**MINUTES**

**Fairfax County School Board**

**Budget Committee Meeting**

**5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Budget Committee Meeting February 19, 2026

## *1. FY27 Proposed Budget - Budget Committee of the Whole*

### Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Seema Dixit and Sandy Anderson, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Seema Dixit, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville; **Virtual**)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason; **left 6:24 p.m.)**
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon; **Absent**)
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)
Vacant (Braddock)

Mr. Dunne, Mr. Frisch, and Ms. Meren, were absent from the Budget Committee Meeting.

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Chief Financial Officer Leigh Burden; Chief Safety and Security Officer Brian Lambert; Chief Operating Officer Andy Muick; Chief of Schools Dr. Geovanny Ponce; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer Lisa Y. Hall; Chief Equity Officer Dr. Nardos King; Division Counsel John Foster

School Board Office Present: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow; Deputy Clerk to the School Board Kevin A. Jackson.
To confirm the Chair's approval of Ms. Lady's request to participate in the meeting remotely, Ms. Dixit read, and the Board approved, the following motion:

**Motion**: Ms. Lady has submitted a request to attend tonight's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as she had a family matter, she was located in Chester, Virginia. The Board Chair performed an initial review of Ms. Lady's request and having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, she approved the request.

**Final Resolution**: Motion Carries
**Yes:** Seema Dixit, Kyle McDaniel, Ilryong Moon, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy B Anderson - Chair

**No:** Dr. Ricardy Anderson

**Item 1.02: FY 2027 Proposed Budget**

**Staff Presenters:** Leigh Burden, Chief Financial Officer; Alice Wigington, Executive Director, Office of Budget Services; and Matthew Norton, Assistant Director, Office of Budget Services.

**Background:** On January 22, 2026, Superintendent Reid presented the Fiscal Year (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.

On February 10, 2026, the School Board was provided an overview of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget and market comparison data for surrounding school divisions.

The work session will provide an opportunity for further discussion prior to the adoption of the FY 2027 Advertised Budget on February 26, 2026.

**Discussion Highlights:** The FY 2027 Proposed Budget discussion focused on addressing the funding gap created by the County Executive's Advertised Budget proposed transfer, which only included an increase of $94.6 million from FY 2026. This fell short of the School Board's proposed funding request increase of $138.4 million from FY 2026. Notably, the FY 2027 requested increase in the county transfer was $129.8 million, or 48% less than the requested increase last year. Board Members expressed concern over the proposed elimination of crossing guards at 14 high schools and debated the feasibility of a pilot fee structure for middle school after-school programs to offset shifting costs. The conversation highlighted a need for additional state funding and the potential for additional personnel cuts or class size increases if the deficit remains. Consequently, the Board requested staff develop budget scenarios based on the proposed county funding levels to transparently communicate the impact of potential reductions to the public.

The Committee took a brief break and recessed the meeting at 6:30 p.m. until 7:01 p.m. Since the advertised time to convene the Closed Meeting was 7:00 p.m., the Board could not begin the Closed Meeting until that time.

**Item 1.03: Motion to Convene a Closed Meeting**

The Committee reconvened the Budget Committee of the Whole meeting at 7: 01 p.m.

**Motion**: The Board will now make a motion on February 19, 2026 to go into a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such

counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), (A) (8) and (A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, specifically: contracts.

Motion by Kyle McDaniel, second by Ilryong Moon.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Seema Dixit, Kyle McDaniel, Ilryong Moon, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy B Anderson - Chair

Notably, since the Braddock District seat was vacant at the time of the vote to convene a closed meeting, six (6) School Board Members constituted a majority of the School Board. Thus, the quorum requirements were met.

The Committee recessed the Budget Committee of the Whole at 7:02 p.m.

## *2. Emergency Closed Meeting*

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

Pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3707(E), notice of the convening of an emergency closed meeting occurred on February 18, 2026 and notice to School Board Members of the emergency closed meeting convening was provided contemporaneously.
Chair S. Anderson convened the closed session at 7:03 p.m., with the following School Board Members were present :

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

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid; Division Counsel John Foster

School Board Office Present: Clerk to the School Board Christina Setlow; Deputy Clerk to the School Board Kevin A. Jackson

To confirm the Chair's approval of Ms. Lady's request to participate in the meeting remotely, School Board Chair S. Anderson read, and the Board approved, the following motion:

**Motion**: Ms. Lady has submitted a request to attend tonight's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as she had a family matter, she was located in Chester, Virginia. I have performed an initial review of Ms. Lady's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

**Final Resolution**: Motion Carries
**Yes:** Seema Dixit, Kyle McDaniel, Ilryong Moon, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy B Anderson - Chair

Dr. Anderson, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Frisch, and Ms. Meren were absent from the closed meeting.

The Board adjourned the closed session at 7:33 p.m.

### *3. FY27 Proposed Budget Committee of the Whole Continuation:*

The Board reconvened the Budget Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:34 p.m. When it reconvened, Dr. Anderson and Ms. Lady were not present.

**Item 3.01: Certification of a 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 February 19, 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 Ilryong Moon, second by Ryan McElveen
Yes: Kyle McDaniel, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy Anderson - Chair, Seema Dixit, Ilryong Moon
Not present: Dr. Ricardy Anderson; Robyn Lady

**Item 3.02: Confirmation of Action Taken in a Closed Meeting**

There was no action taken in the closed meeting.

**Category #4: Adjournment of Work Session (Item 4.01)**

The Budget Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Robyn Lady, Chair of the Board

Approved: August 27, 2026