MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
School Board Work Session
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

1. Public Meeting

Item 1.01: Motion to Convene Closed Meeting (Exhibit A)

School Board Chair Robyn Lady, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. with the following Board members present:

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

Mr. Dannan, Ms. Dixit, Mr. Dunne, and Mr. Frisch were absent from the public meeting.

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 **Janet Brown**

Student Representative **Newt Shosteck** does not attend these meetings of the Board.

Motion: The Board will now make a motion on August 18, 2026 to go into a closed meeting to: 1) discuss and consider personnel matters pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)); 2) consult with legal counsel regarding specific matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) and (A)(8), specifically state public record and meeting requirements; and 3) discuss the award of public contracts where discussion in an open session would adversely affect bargaining position or negotiating strategy pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29).

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

Chair Lady adjourned the public meeting at 10:35 a.m.

2. Closed Meeting

Item 2.01: Closed Meeting - [When required for matters permitted by law] (Exhibit B)

Chair Lady called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Robyn Lady (Chair and Dranesville)
Kyle McDaniel (Vice Chair and At-Large)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Sandy Anderson (Springfield)
Tom Dannan (Braddock, **virtual; arr. 11:06 a.m.)**
Seema Dixit (Sully**, arr 10:58 a.m.**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **virtual; left at 11:43 a.m.**)
Karl Frisch (Providence, **Absent**)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Mr. Frisch was absent.

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

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

Student Representative **Newt Shosteck** does not attend closed meetings of the Board.

To confirm the Chair's approval of Mr. Dunne's and Mr. Dannan's request to participate in the meeting virtually, Chair Lady read, and the Board approved, the following motions:

Motion: Mr. Dunne has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as he has a business meeting, and is located in Alexandria, Virginia. 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.

I now ask Board members who are physically present to vote on the following:

All those in favor of confirming the Chair's approval of Mr. Dunne's request?

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Mr. McDaniel - Vice Chair, Mr. Moon, Ms. Meren, Ms. Anderson, Ms. St. John-Cunning, Mr. McElveen, Ms. Lady - Chair
No: Dr. R. Anderson
Not present: Ms. Dixit

Motion: Mr. Dannan has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as he is out of town for a family event, and is located in Alexandria Bay, New York. I have performed an initial review of Mr. Dannan's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

I now ask Board members who are physically present to vote on the following:

All those in favor of confirming the Chair's approval of Mr. Dannan's request?

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Mr. McDaniel - Vice Chair, Mr. Moon, Ms. Meren, Ms. Anderson, Ms. St. John-Cunning, Ms. Dixit, Mr. McElveen, Ms. Lady - Chair
No: Dr. R. Anderson

The Closed Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. The Board took a brief break between the Closed Meeting and Work Session from 11:52 a.m. to 12:02 p.m.

3. Work Session: Middle School Afterschool Programs Discussion

Item 3.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Sandy Anderson and Robyn Lady, Meeting Managers, Meeting Managers (Exhibit C)

Meeting Manager, Robyn Lady, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. with the following Board members present:

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

Mr. Dannan, Mr. Dunne, and Mr. Frisch were absent from this portion of the Work Session.

Leadership Present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Chief of Schools **Megan Vroman;** Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale**

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

Student Representative **Newt Shosteck** was also present.

Item 3.02: Certification of a Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit D)

Summary: Certification of the August 18, 2026 Closed Meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3712 (D).

Board Action:

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

August 18, 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 Sandy B Anderson, second by Marcia St John-Cunning.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Sandy B Anderson, Ilryong Moon, Ryan McElveen, Robyn Lady - Chair, Seema Dixit, Marcia St John-Cunning
No: Melanie K Meren
Not Present at Vote: Kyle McDaniel - Vice Chair, Tom Dannan, Ricardy J Anderson

Item 3.03: Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting (Exhibit E)

Summary: The Board may take action in the Closed Meeting that requires a public vote. Any such actions are recorded during this portion of the Regular Meeting.

Board Action: There was no action taken by the School Board during the closed meeting.

Item 3.04: Middle School Afterschool Programs Discussion (Exhibit F)

Staff Contact: Tom Horn, executive director, Activities and Student Athletics

Other Staff Present: Megan Vroman, chief of schools; **Mark Emery**, administrator, Middle School After-School Programs

Summary: The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the Middle School After-School Program and the considerations and key elements of a potential fee structure for the Program.

