



MINUTES

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOL BOARD ADVANCE

Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) Auditorium
1000 Rio Rd. E., Charlottesville, VA
Monday, June 1, 2026 (4:00 PM)

1.1 Call to Order: Ms. Torres, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.1 Roll Call of Board Members:

Board Members Present: Ms. Zyahna Bryant, Ms. Amanda Burns, Ms. Shymora Cooper, Ms. Emily Dooley, Mr. Chris Meyer, Ms. Nicole Richardson, Ms. Lisa Torres

Board Members Absent: None

Executive Leadership Team & Staff Present: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr. (Superintendent) and Ms. Leslie Thacker (Board Clerk).

Executive Leadership Team & Staff Absent: None

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

Items for Discussion

4.1 2026 School Board Advance: Strengthening the Governance Team for Collective Impact with Consultant Dr.

Hutchings: The Charlottesville City School Board held a governance meeting to strengthen the governance team for collective impact, facilitated by Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., of Hutchings & Associates.

The Charlottesville City School Board participated in a Governance Work Session focused on strengthening governance practices, communication, and working relationships. The following key themes, recommendations, and deliverables were identified:

Key Themes:

- **Communication Clarity and Consistency:** Recognition that unclear communication practices contributed to misunderstandings. Needs include consistent community responses and clear coordination between the Board and Superintendent.
- **Governance Processes:** Emphasis that the process of decision-making (transparency and planning) is as critical as the outcomes themselves.
- **Trust and Boundaries:** Trust must be intentionally rebuilt through predictable processes. Greater clarity is needed regarding Board interactions with staff and the Superintendent.
- **Professionalism:** Acknowledgment that the Board serves as a model for the community, requiring respectful engagement even during disagreement.

Recommendations:

- Develop and adopt formal Board communication protocols and a standardized information request process.
- Create a visual communication flowchart for community members to understand escalation processes.
- Prioritize ongoing governance training focused on roles, conflict navigation, and trust-building.

Deliverables Identified:

- Establish a 24-48 hour communication response timeline.
- Requirement that individual Board responses to constituents be copied to the Superintendent and Board Chair.
- Strengthen Board protocols regarding staff interactions and attendance at staff meetings.

The Board reinforced a shared understanding of governance roles and communication expectations, affirmed the consistent use of Board protocols, and agreed to continue governance learning through individual coaching sessions.

The Board took a break from 5:45 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.

5.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk