



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
City Council / School Board Joint Work Session
August 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
CitySpace, 100 Fifth St NE, Charlottesville, VA**

The Charlottesville City Council and Charlottesville City School Board convened for a joint work session to discuss school funding, the FY 2026–2027 budget, and school facilities.

CALL TO ORDER

The Charlottesville City Council special meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., with all members present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrein, and Councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

The Charlottesville City School Board special meeting was called to order following City Council action on a business item.

A quorum of both governing bodies was present and each body approved of the meeting agenda.

ACTION ITEM

- 1. RESOLUTION to Appropriate \$234,000 to the Citywide Reserve and for the approval to use an amount not to exceed \$206,993.23 for the Repayment of Local Match Funds to the Department of Justice for the Charlottesville/Albemarle Family Drug Court**

Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Manager for the City of Charlottesville, summarized the request, and on motion by Oschrein, seconded by Fleisher, Council voted 5-0 to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

To Appropriate \$234,000 to the Citywide Reserve and Grant the City Manager Approval to Use an Amount Not to exceed \$206,993.23 for the Repayment of Local Match Funds to the Department of Justice for the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Family Drug Court

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville plans to reclaim \$234,000 previously allocated to the Blue Ridge Coalition for Homelessness (BRACH) for Permanent Supportive Housing Supports that were not expended as they secured funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in FY2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville served as the fiscal agent for the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Family Drug Court Program and received a grant from the Department of Justice in the amount of \$827,973.00 for which there was a required match of 25%; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has received notice from the Department of Justice of a required repayment of the 25% match for the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Family Drug Court totaling \$206,993.23;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that:

1. Funds in the amount of \$234,000 be appropriated to the Citywide Reserve account and allocated as follows:

Revenue:

\$ 234,000 Fund: 105 WBS: 1631001000 G/L Account: 451050

Expense:

\$ 234,000 Fund: 105 WBS: 9783004000 G/L Account: 599999

2. The City Manager is authorized to pay an amount not to exceed \$260,993.23 for the Repayment of Local Match Funds to the Department of Justice in connection with a previously awarded grant for the Charlottesville/Albemarle Family Drug Court Program.

JOINT MEETING**FY 2026–2027 School Budget**

The School Division provided an update on the FY 2026–2027 budget following adoption of the final State budget. Charlottesville City Schools received approximately \$318,847 in additional State revenue, primarily resulting from updated state sales tax and lottery proceeds projections.

The discussion focused on the City's \$2 million school operating contingency and the provision to share additional state revenue between the City and School Division. School Board members expressed concerns about the process used to establish the contingency line item and emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration between the two governing bodies.

City staff explained that the contingency was established because the City adopted its budget before the final State budget was available. Staff emphasized that the contingency was not created because of concerns regarding the School Division's financial management.

Both bodies agreed on the importance of improving communication during future budget cycles.

2. School Funding Formula

Council and School Board members discussed the City's existing school funding formula, including the 40% formula based on new property-tax revenue. Members expressed concerns that the current formula does not provide sufficient predictability or necessarily reflect the School Division's actual needs. Participants discussed the growing costs associated with enrollment, employee compensation, student needs, facility maintenance, and educational programming.

There was general agreement that the funding formula should be reviewed and potentially revised through a collaborative process involving City and School Division staff and elected officials. A December 2026 joint discussion was proposed to begin this work and to provide an earlier opportunity to discuss the next budget cycle.

3. FY 2026–2027 Expenditures

The School Division presented several proposed budget adjustments, including:

- Converting six part-time bus-driver positions to full-time positions to address transportation staffing needs;
- Conducting a pupil transportation study;

- Providing an additional 2% salary increase for administrative staff, bringing the total increase to 5%; and
- Appropriating funds associated with collective bargaining agreements.

The proposed adjustments would result in a net increase of approximately \$159,423 to the School Division's budget. Council was expected to consider the associated appropriation at a subsequent meeting.

4. School Facilities and Capital Needs

The School Division presented an overview of the age and condition of City school facilities. The average age of the City's school buildings is approximately 63–64 years, with several facilities requiring significant modernization.

Charlottesville High School, Greenbrier Elementary School, and Jackson-Via Elementary School were identified as current facility priorities. Staff and school personnel described numerous facility challenges, including:

- Aging infrastructure and plumbing;
- Restroom and ventilation concerns;
- Inadequate instructional and cafeteria space;
- Water intrusion and maintenance issues;
- Limited athletic and multipurpose space; and
- Facilities that do not adequately support current instructional practices and career-connected learning.

The discussion emphasized that facility conditions affect both the physical learning environment and the School Division's ability to expand educational and career pathways for students.

5. School Facilities Referendum

Council and School Board members discussed the proposed 1% sales-tax referendum and the importance of community education and engagement.

Participants emphasized the need for clear, consistent information regarding the purpose and potential benefits of the referendum. Three principal themes emerged:

1. Safe and secure schools;
2. Modern learning environments; and
3. Facilities that help students become life-ready graduates.

Members discussed opportunities for community meetings, surveys, neighborhood outreach, media engagement, and other forms of public participation.

The bodies also discussed the distinction between educating the public about the need for the referendum and determining which specific projects would ultimately be funded.

Follow-up Items

The following areas were identified for continued work:

- Develop a joint process or committee to examine and potentially revise the City's school funding formula.
- Prepare for a December 2026 discussion concerning the school funding formula and the upcoming budget cycle.
- Provide historical information regarding the performance of the existing funding formula, including comparisons between projected and actual funding.
- Continue planning for a pupil transportation study.
- Complete the administrator compensation study, anticipated in October or November 2026.
- Continue coordinated public education and engagement regarding the 1% sales-tax referendum.
- Develop consistent City Council and School Board talking points regarding school facility needs and the referendum.
- Continue evaluating and prioritizing school facility capital needs, recognizing the funding limitations associated with the Early Learning Center and other major projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, City Council adjourned first at 7:38 p.m., followed by the School Board, which also adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council