MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

School Board Work Session

Tuesday, May 05, 2026

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

1. Forums Topic One: Creation of a School Board Legislative Committee 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Robyn Lady, Meeting Manager

Meeting Manager, Robyn Lady, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Tom Dannan (Braddock, **arr. 10:49 a.m.**)
Seema Dixit (Sully, **arr. 11:05 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)

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Chief of Staff **Marty Smith**, Chief Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Chief Information Technology Officer **Gautam Sethi;** Division Counsel **John Foster;** Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert;** Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King;** Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Officer **Erik Gordon** and Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services **Ellen Reilly;**

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

Item 1.02: Forum Topic One: Creation of the Educational Technology Review Committee

Discussion Highlights: The Board proposed the creation of a standing School Board Legislative Committee of the Whole to replace the existing two-liaison system, a structural shift intended to foster greater continuity and ensure all members have a role in legislative advocacy. Modeled after the budget committee, the proposal suggests delegating day-to-day work to a Chair and Vice-Chair who would collaborate with staff to maintain a robust feedback loop and provide real-time updates during the intense state legislative session. By reaching a consensus, the Board agreed to consider formal amendments to the Strategic Governance Manual to codify this committee's structure prior to the July 2026 reorganization for the upcoming school year.

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Consensus: The Board agrees to consider action on the amendments to the Strategic Governance Manual regarding the creation of a School Board Legislative Committee, as detailed in the Forum Topic item on BoardDocs, before the Board's July reorganization for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: Ricardy Anderson, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy Anderson, Robyn Lady, Melanie Meren, Kyle McDaniel, Karl Frisch, Tom Dannan, and Ilryong Moon
No: -

2. Forum Topic Two: Creation of the Educational Technology Review Committee

Item 2.01: Forum Topic Two: Creation of the Educational Technology Review Committee

Discussion Highlights: The School Board proposed the immediate establishment of an Educational Technology Review Committee (ETRC) to provide transparent oversight and community engagement regarding the efficacy and implementation of division-wide instructional tools. This proposal directed the Superintendent to begin convening the committee as soon as possible while simultaneously tasking the Governance Committee with codifying the ETRC's purpose, charge, and membership into formal Board policy. Central to the Board's proposal was the requirement that the committee hold public meetings and include diverse stakeholders, specifically directing the addition of Title I office staff and expanded student representation to ensure equitable and varied perspectives. By proposing this dual-track approach, the Board intended to re-establish community trust and ensure the division could respond nimbly to rapidly evolving technology needs without waiting for final policy revisions.

Consensus: 1. Direct the Superintendent to establish an Educational Technology Review Committee (ETRC), which will hold public meetings and be consistent with the purpose, charge, scope, structure, and membership outlined in the Forum Topic on BoardDocs, and to begin convening the ETRC at the earliest practicable time; and
2. Direct the Governance Committee to incorporate and formalize these expectations into Board policy as part of its ongoing work, ensuring the ETRC's purpose, charge, scope, structure, and membership are codified as detailed in the Forum Topic on BoardDocs.

Yes: Ricardy Anderson, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy Anderson, Robyn Lady, Melanie Meren, Kyle McDaniel, Karl Frisch, Tom Dannan, Ilryong Moon, and Seema Dixit
No: -

The Board took a brief recess from 11:47 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. between Work Session topics.

3. Work Session: Skyview High School Boundaries

Item 3.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Seema Dixit and Melanie Meren, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Seema Dixit, called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Tom Dannan (Braddock)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence, **Absent**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
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 Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Division Counsel **John Foster**; Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**; Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King;** Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck;** Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Officer **Erik Gordon;** and Auditor General **Esther Ko**

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

Item 3.02: Skyview High School and Western Pyramids Boundary Discussion

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

Other Staff Present: Marty Smith, chief of staff**; Jessica Gillis,** executive director, Capital Improvements and Planning

Summary: To discuss the boundary development for Skyview High School and Western Pyramids.

Discussion Highlight: The Board proposed extending the Sky View High School and Western Pyramid boundary process by adding a third cycle of public review and delaying the final vote until the second meeting in July to be more responsive to significant community feedback. Central to this proposal was the decision to narrow the immediate scope to high school boundaries and feeder patterns, effectively pausing specific elementary boundary changes—such as those involving Virginia Run, Bull Run, and Fox Mill—for a future five-year review. Additionally, the Board proposed that consultants bring back three refined scenarios for the next round of engagement rather than narrowing the options prematurely, while also signaling a shift toward facilities modernizations like converting existing elementary wings into high school classrooms and adopting single-stall bathrooms as a default for renovations.

