MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
Gatehouse Administration Center

School Board Retreat September 22, 2026

1. School Board Retreat

Item 1.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Kyle McDaniel and Sandy Anderson, Meeting Managers

Chair McDaniel called the School Board Retreat to order at 5:12 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Robyn Lady (Chair and Dranesville)
Kyle McDaniel (Chair and At-Large, **arr. 5:28 p.m.**)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Sandy Anderson (Springfield)
Tom Dannan (Braddock)
Seema Dixit (Sully, **arr 5:23 p.m.**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **arr 5:16 p.m.**)
Karl Frisch (Chair and Providence)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large, **Absent**)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Leadership Team Present: Division Superintendent **Michelle Reid.**

School Board Staff Present: Clerk to the School Board **Christina Setlow**, and Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Janet Brown.**

Item 1.02: Work Session Discussion (Exhibit A)

Discussion: The School Board discussed scheduling procedures for new work session topics, the cadence of committee meetings, and meeting schedules for the 2027–28 school year. On topic scheduling, members considered whether to maintain informal consensus through the Chair and Vice Chair or use a formal tracking document, reaching informal consensus to maintain the status quo while keeping calendar openings for emergent issues. Regarding the Budget Committee of the Whole, members highlighted public transparency and the overall budget scope, agreeing to defer meeting frequency decisions to the Budget Committee leadership. For the Legislative Committee, members supported empowering committee leadership to schedule flexible meetings or town-hall-style webinars around key state legislative periods such as Crossover. Finally, when reviewing 2027–28 work session days and times, members expressed strong interest in holding work sessions on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to ease staff burdens and accommodate member schedules.

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain the status quo by leaving decisions on scheduling new work session topics to the Chair and Vice Chair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to defer decisions on the frequency of Budget Committee of the Whole meetings to the Budget Committee leadership to confer and report back to the Board.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to authorize a Zoom webinar format hosted by Legislative Committee leadership to handle questions without convening formal public Board meetings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to schedule 2027–28 work sessions on Thursdays during non-Regular Meeting weeks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members reached a tentative consensus to hold work sessions twice per month on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., while tabling the final confirmation for further discussion.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Item 1.03: Regular Meeting Discussion (Exhibit B)

Summary: The Board evaluated the ordering of Regular Meeting agendas, the frequency of recurring presentations, and submission rules for motions. Regarding agenda order, members examined placing non-voting presentations before action items, maintaining informal consensus that the Chair should retain discretion over agenda structure to prevent late-night votes on key business. Concerning recurring updates, members and the Superintendent weighed transparency against agenda length, deciding to alternate Academic Matters and Strategic Plan Updates monthly rather than scheduling both at every meeting. Lastly, members reviewed the

48-hour rule for submitting main motions and amendments prior to meetings, affirming that it promotes predictability and complies with state law while leaving room for rule suspensions when necessary.

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain the status quo by placing non-voting presentations before action items while granting the Chair discretion to adjust the agenda order for major action votes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to reduce the frequency of Academic Matters presentations to once per month.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain monthly Strategic Plan Updates, granting the Chair discretion to omit updates during months featuring Goal Reports.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain the current 48-hour rule for submitting main motions and amendments prior to Regular Meetings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Item 1.04: Future Planning Discussion (Exhibit C)

Summary: The discussion centered on staff follow-ups to annual Advisory Committee reports and the role of Board liaisons during Regular Meetings. Members emphasized establishing clear feedback loops for committee recommendations, noting that because advisory committees report directly to the Board, staff responses and Board decisions should be tracked per the committee manual without requiring recommendations to be strictly cost-neutral. Regarding

liaison updates, members considered whether Board liaisons should regularly report during Regular Meetings. The Board agreed to maintain current practice by omitting recurring liaison reports to conserve meeting time, encouraging liaisons to share updates via email or when specific issues arise.

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain the status quo by not scheduling additional work sessions for annual Advisory Committee reports and following the tracking process in the Community Advisory Committee manual.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Consensus: School Board Members agreed to maintain the status quo by omitting recurring verbal liaison updates during Regular Meetings and sharing updates via email instead.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Unanimous decision

Item 1.05: Board Norms Discussion (Exhibit D)

Summary: The Board discussed decorum rules, professional conduct, and peer accountability during meetings. Members reviewed expectations regarding speaking only to one's own views, adhering to time limits, and maintaining germaneness during debates. The Board Clerk noted common issues with germaneness and reading extensively from reports, pointing out that maintaining decorum relies on members calling out issues on the dais. Board members agreed on the importance of maintaining professionalism, extending grace to colleagues, and prioritizing self-policing rather than nitpicking to maintain a healthy collaborative environment.

Item 1.06: Housekeeping Discussion (Exhibit E)

Summary: The School Board addressed administrative housekeeping details prior to concluding the retreat. No policy deliberations or formal votes took place during this item.

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2. Adjournment

Item 2.01: Adjournment

The School Board Retreat was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Sandy B. Anderson, Chair of the Board

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Christina Setlow, Clerk of the Board

Approved: October 8, 2026

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