# Decorum Rules and Norms

September 22, 2026
School Board Retreat

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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# Decorum Rules in Robert's Rules of Order

- 43:20 Members remarks must be germane to the pending question
- 43:21 Members may not attack another member's motivations
- 43:21 Members must avoid personalities
- 43:22 All remarks must be made through the chair
- 43:23 Members must avoid the use of other members' names
- 43:24 Members may not speak adversely on a prior action not pending

# Decorum Rules in Robert's Rules of Order Cont.

- 43:25 A member may not speak against his or her own motion
- 43:26 Members may not read from papers
- 43:27 Members must yield to an interruption by the chair
- 43:28 Members may not disturb the Board

# Previous Norms for School Board Engagement

- Be respectful (e.g. give ideas a chance)
- Listen actively without interrupting (note: People may have different ways of demonstrating active listening.)
- No side conversations
- Be open and candid
- Presume positive intent (speak with kindness)
- Be succinct
- Presence
- “I” Statements (own your statement, refrain from attributing “we” to “me”)
- Be aware of the judgments you are making

# Previous Norms for School Board Engagement Continued

- Be impeccable with your words
- Recognize implicit bias
- Demonstrate professional courtesy
- Practice responsiveness (means different things to different people)
- Provide feedback
- Be curious

# Questions?