MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
School Board Budget Committee
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

1. Budget Committee of the Whole

Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Seema Dixit and Ilryong Moon, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Seema Dixit, called the meeting to order at 10:35 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)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **Absent**)
Karl Frisch (Providence)
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, **Frances Ivey**; Chief Financial Officer **Leigh Burden**; Chief Information Technology Officer **Gautam Sethi;** Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck**; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale;** Chief of Facilities Services and Capital Programs **Erik Gordon**; and Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**.

Additional Staff: Auditor General**, Esther Ko**

School Board Staff present: Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Janet Brown** and Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Tiffany Sheppard**

Item 1.02: FY 2027 Approved Budget

Summary: An opportunity to preview the FY 2028 budget process, summarize anticipated challenges, and allow for discussion of priorities.

Discussion Highlights: The Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Director of Budget Services presented an early fiscal outlook, noting that anticipated county transfers and state revenue will likely fall short of projected division obligations, including inflation, rising healthcare expenses, and collective bargaining commitments. The Superintendent and finance team outlined hypothetical cost-reduction factors—such as central office cuts and potential staffing or class size adjustments—to gauge board priorities early in the development cycle. School Board Members expressed concerns opposition to reducing needs-based staffing or altering bargained compensation, emphasizing that collective bargaining agreements should be fully honored and that cutting student-facing staffing would create long-term harm. Concluding the item, Budget Committee leadership stressed the value of beginning budget conversations early to engage the

community, establish clear directives, and guide the Superintendent's upcoming proposed budget.

2. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Item 2.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Robyn Lady, Meeting Manager

Meeting Manager, Robyn Lady, called the meeting to order at 11:45 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)
Seema Dixit (Sully)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **arr. 12:29 p.m.**)
Karl Frisch (Providence)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large, **arr. 12:49 p.m.**)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale;** Chief of Facilities Services and Capital Programs **Erik Gordon**; Chief Information Technology Officer **Gautam Sethi;** Chief of Staff, **Frances Ivey**; Chief Financial Officer **Leigh Burden**; Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck**; Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King;** and Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**.

Additional Staff: Auditor General**, Esther Ko**

School Board Staff present: Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Janet Brown** and Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Tiffany Sheppard**

Item 2.02: FY 2027 School Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Assessment Project

Summary: On January 14, 2025, the Superintendent was directed to develop an annual School Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Assessment Program focused on addressing significant traffic and pedestrian safety concerns at Fairfax County Public Schools.

In Spring 2025, the program completed a pilot annual traffic and pedestrian safety assessment at six schools and established a standardized framework for future implementation.

In School Year 2025-2026, the program was implemented Division wide. The first annual report was completed on June 30, 2026, posted on the external website, and distributed to School Board Members.

The September 8 work session will provide the School Board with an update on the development and implementation of the annual assessment program, including the assessment process, preliminary findings, and generalized areas of concern.

The work session will conclude with discussion and feedback from the School Board regarding the program framework and future work on the product following the first iteration of the report.

Discussion Highlights: The Superintendent and safety leadership staff presented the Division's first published annual safety assessment, evaluating traffic patterns across ten pilot schools and identifying post-pandemic Kiss and Ride congestion, parent driving behaviors, and older campus infrastructure constraints as widespread challenges. School Board Members emphasized that Kiss and Ride hazards—such as unauthorized neighborhood drop-offs, blocked roadways, and illegal U-turns—persist regardless of crossing guard presence, advocating for parent safety education, staggered drop-off times, and creative walking initiatives. Board Members also called for enhanced data reporting using percentages rather than raw counts, the establishment of a division-wide safety dashboard, and clear operational expectations for monitoring recommended improvements . Furthermore, Members stressed the necessity of proactive, structured collaboration with the Board of Supervisors, VDOT, and FCDOT regarding sidewalk gaps, school crossing zone permits, speed cameras, and traffic management beyond school property lines. Concluding the item, the Superintendent confirmed that safety teams will continue collaborating with individual principals and county traffic authorities to refine arrival protocols, review walking routes, and deliver assessment feedback earlier in future budget cycles.

The Board took a brief break between Work Session topics from 1:01 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

4. Naming Rights

Item 4.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Kyle McDaniel and Mateo Dunne, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Kyle McDaniel, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Karl Frisch and Tom Dannan were absent for this portion of the meeting.

