mateo Dunne, Ricardy J Anderson

Item 3.03: Confirmation of Action Taken in a Closed Meeting

There was no action taken in closed.

Item 3.04: Policy 8542, Environmental Stewardship Discussion

Staff Contact: Christina Setlow, Clerk to the School Board

Other Staff Present: Janet Brown, Deputy Clerk to the School Board; Kevin Jackson, Deputy Clerk to the School Board

Summary: A draft of Policy 8542, Environmental Stewardship was approved by the Governance Committee at the January 6, 2026 meeting and was sent to the full Board for consideration. The item was withdrawn from the agenda of the January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting and referred to the February 10, 2026 Work Session.

Discussion Highlights: Presenters highlighted the Policy 8542: Environmental Stewardship discussion focused on balancing aggressive sustainability goals with fiscal reality and operational efficiency. Presenters provided an overview of the policy's impact on Capital Improvement Programs, highlighting the shift toward the Green Globes standard, which members noted is now the state-endorsed replacement for CHIPS. While some board members expressed concern that full Net Zero Energy (NZE) initiatives could impose a 20% cost increase that the district cannot currently afford, others emphasized that NZE offers long-term maintenance and energy savings. The conversation also addressed practical operational issues, such as the need for better custodial training to prevent recycling from being discarded as trash, the expansion of composting beyond the current five-school pilot, and the utilization of share tables to reduce food waste. Ultimately, members called for a cost-benefit analysis and a more flexible framework that moves away from outdated 2019 Joint Environmental Taskforce (JET) goals toward feasible, updated standards.

The Board took a Lunch break from 12:45 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #5: Work Session: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Discussion

Item 5.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Sandy Anderson and Robyn, Meeting Manager

Robyn Lady called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason; **arr. 1:00 p.m.**)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon; **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (providence)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large; **arr. 11:54 a.m.**)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill, **arr. 11:57 a.m.**)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. Dunne was absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team Present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Division Counsel John Foster; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sloan Presidio; Chief Equity Officer Dr. Nardos King; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer Lisa Y. Hall; Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Officer Erik Gordon; Chief Financial Officer Leigh Burden; Chief Human Resources Officer William Solomon; Chief Information Technology Officer Gautam Sethi; Chief Operating Officer Andy Mueck; Assistant Superintendent, Region 5, Rebecca Baenig; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; and other staff.

School Board Staff Present: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow and Deputy Clerk to the School Board Kevin A. Jackson.

Student Representative Faith H. Mekonen was also present.

Item 5.02: AI Discussion

Presenters: Sloan Presidio, chief academic officer; Geovanny Ponce, chief of schools; Nardos King, chief equity officer; Ellen Reilly, assistant superintendent, Instructional Services

Summary: Since generative AI tools became widely available in late 2022, school divisions nationwide have been navigating a rapidly changing instructional and operational landscape. In FCPS, the response has been deliberate and measured. Rather than moving quickly toward broad adoption, staff have focused on establishing foundational guidance, building AI literacy, and reducing risk in an environment where AI tools already exist outside of school control.

The intent of this work has been to provide clarity to staff and students and prepare the division for thoughtful adoption and integration of AI tools.

This session will explore:

How instructional priorities intersect with existing and planned work related to AI
Considerations for AI literacy and eventual instructional use

Key questions to inform future policy development and decision-making

Discussion Highlights: Presenters highlighted the Power Buddy intelligent tutor pilot currently active in 18 schools and emphasized that AI is primarily used to enhance teacher productivity and lesson differentiation. To ensure data privacy, the district established an enterprise agreement with OpenAI that prevents district data from being used to train external models. Board members expressed concerns regarding the equity gap for students without home access and the critical need for AI literacy among both staff and students to identify biases in generated content. Moving forward, the district committed to providing the Board with its evaluation checklist for new tools and plans to launch a "Parent Academy" to help families navigate these new technologies.

Category #6: Budget Committee of the Whole: FY27 Proposed Budget

Item 6.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Seema Dixit and Sandy Anderson, Meeting Manager

Seema Dixit convened the Budget Committee of the Whole portion of the School Board Work Session at 2:55 p.m.

Item 6.02: FY 2027 Proposed Budget

Presenters: Leigh Burden, chief financial officer;

Other Staff Present: Alice Wigington, executive director, Office of Budget Services; Matthew Norton, assistant director, Office of Budget Services

Summary: On January 22, 2026, Superintendent Reid presented the FY 2027 Proposed Budget. The FY 2027 Proposed Budget documents, including the presentation, are available at https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/budget-documents.

This work session will be focused on providing an overview of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget and market comparison data for surrounding school division

Discussion Highlights: During the FY 2027 Proposed Budget deliberations, the School Board prioritized staff compensation and the restoration of critical instructional roles, such as elementary special education department chairs and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs). A central discussion highlight was the restoration of the staffing formula to provide relief for class sizes, coupled with a 3% market scale adjustment intended to maintain competitive pay and ensure staff retention. The Board also addressed significant fiscal challenges, including a projected enrollment decline of 4,900 students—resulting in the reduction of over 260 positions—and a substantial shift in the Local Composite Index (LCI) affecting state revenue. Furthermore, members explored funding for K-12 robotics expansion, middle school sports stipends, and literacy intervention tools, while emphasizing the necessity of presenting a unified, needs-based budget to the Board of Supervisors to bridge projected funding gaps.

Category #7: Adjournment of Work Session (Item 7.01)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Sandy Anderson, Chair of the Board

Approved: February 26, 2026