Discussion Highlight: During the discussion on middle school after-school programs, the Board discussed a proposal to implement a mandatory $300 per participant fee to generate $1 million in revenue. Board Members expressed opposition to this fee structure, citing concerns that charging students would reduce participation, disproportionately impact low-income families, and run counter to the program's core mission of providing safe, enriching activities for all middle school students. The Board supported the program remaining free of charge, with several Board Members noting its historical significance as an important investment in student safety and enrichment. Additionally, Board Members advocated for exploring alternative revenue options, such as increasing fees for certain summer camps, instituting a "pay what you can" suggested administrative fee, and soliciting tax-deductible business donations through Educate Fairfax.

4. **Break/Lunch**

The Board took a brief recess from 1:01 p.m. to 1:37 p.m.

5. Work Session Continued: Digital Literacy Discussion

Item 5.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Sandy Anderson and Dr. Ricardy Anderson, Meeting Managers (Exhibit G)

Meeting Manager, Sandy Anderson, called the Work Session back to order at 1:37 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Robyn Lady (Chair and Dranesville)
Kyle McDaniel (Vice Chair and At-Large)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Sandy Anderson (Springfield)
Tom Dannan (Braddock**, virtual; arr. 1:50 pm; left at 3:07 pm**)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence, **Absent**)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Mr. Dunne and Mr. Frisch were absent from this portion of the Work Session.

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

Student Representative **Newt Shosteck** was also present.

Item 5.02: Digital Literacy Discussion (Exhibit H)

Staff Contact: Sloan Presidio, chief academic officer

Other Staff Present: Ellen Reilly, assistant superintendent, ISD; **Michael Gillespie,** director, PreK-12 Curriculum and Instruction – Cross Curricular, ISD**; Derek Kelly,** senior manager, Educational Technology, ISD**; Monica VanHusen,** senior manager, Education Technology, ISD**;**

Summary: A presentation on the digital literacy curriculum, which aims to teach students about digital citizenship, information literacy, media literacy, and artificial intelligence (AI) literacy. This presentation builds on longstanding Fairfax County Public Schools digital literacy work and does not presume or preempt School Board policy guidance currently under development but rather is in response to the Board's June 11, 2026 directive to Dr. Reid to: 1) enhance digital literacy instruction across all school levels; 2) provide sufficient professional development for staff directly instructing students; and 3) make the instructional and program content fully accessible to the public.

After the initial presentation and before the Board's discussion, the Board paused to vote on Mr. Dannan's virtual participation request. Chair Lady read, and the Board approved, the following motion:

Motion: Mr. Dannan has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal reasons, as he is out of town for a family event, and is located in Alexandria Bay,

New York. I have performed an initial review of Mr. Dannan's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

I now ask Board members who are physically present to vote on the following:

All those in favor of confirming the Chair's approval of Mr. Dannan's request?

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Dixit, Mr. McElveen, Mr. McDaniel - Vice Chair, Ms. Meren, Ms. St. John-Cunning, Ms. Lady - Chair, Mr. Moon
No: Dr. R. Anderson

Discussion Highlight: During the discussion on digital literacy, Board Members, including the Student Representative, discussed the digital literacy curriculum's scope, delivery, and philosophical assumptions. Staff emphasized that the new lessons on digital citizenship, media literacy, and artificial intelligence (AI) safety would leverage a "purpose-before-platform" framework to ensure technology advances learning. However, Board Members expressed concern over the "presumed use" of devices upon school entry and pushed for explicit instruction on the district's learning management system rather than embedded, passive use. Additionally, the Board discussed the division's use of Lexia software for kindergarten students who require reading intervention under the state mandated Early Intervention Reading Initiative, as approximately 30% of Fairfax County Public School kindergartners need additional reading support. Providing this support would require either additional staff time or technology-based intervention. Though Board Members voiced frustration due to delayed staff analysis, they recognized the fiscal necessity of utilizing the approved reading software, as providing direct teacher-led instruction instead would require hiring approximately twenty additional certified teachers. Ultimately, Board Members advocated for narrowing device access to fifteen-minute blocks, exploring parent opt-out options, and postponing a Board decision until September. Finally, the discussion also covered broader digital literacy and AI usage policies, with questions raised about social media guidelines, device access restrictions, and the need for clearer policies around technology use in schools.

6. **Adjournment of Work Session**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

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Christina Setlow, Clerk to the Board Robyn Lady, Chair of the Board

Approved: August 27, 2026