48-Hour Rule

September 22, 2026
School Board Retreat

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Special Rule of Order - 48-Hour Rule

- Approved by the Board on September 26, 2024
- Rule Language: I move to adopt a special rule of order, requiring School Board Members to submit final language for non-agendized motions to the board Clerk and all other board members at least 48-hours in advance of the Regular Meeting in which it is to be considered. This special rule of order shall be reviewed by the board no later than the end of the 2024-25 school year to determine efficacy.
    - Non-agendized motions requiring the 48-hour notice include:
        - Any main motion that is not already on the agenda.
        - Follow-on motions for main motions already on the agenda.
        - Amendments for main motions already on the agenda.
        - Substitute motions for main motions already on the agenda.
    - Motions allowed within the 48-hour notice window or from the dais:
        - Any motion with a 2/3 vote of the board to suspend these rules.
        - Follow-on motions for board member-submitted main motions.
        - Amendments for board member-submitted motions.
        - Substitute motions for board member-submitted motions.
        - Any motion that is not a non-agendized motion, as defined above, including any motion designed to end debate, table, or postpone consideration of a motion.

Interpreting the 48-Hour Rule

- Any main motions must be submitted at least 48-hours in advance.
- For amendments and follow-on motions, we look at whether we used Dr. Reid's recommended language for the main motion or if the main motion came from a SBM.

Interpreting the 48-Hour Rule Cont.

- If main motion is based on Dr. Reid's recommended language, then the primary amendment or any follow-on motions must be submitted 48-hours in advance of the Regular Meeting.
- If main motion is submitted by a SBM, then 48-hour rule does not apply to amendments or follow-on motion.
- 48-hour rule does not apply to secondary degree amendments (amendment to the amendment) or amendments to follow-on motions.

S.B. 699

Pursuant to Virginia S.B. 699, beginning July 1, 2026, “no final action may be taken on items added to the agenda after the meeting commences unless they are time-sensitive or are subject of a closed meeting properly identified in a motion in accordance with § 2.2-3711.”

What Does S.B. 699 Mean for Us?

- Even if the Board discontinues the use of the 48-hour rule, all main motions, except for the very limited circumstances, must be to the Clerk and displayed on BoardDocs before the Regular Meeting (RM) begins if the Board expects to vote on the main motion that night.
- Without the 48-hour rule, this could mean that the beginning of the RM is delayed if the Clerk needs to post a last-minute main motion to BoardDocs.

Questions?