MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
School Board Work Session
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

1. Forum Topic

Item 1.01: Call to order and announcements, Karl Frisch and Kyle McDaniel, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Robyn Lady, called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Robyn Lady (Chair and Dranesville)
Kyle McDaniel (Vice Chair and At-Large, **Absent**)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Sandy Anderson (Springfield)
Tom Dannan (Braddock, **Absent**)
Seema Dixit (Sully, **Absent**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **arr. 10:43 am**)
Karl Frisch (Providence)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill, **arr 11:01 am**)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large, **PV**)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Interim Leadership Team **Frances Ivey;** Chief Operating Officer **Andy Mueck;** Chief Equity Officer **Nardos King;** Chief Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, & Learning **Marcy Kneale;** Chief Safety & Security Officer **Brian Lambert;** Chief Human Resources Officer**, William Solomon;** Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services **Ellen Reilly;** Chief Experience & Engagement Officer **Lisa Youngblood Hall;**

School Board Office: Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Tiffany Sheppard;** Deputy Clerk to the School Board **Janet Brown**

Motion: Mr. Moon has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal travel, and is located in Seoul, South Korea. I have performed an initial review of Mr. Moon's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Mr. Frisch, Mr. McElveen, Mr. Dunne, Ms. Anderson, Ms. St. John-Cunning, Ms. Lady
No: Dr. Ricardy Anderson

Item 1.02: Strengthening Student Safety and Belonging

Discussion Highlights: The Board conducted a comprehensive assessment of bullying, student safety, and belonging practices by the end of the school year. While triggered by concerning survey trends among LGBTQIA+ youth, Board members stressed that the review must be intersectional and address bullying across all student identities, including Black, Hispanic, immigrant, and Muslim female students. The Board also evaluated the efficacy and limits of

Restorative Justice and emphasized that because bullying is a learned behavior from adults, strong family engagement and parent liaison support are essential alongside existing health curricula and counseling interventions. Ultimately, the Board unanimously passed the motion directing the Superintendent to present a report and recommendations by June 30.

Consensus: The Board directs the Superintendent to conduct a division-wide assessment of FCPS's bullying, student safety, and belonging practices.

Yes: Ricardy Anderson, Ryan McElveen, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Sandy Anderson, Robyn Lady, Melanie Meren, Karl Frisch, Mateo Dunne, and Ilryong Moon

The forum was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

2. Break

The Board took a brief break between the Forum and the Work Session from 11:14 a.m. t0 11:53 a.m.

3. Strategic Goal Report 1: Strong Start Pre-K- 12 Discussion

Item 3.01: Call to Order and Announcements, Dr. Ricardy Anderson and Marcia St. John-Cunning, Meeting Managers

Meeting Manager, Dr. Ricardy Anderson, called the meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Robyn Lady (Chair and Dranesville)
Kyle McDaniel (Vice Chair and At-Large, **Absent**)
Ricardy Anderson (Mason)
Sandy Anderson (Springfield)
Tom Dannan (Braddock, **Absent**)
Seema Dixit (Sully, **Absent**)
Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon, **arr. 12:03 pm**)
Karl Frisch (Providence)
Ryan McElveen (At-Large)
Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill)
Ilryong Moon (At-Large, **PV**)
Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia)

Leadership Team present: Division Superintendent **Dr. Michelle Reid**; Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Officer **Erik Gordon**; Assistant Superintendent, Strategy, Planning, & Learning **Marcy Kneale;** Chief of Schools **Megan Vroman;** Chief Academic Officer **Dr. Sloan Presidio**; Chief Equity Officer **Nardos King;** Chief Human Resources Officer**, William Solomon;** Chief Experience & Engagement Officer **Lisa Youngblood Hall;** Interim Leadership Team **Frances Ivey;** Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services **Ellen Reilly;** Auditor General**, Esther Ko**

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

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Motion: Mr. Moon has submitted a request to attend this morning's meeting remotely due to personal travel, and is located in Seoul, South Korea. I have performed an initial review of Mr. Moon's request and, having found it to be in compliance with the School Board's Remote Participation Resolution, I have approved the request.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Mr. Frisch, Mr. McElveen, Mr. Dunne, Ms. Anderson, Ms. St. John-Cunning, Ms. Lady
No: Dr. Ricardy Anderson

Item 3.02: Strategic Plan Goal 1 Report: Strong Start: Pre-K-12

Staff Contact: Dr. Michelle C. Reid, Division Superintendent

Other Staff Present: Frances Ivey, interim chief of staff; Megan Vroman, chief of schools
Leigh Burden, chief financial officer; Lisa Youngblood Hall, chief experience and engagement officer; Nardos King, chief equity officer; Sloan Presidio, chief academic officer; Erik Gordon, chief of facilities services and capital programs; Ellen Reilly, assistant superintendent, Instructional Services

Marie Lemmon, assistant superintendent, School Improvement & Supports; Terri Edmunds-Heard, assistant superintendent, Department of Special Services; Marcy Kneale, assistant superintendent, Strategy, Planning and Learning

Candace Hunstad, executive director, Strategy and Planning

Discussion Highlights: The Board focused on the Strategic Plan Goal 1 Report, which evaluated early childhood Pre-K readiness and English language acquisition for multilingual learners. Board members reviewed division efforts to expand Pre-K capacity, while examining access barriers such as cost and space limitations, advocating for state-funded universal Pre-K, and supporting inclusive co-teaching models. Leadership reported that multilingual students reach full academic English proficiency within five years, while Board members emphasized state legislative advocacy for native-language content testing.

During the discussion, Ms. Meren moved, and Dr. Anderson seconded the below motion. The Board discussed the relevancy and timing of the motion, and Dr. Anderson indicated that the motion was related to the Work Session topic, as Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan is related to strong starts. She felt that a strong start could not be accomplished without enough teachers. Additionally, Dr. Anderson noted that the motion was time sensitive because the school system was almost at the end of the first quarter of the school year, and some students still did not have a permanent, licensed teacher in the classroom.

Motion: I move that the School Board direct the Superintendent to conclude rebalancing of staffing and fill vacant instructional positions, including by initiating hire of external candidates, no later than October 9.

Motion by Melanie Meren, second by Ricardy J Anderson.
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yes: Melanie Meren, Ricardy J Anderson
No: Ryan McElveen, Ilryong Moon, Robyn Lady - Chair, Sandy B Anderson, Marcia St John-Cunning

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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

Approved: October 22, 2026

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