



MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, February 22, 2024 (5:00 PM)

1.1 Call to Order: Ms. Larson-Torres, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.1 Moment of Silence: Ms. Larson-Torres asked all those present to observe a moment of silence.

3.1 Pledge of Allegiance: The Board began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4.1 Roll Call of Board Members:

The following Board Members were present:

Ms. Amanda Burns	Ms. Shymora Cooper
Ms. Emily Dooley	Mr. Chris Meyer
Mr. Dom Morse	Ms. Nicole Richardson
Ms. Lisa Larson-Torres	

The following Board Members were absent: None

The following Staff Members were present:

Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr.	Ms. Kim Powell
Dr. Katina Otey	Mr. Pat Cuomo
Ms. T. Denise Johnson	Ms. Beth Cheuk
Ms. Maria Lewis	Ms. Carolyn Swift
Ms. Renee Hoover	Ms. Julia Green
Ms. Leslie Thacker	

5.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried Ms. Burns, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Morse, Ms. Richardson, and Ms. Larson-Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Cooper was not present for this vote.

6.1 Disclosure of a personal interest in a transaction under Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3112(B)(1) and 2.2-3115(H): At the recommendation of Bradford King, Attorney with Sands Anderson, and as required by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3112(8){1}, Ms. Dooley read a statement regarding personal interest in a transaction of the Charlottesville City School Board. This disclosure will be reflected in the public records of the Clerk of the School Board for five years. A copy of the full statement can be found on the Board's [Electronic School Board site](#).

7.1 Public Comment 2023-2024 Budget:

- Jill McKinley-Johnson, parent and Johnson PTO Co-Chair, spoke in support of fully funding the original budget request. She mentioned that the Johnson PTO sent a letter earlier in the week expressing similar concerns. Ms. McKinley-Johnson emphasized the importance of addressing the significant gap between the original request and the current allocation, highlighting the critical initiatives at risk, especially those directly benefiting students. These include positions like reading and math specialists, increased special education funding, school-based substitutes, and resources for supporting English language learners. She

pointed out the growing number of English language learners in the Johnson community and the ongoing need for pandemic recovery efforts. Ms. McKinley-Johnson concluded by reiterating their call for the school board to prioritize fully funding the original needs-focused budget request, emphasizing the importance of investing in children's education for the future of the community.

7.2 Comments from Students: There were none.

8.1 Approval of 2023-2024 Operating Budget: Dr. Royal Gurley, Division Superintendent, presented the 2024-2025 Operating Budget summary proposal for Board approval. The FY 25 Superintendent's Proposed Budget was presented at the February 1, 2024 meeting with an increased City appropriation of \$6 million. At the School Board members request the City's appropriation was increased another \$3 million. The Superintendent's FY 25 Proposed Budget presented for adoption has an increased City appropriation of \$9,023,574 for a total City appropriation of \$76,115,708. This 13.45% increase over FY 2024 City Appropriation Budget of \$67,092,134.

The FY 25 Proposed Budget total's \$94,743,863 for the General (Operating) Fund and \$24,678,680 for the Special Revenue Funds for an overall total budget of \$119,422,543. This is an increase of \$11,464,641 or 10.62% over FY 2024 Revised Budget.

- Agenda
 - Budget Statutory Guidelines
 - Section 22.1-92 of the Code of Virginia requires the Division Superintendent to prepare an estimate of the amount of money deemed to be needed during the next fiscal year for the support of the public schools of the division.
 - Budget Priorities
 - Increase Academic Achievement
 - Provide a Culture of Safety, Wellness, and Belonging
 - Support Our Staff
 - Ensure Effective and Efficient Operations
 - Superintendent's Proposed -FY 2025 Budget

2024-2025 Funding Request (Changes to FY 2024) February 22, 2024 Superintendent's Proposed Budget			
STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY	SALARY & BENEFIT ACTIONS	AMOUNT	FTE
3	Teachers and Staff: 2% Mid-Year Raise implemented 1/1/2024	1,231,977	
3	Teachers: Step increase	564,525	
3	Administration & General: Implementation of Evergreen Plan	323,197	
3	Benefit: Health Insurance (Estimate 7.7%)	349,314	
	Total Salary & Benefit Actions	2,469,013	
RECURRING & NON-DISCRETIONARY CONTRACTS			
4	City Contract: Pupil Transportation (Estimate 8.6%)	634,768	
4	City Contract: Maintenance (Estimate 6%)	272,172	
4	Subscription: Parents Square	12,000	
4	Security: Access Controls Software Subscription	8,000	
4	CATEC: Sustain Academic and Operation Services	441,904	
	TOTAL RECURRING & NON-DISCRETIONARY CONTRACTS	1,368,8444	

