MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
School Board Work Session
Tuesday, March 03, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

1. Closed Session

Category #1: Closed Meeting

Chair S. Anderson called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

The Board will now make a motion to go into closed meeting on March 3, 2026 to discuss: 1) contract matters pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, 2) personnel matters pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), and 3) to 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: contracts and personnel matters

Motion by Robyn Lady, second by Ryan McElveen
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Melanie K Meren, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St John-Cunning, Robyn Lady - Vice Chair, Sandy B Anderson - Chair, Ilryong Moon, Ricardy J Anderson

The public portion of the meeting concluded at 10:41 a.m.

Item 1.01: Closed Meeting – [When required for matters permitted by law]

The Board went into closed session at 10: 41 a.m. The Board convened the closed session at 11:00 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)
Seema Dixit (Sully; **Absent**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon - Virtual)
Karl Frisch (Providence; **Absent**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large; **Absent**)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. McDaniel, Ms. Dixit, and Mr. Frisch were absent from the closed meeting.

The Chair Read the Following Motion: Mr. Dunne has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as she has a work conflict and is located in Mount Vernon, VA. I have performed an initial review of Mr. Dunne's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

Yes: Ilyrong Moon, Ryan McElveen, Melanie K. Meren, Marcia St. John Cunning, Robyn Lady - Vice Chair, Sandy B. Anderson - Chair
No: Dr. Ricardy Anderson

The Board took a break from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. between the closed meeting and the work session.

2. **Work Session**

Category #2: Strategic Plan Goal 2 Report: Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered, Part 1

Item 2.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Ryan McElveen and Marcia St. John-Cunning, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Ryan McElveen, called the meeting to order at 11:30 p.m. with the following Board members present:

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

Ms. Dixit, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Frisch, and Mr. McDaniel were absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team Present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; 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; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; and other staff.

School Board Office: Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

Item 2.02: Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance

Motion: 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 March 3, 2026, and 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.

Move: Ilryong Moon, Second: Sandy Anderson
Yes: Robyn Lady, Sandy Anderson, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Melanie Meren, Ilryong Moon, and Ricardy Anderson
No: -

Item 2.03: Confirmation of Action Taken in a Closed Meeting

There was no action taken in closed.

Item 2.04: Strategic Plan Goal 2 Report: Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered

Leadership Team Present: Dr. Michelle C. Reid, Division Superintendent; Marty Smith, chief of staff; Geovanny Ponce, chief of schools; Nardos King, chief equity officer; Sloan Presidio, chief academic officer; Lisa Youngblood Hall, chief experience and engagement officer; Ellen Reilly, assistant superintendent, Instructional Services; Terri Edmunds-Heard, assistant superintendent, Department of Special Services; Marie Lemmon, assistant superintendent, School Improvement and Supports; Marcy Kneale, assistant superintendent, Strategy, Planning and Learning;

Other Staff Present: Candace Hunstad, executive director, Strategy and Planning

School Board Office: Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

Summary: Fairfax County Public Schools' 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 five 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.

Recommendation:
That the School Board approves the Goal 2 Strategic Plan Report for SY 2025-26.

Discussion Highlights: During the discussion of the Strategic Goal 2 Report, Board members focused heavily on student belonging and connectedness, expressing concern that 40% of students in grades 6–12 reported they do not feel they belong at school. The conversation

highlighted disparities in satisfaction for Black students and students with 504 plans, while also noting a national trend where school satisfaction peaks in early adolescence and is often exacerbated by social media and early access to electronic devices. A positive highlight of the report was the improvement in chronic absenteeism, which fell from 12.9% to 10.5% mid-year, a success attributed to tiered family engagement and "Return to Learn" plans. Additionally, the Board discussed evolving discipline strategies, with Dr. Ponce emphasizing the importance of culturally responsive interventions and the goal of providing instruction during suspensions so they function as educational corrections rather than mere punishments.

Category #3: Break

The Board took a brief recess from 12:36 p.m. to 1:09 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #4: Strategic Plan Goal 2 Report: Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered, Part 2

Item 4.01: Continuation of Discussion

The Board reconvened at 1:09 to continue the discussion regarding the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) updates for the 2026-2027 school year centered on enhancing consistency and fairness through the phased implementation of Universal Grade Matrices (UGM). These matrices are designed to provide standardized disciplinary responses and required interventions by grade level, specifically targeting behaviors related to safety and relationships in the first phase to ensure responses are developmentally appropriate. A significant portion of the session was dedicated to debating cell phone policies, with members considering "bell-to-bell" restrictions in light of pending state legislation and research indicating that personal devices can exacerbate bullying and hinder student development. Furthermore, the Board emphasized the importance of supporting multilingual learners by proposing codified requirements for translated notification statements and explored the innovative use of AI tools to digitize the SR&R, aiming to reduce subjectivity in disciplinary decisions

The Board took a brief recess from 1:49 p.m. to 2:01 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #5: Student Rights and Responsibilities

Item 5.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Marcia St. John-Cunning and Ryan McElveen, Meeting Manager

Meeting Manager, Marcia St. John-Cunning, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with the following Board members present:

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

Karl Frisch (providence; Absent) Vacant (Braddock)

Ms. Dixit, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Frisch, and Mr. McDaniel were absent from the Work Session.

Leadership Team Present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; 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; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning Marcy Kneale; and other staff.

School Board Office: Deputy Clerk to the School Board Janet Brown

Item 5.02: Student Rights and Responsibilities

Staff Contact: Nardos King, chief equity officer
Other Staff Present: Tara Hewan, executive director, Equity and Student Relations, Chief Equity Office; Lisa Forrest, administrative hearing officer, Chief Equity Office; Dionna Shinn, sr. manager, Equity & Student Conduct, Chief Equity Office

Summary: The presentation of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R), Regulation 2601, provides an overview of revisions to the SR&R based on stakeholder feedback and legislative updates, as applicable. The SR&R is aligned with the Virginia Board of Education Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension and is reviewed as part of the annual process established by the School Board.

Discussion Highlights: The Board's discussion on the 2026-2027 Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) focused on increasing disciplinary consistency through the phased rollout of Universal Grade Matrices (UGM) and addressing persistent disproportionality for Black students and students with disabilities. Major topics included transitioning to "bell-to-bell" cell phone restrictions, codifying translation requirements for multilingual learners, and extending procedural protections to in-school suspensions. Members also explored utilizing AI tools to digitize the SR&R to reduce administrative bias and introduced new infractions for the distribution of intimate images and deepfakes

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board Sandy Anderson, Chair of the Board

Approved: March 03, 2026