



MINUTES
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 6, 2026 (5:30 PM)
Booker T. Reaves Media Center, Charlottesville High School
[Video Link](#)

A Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., in the Division Annex Exceptional Education Conference Room, 1400 Melbourne Road, Charlottesville, VA.

Board Members Present: Zyahna Bryant, Amanda Burns (Vice-Chair), Shymora Cooper, Emily Dooley, Chris Meyer, and Lisa Torres (Chair)

Board Members Absent: Nicole Richardson

Executive Leadership Team & Staff Present: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr. (Superintendent) and Maria Lewis (Chief Human Resources Officer), Kim Powell (Chief Operations Officer), and Peter Caramanis (Attorney with Royer Caramanis PLC)

Call the Closed Session to Order: Lisa Torres, School Board Chair, called the closed session meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1.1 Closed Meeting (4:30 p.m.): at 4:30 p.m., Ms. Burns made a motion to convene the Closed Session meeting as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) (8) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters (including discussion of the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation); discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the School Board; and consultation with legal counsel retained by the School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel related to an offer to purchase School Board property. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion, and the motion passed with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

1.2 Closed Meeting Certification: At 5:18 p.m., Ms. Burns made a motion that the board certify by recorded vote that, to the best of each board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion, and the motion passed with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Action: None

The board recessed from 5:19 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

1.3 Call to Order (5:30 p.m.): The School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the public meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2.1 Moment of Silence: Ms. Torres, Board Chair, 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](#): Roll call was conducted to confirm attendance.

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

Board Members Absent: Ms. Nicole Richardson

Executive Leadership Team & Staff Present: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr. (Superintendent), Dr. Anna Isley (Chief Academic Officer), Kim Powell (Chief Operations Officer), Maria Lewis (Chief Human Resources Officer), Renee Hoover (Chief Financial Officer), Pat Cuomo (Director of Technology), Rachel Rasnake (Director of Student Services), Carolyn Swift (Director of Assessment and Accountability), Dr. T. Denise Mulford (Director of Strategic Initiatives), Amanda Simalchik (Director of Community Relations), Carlton Jones (Director of Nutrition Services), Rodney Jordan (Director of Facilities and Operations), Julia Green (Board Deputy Clerk), and Leslie Thacker (Board Clerk).

Executive Leadership Team & Staff Absent: None

5.1 [Approval of Proposed Agenda](#): Ms. Burns made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooper, to approve the proposed agenda. The motion carried with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 [Comments from Students](#): There were none.

6.2 [Comments from Members of the Community](#): Ms. Zeneida Howard praised the Summit book club program for significant student gains in mapping and testing scores, noting that one child passed all SOL assessments. Inspired by testimonials from Chelsey Jones-Stratton and Wanica Howard, she has volunteered her lunch hour to support the program's expansion. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the initiative.

7.1-9 [Adoption of Consent Agenda: Personnel Recommendations, Business, Financial, Routine Reports - Renee Hoover, MINUTES - April 16, 2026 School Board Work Session \(School Safety Discussion including Resource Officers\), MINUTES - May 7, 2026 School Board Meeting, MINUTES - May 21, 2026 School Board Work Session \(Policy\), MINUTES - June 1, 2026 School Board Work Session \(Board Development\), MINUTES - June 4, 2026 School Board Meeting, Wellness Policy Revision \(JHCF\) - Carolyn Swift](#)

Ms. Burns made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to approve the adoption of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Action Items

9.1 [Approval of Final Property Settlement and Operational Assurances for Virginia Department of Transportation \(VDOT\) Land Acquisition](#): In March 2026, VDOT proposed purchasing right-of-way at CATEC for a roundabout project. CCS engaged legal counsel and commissioned an independent traffic study, which validated that the project would not negatively impact bus operations. To ensure liability protection, VDOT agreed to purchase the necessary land through the City of Charlottesville as an intermediary.