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY	SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM SUPPORTS & IMPROVEMENTS	AMOUNT	FTE
1	Teachers: Enrollment Growth - Elementary, English Second Language, English & Social Studies	711,608	7.5
1	Instructional Assistant: CATEC Special Education	46,156	1
2	Support Staff: CHS Care & Safety Assistant	55,645	1
3	Teachers: Site Base Substitutes at CHS, Buford, Walker, and Elementary Schools	569,286	6
1	Teachers: Reading & Math Specialists at Walker	189,762	2
1	Teachers: Reading & Math Interventionists at Buford	189,762	2
1	Teachers: Reading or Math Specialists at Buford	94,881	1
1	Teacher: Math Specialist at Clark	84,881	1
1	Knight School	213,688	
3	Instructional Assistants: Special Education Stipend Increase	16,775	
4	Technology: CATEC Hardware & Software	27,000	
4	Consultant: Evaluate Elementary Student Attendance Zones	50,000	
3	Tuition: Increase Division Reimbursement Rate	42,300	
3	Collective Bargaining: Labor Relations	9,000	
	TOTAL SCHOOL BASED PROGRAM SUPPORTS & IMPROVEMENTS	2,260,7446	
	TOTAL INCREASE EXPENDITURES	6,098,601	21.5

REVENUES	
Decrease: State	-2,924,973
City (Estimated Request)	9,023,574
TOTAL INCREASE REVENUES	6,098,601

Funds	Amended Budget FY 2023 - 2024	Proposed Budget FY 2024 - 2025	Change From 2024 to 2025 Budgets	% Change From 2024 to 2025 Budgets
General (Operating)	\$86,626,337	\$94,743,863	\$8,117,526	9.37%
Special Revenue	\$21,331,565	\$24,678,680	\$3,347,115	15.69%
Total Funds	\$107,957,902	\$119,422,543	\$11,464,641	10.62%

General Fund		Special Revenue Fund	
City Appropriation	\$8,020,104	CATEC	\$3,270,711

State Revenue	(\$2,924,973)	VPI	41,474
Fund Balance Change	\$3,022,395	WALK	34,930
Total Changes	\$7,958,579	Total Changes	\$3,347,115

Ms. Larson-Torres inquired if the transportation budget reflected the recent collective bargaining changes. Dr. Gurley confirmed it included all increases for the fiscal year 2025, while Ms. Powell clarified that while originally six additional drivers were proposed for field trips and special needs, only two 30-hour positions were ultimately secured. Additionally, plans for extra vans, including wheelchair-accessible ones, were removed from the budget (though procuring one might still be considered as funding for regular bus replacements remains intact, so there is still funding in the transportation budget for equipment).

Ms. Dooley raised concerns about keeping pace with other jurisdictions regarding staff increases. Dr. Gurley acknowledged the issue, citing Albemarle County's proposed 3% raise and potential 3% increases included in both the House and Senate versions of the state budget for Standards of Quality positions. He indicated that depending on the final state budget decision, the current proposal might not be competitive and adjustments might be necessary. The division anticipates revisiting the budget based on the final state budget outcome.

Ms. Dooley expressed appreciation to Dr. Gurley for his efforts in crafting the budget. While acknowledging his work, she also voiced her desire to see increased compensation for staff members.

Mr. Meyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morse, to adopt the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2024-2025 budget as outlined in the summary of changes from FY 2024 for a total fiscal year 2025 budget of \$119,422,543. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Morse, Ms. Richardson, and Ms. Larson-Torres voting aye. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9.1 Comments from Members of the Community: There were none.

10.1 Board Member Comments: While acknowledging this budget as needs-based, Mr. Meyer expressed concerns about its limitations and the overall budget process. He identified areas for improvement, including internal procedures, interaction with the Council, meeting schedules, and overall timing. He proposed exploring a review of the process, potentially through a joint committee with the Mayor, with the aim of achieving a smoother and more efficient process for the following year. He acknowledged that his colleagues might not necessarily agree with his suggestion, but emphasized the need for action and improvement. While not blaming staff, he believes the current process can be significantly enhanced.

11.1 Superintendent's Comments: There were none.

12.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Larson-Torres read the list of upcoming meetings.

13.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

A video of the February 22, 2024 meeting can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fGDCqgtclY6xiTXyX2k4MKA2opCuHrxE/view?usp=drive_link