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid;** Chief of Facilities Services and Capital Programs **Erik Gordon**; Chief of Staff, **Frances Ivey;** Chief of Schools, **Megan Vroman**; Chief Financial Officer **Leigh Burden**; Chief Experience and Engagement Officer **Lisa Y. Hall**; Chief Equity Officer **Dr. Nardos King**.

Item 4.02: Naming Rights

Summary: The presentation is in response to the Board's direction to provide a draft proposal to pursue naming rights for athletic facilities. The presentation will highlight key decision points for Board consideration.

Consensus: We agree to have a request for information from external sources through the RFI process and an internal conversation for Board Members to discuss parameters for how funding will be used, etc. to occur at the same time through the process.

Without Objection.

Discussion Highlights: The Superintendent, Chief of Schools, and the Executive Director of Student Activities and Athletics presented options for exploring corporate naming rights across division facilities under existing school board policy, recommending a Request for Information (RFI) to assess market interest, asset valuations, and policy requirements without upfront costs. School Board Members thoroughly evaluated the proposal regarding potential inequities between schools; members discussed whether potential revenue should remain at host schools or be pooled division-wide to address baseline athletic equipment, uniform, and infrastructure gaps. Board Members also expressed concerns about over-commercializing public school environments, emphasizing the need for strict ethical guardrails, vendor conflict protections, community input, and clear guidelines for merging corporate names with existing honorarium spaces. Concluding the item, the Board reached consensus to issue an external RFI while simultaneously holding internal board discussions to establish clear policy parameters, values-based safeguards, and revenue-sharing mechanisms before taking further action.

The Board took a brief break between session topics from 2:55 pm to 3:08 pm

5. Legislative Program

Item 5.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Dr. Ricardy Anderson and Ryan McElveen, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Dr. Ricardy Anderson, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Karl Frisch and Tom Dannan were absent for this portion of the meeting.

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Chief of Staff, **Frances Ivey**; Chief Financial Officer **Leigh Burden**; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, and Learning **Marcy Kneale;** and Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert**.

Item 5.02: 2027 FCSB Legislative Program and Policy Discussion

Summary: The School Board regularly engages with local, state, and federal public officials and others regarding its advocacy positions on legislative policy and budget issues important to Fairfax County Public Schools students, teachers, staff, parents, and the broader Fairfax community. The School Board also partners in this work with other Virginia school divisions and statewide educational advocacy organizations, such as the Virginia School Boards Association.

An important component of this ongoing engagement is the School Board's Annual State and Federal Legislative Program, which contains the School Board's priorities and advocacy on state and federal issues of both current and ongoing significance. The Program also includes a Joint Legislative Position, adopted in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Fairfax County School Board's 2027 State and Federal Legislative Program will include additions, deletions, and formatting changes from the Board's 2026 legislative advocacy. These changes and updates are intended to adjust language to reflect actions taken over the past year by state and federal governments; to anticipate current and upcoming issues; to reflect the Board's current approaches to policy debates and issues; and to clarify and simplify existing language where appropriate.

A full draft of staff-recommended advocacy position language changes using strikethrough and underline to highlight each proposed change, along with a document detailing each proposed change, will be made available for the Board's consideration. In addition, the Board will consider updates to state and federal Legislative Priorities as well as to the annual Joint Legislative Position, which is adopted in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Board also intends to discuss its newly formed Legislative Committee, including potential revisions to the Board's legislative advocacy calendar and approach.

Action on the Board's 2027 State and Federal Legislative Program is currently scheduled for New Business on September 24, with Final Action scheduled for October 8.

Discussion Highlights: Legislative Committee Leadership and Government Relations Staff presented a structural transformation from a passive annual review to an active, year-round Legislative Committee of the Whole, establishing a revised calendar featuring a virtual fall legislative briefing for lawmakers with heavy education dockets and a spring reception. School Board Members strongly endorsed playing "offense" by proactively drafting legislation, building state and federal coalitions, and leveraging division scale to influence policy, while Government Relations Staff cautioned that bill introductions require careful vetting and that budget advocacy operates through distinct channels. Board Members highlighted key policy and funding priorities, including continued pressure on state leaders to implement JLARC funding recommendations, expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) and apprenticeships aligning multilingual learner assessment timelines with federal allowances, addressing College Board testing fees and monopoly practices, and asserting local control over school calendars. Concluding the item, the Board reached unanimous consensus to adopt the proposed committee structure, meeting calendar, and streamlined priority framework.

6. Adjournment

Item 6.01: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Robyn Lady, Chair of the Board

Approved: September 24, 2026