MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
School Board Budget Committee
Tuesday, May 14, 2026

1. FY27 Approved Budget

Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Seema Dixit and Kyle McDaniel, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Seema Dixit, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. with the following Board members present:

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

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Chief of Staff **Marty Smith**; Chief Financial Officer **Leigh Burden**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Chief Human Resources Officer **William Solomon**; Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck**; and Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**.

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

Item 1.02: FY 2027 Approved Budget

Summary: On February 26, 2026, the School Board adopted the Advertised Budget for the School Operating Fund totaling $4.1 billion. This was a net increase of $197.0 million, or 5.0 percent, over the FY 2026 Approved Budget.

On February 17, 2026, the Fairfax County Executive presented the FY 2027 Advertised Budget Plan and recommended a base transfer increase of $94.6 million, which is $43.8 million less than FCPS' request. The County Board of Supervisors conducted budget markup on April 28, 2026, and adopted the FY 2027 budget on May 5, 2026.

On March 14, 2026, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned without adopting the 2026-28 biennial budget. The Governor called for a special session on April 23, 2026, but the General Assembly recessed without adopting the state budget.

Discussion Highlights: The Board discussed addressing a shortfall from the county transfer through strategic "cuts," including reducing the staffing reserve, extending the technology refresh cycle, and deferring math curriculum materials. A major highlight of the conversation was the division's high staff retention rate, which generates significant tertiary savings in

recruitment and training costs but prompted a debate over whether the division should reduce its dependency on external recruitment programs. Board members also criticized the decision to use one-time funds to fill a gap for middle school after-school programs, arguing these were originally county-run anti-gang initiatives that should be fully funded by the county rather than the school's general fund. Leadership highlighted efficiencies gained through the Baldrige Gold Award process and defended a doctoral program cohort for leadership, citing a return on investment for every dollar spent and a requirement for participants to commit to the division for three years after graduating. Finally, the Superintendent emphasized balancing immediate needs with long-term fiscal challenges, specifically the upcoming expiration of the retirement benefit deferment.

Item 1.03: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Sandy Anderson, Chair of the Board

Approved: June 10, 2026