The Board took lunch from 12:54 p.m. to 1:21 p.m. between Work Session topics.

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Category #5: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Panel Discussion

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

Meeting Manager, Sandy Anderson, called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Tom Dannan (Braddock)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence, **Absent**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
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 Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Chief Information Technology Officer **Gautam Sethi**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Division Counsel **John Foster**; Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**; Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King;** Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck;** Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services **Ellen Reilly;** and Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale**

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

Item 5.02: AI Panel Discussion with the School Board: The Shape of Things to Come

Staff Contact: Gautam Sethi, Chief Information Technology Officer; **Dr. Sloan Presidio,** Chief Academic Officer

Other Staff Present: Richard Culatta, International Society for Technology in Education - Chief Executive Officer**; Dr. Amarda Shehu,** George Mason University - Artificial Intelligence Chair**; Yusuf Ahmad,** Playlab Founder

Background: A panel featuring AI external experts and education specialists discussing AI's influence on the educational landscape, the economy, and future trends.

Discussion Highlight: The School Board proposed establishing a roadmap for Artificial Intelligence (AI) implementation that focuses on improving uniquely human skills—such as problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity—rather than reducing or replacing them. This proposed approach utilizes a four-part framework categorized by school efficiency, teacher efficiency, learning about AI, and learning with AI to ensure students graduate as proficient researchers and storytellers. Additionally, the Board proposed that the upcoming policy should be centered on principles of learning rather than specific tools, explicitly protecting student

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safety and critical thinking while maintaining the flexibility to update guidelines and "change their minds" as the technology continues to evolve.

The Board took a brief recess from 2:29 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #6: Board Artificial Intelligence (AI) 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

Discussion Highlight: The School Board proposed establishing a flexible, iterative roadmap for AI implementation that prioritizes operational and instructional efficiency—such as optimizing bus routes and administrative tasks—while keeping the human element of education central. Central to this proposal was a focus on protecting uniquely human skills like critical thinking and safety, with members proposing that upcoming policy be anchored in learning principles rather than specific tools to ensure the division remains nimble and "reserves the right to change its mind" as technology evolves. Additionally, the Board proposed strict academic integrity guidelines, explicitly stating that human judgment must remain the final authority in grading and that AI literacy must be scaled up to protect students from manipulation and prepare them for a changing workforce.

The Board took a brief recess from 3:28 p.m. to 3:42 p.m. between Work Session topics.

Category #7: Policy 1344, Standard School Year Calendar

Item 7.01: Call to Order and Announcement, Sandy Anderson and Robyn Lady, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Sandy Anderson, called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Sandy Anderson (Chair and Springfield)
Robyn Lady (Vice Chair and Dranesville)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Tom Dannan (Braddock)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence, **Absent**)
Kyle McDaniel (At-Large)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
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 Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Chief Information Technology Officer **Gautam Sethi**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Division Counsel **John Foster**; Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**; Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King;** Chief Operating Officer

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Andy Mueck; Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services **Ellen Reilly;** and Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale**

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

Item 7.02: Policy 1344, Standard School Year Calendar

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

Background: At the April 21, 2026 Governance Committee meeting, the Committee came to consensus and moved a draft of Policy 1344, Standard School Year Calendar to the full Board for a Work Session.

Discussion Highlight: The School Board proposed consolidating six separate policies into a unified Policy 1344 to create a standardized three-year calendar framework that prioritizes instructional continuity and full five-day school weeks. Key components of the proposal included codifying specific early release days—limited to four division-wide and four additional for elementary schools—and establishing a minimum of seven emergency closure days to provide transparency regarding weather and election buffers. The Board also proposed designating Veterans Day as an instructional "Observance" day, decoupling Spring Break from Easter, and eliminating the student holiday on the Monday after Spring Break to minimize academic disruptions. To refine these guidelines, the Board proposed gathering feedback through a ranked-choice community survey to weigh competing priorities such as religious holidays and break lengths before returning the policy to the Governance Committee for final adjustments.

Category #8: Adjournment of Work Session

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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

Approved: June 10, 2026

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