Right of Way Agreement: Ms. Dooley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooper, to approve the granting of a Right of Way Agreement to the Virginia Department of Transportation ("VDOT") for the purpose of permitting the construction of the Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Roundabout Project over those portions of the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center ("CATEC") property identified on VDOT's plans for the project, with such approval being expressly conditioned upon the School Board's legal counsel approving the final indemnification provisions contained in the Right of Way Agreement, and further authorize the Chair and/or the Superintendent to execute the agreement and any related documents necessary to effectuate this action. The motion carried with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Property Purchase Offer: Ms. Dooley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to accept the Virginia Department of Transportation's offer to purchase those portions of the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center ("CATEC") property identified on VDOT's plans for the Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Roundabout Project for the total purchase price of One Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$191,985), authorize the conveyance of such property to the City of Charlottesville for the purpose of the City's subsequent conveyance to VDOT in furtherance of the project, and authorize the Chair and/or the Superintendent to execute the deed, closing documents, and any other instruments necessary to complete the transaction consistent with the terms of VDOT's offer. The motion carried with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

9.2 [Action - 2026-2027 Policy Updates \(May 2026 VSBA Policy Update\)](#): Director of Assessment and Accountability Carolyn Swift and the Executive Leadership Team presented the 2026-2027 Policy Updates, which were first read on June 4, 2026. Per Virginia Code 22.1-253.13(7), the Board must review all policies at least every five years. This update incorporates recommendations from the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) for several revisions, deletions, and the adoption of new policies: AH (Digital Accessibility), ILBC (College Board School Day Program), JLB (Financial Aid Guidance for High School Students), JS (Extracurricular Activity Notification), and KPA (Parental Notification of Safe Storage of Prescription Drugs and Firearms).

Ms. Burns made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley, to approve the 2026-2027 Policy Update. The motion carried with Ms. Bryant, Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Items for Discussion

10.1 [Ed Tech Overview & Policy First Read](#): Pat Cuomo, Director of Technology, updated the Board on initiatives to monitor student screen time, distinguishing between passive and active usage. He also introduced a proposed student technology policy for future Board consideration.

Here is a detailed summary of the presentation from the Charlottesville City Schools School Board meeting on August 6, 2026, formatted for meeting minutes:

Key Terms and Definitions

- Educational Technology: Any division-approved digital device, software, online platform, or electronic resource utilized to support learning, instruction, communication, or assessment.
- Instructional Screen Time: The active use of a school-issued device assigned to a student for instructional purposes during a school day. This excludes state or federal assessments, brief administrative tasks (e.g., attendance), and teachers' use of digital projection tools unless the student is also actively using a device.
- Active Screen Time: Content that is mentally engaging and requires deliberate user involvement to generate or shape material, such as adaptive software, coding, designing infographics, creating presentations, and interactive quizzes.
- Passive Screen Time: Mentally passive, sedentary content requiring little to no user interaction once it begins, including scrolling, watching YouTube, and non-academic gaming. Excessive passive screen time has been linked to lower academic achievement, distraction, loss of learning time, anxiety, and depression.

Legal and Regulatory Landscape

- Federal Regulations: The division adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for PII protection, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) for data restrictions on students under 13, and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) to filter obscenity and monitor online safety.

- Virginia State Mandates: Compliance includes the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning, Acceptable Use Policies (AUP), and Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Restrictions (phones/watches/earbuds "off and away").
- Recent Legislation: Highlighted HB 817/Classroom Devices Guidelines regarding physical ergonomics and screen breaks, the Consumer Data Protection Act (SB 854) for device data protection, and SB 568 / HB 1486 (2026) regarding public school instruction on the addictive potential of electronic devices.
- Division Policy: Mentioned existing CCS Policies IIBC and IIBC-R (2025) governing the use of Generative AI.

New Device Distribution Posture (2026-2027)

To counter post-COVID device saturation, a new distribution model is being established for the 2026-2027 school year:

- PreSchool: No in-class use, no hallway carry, and no take-home privileges.
- Kindergarten to 5th Grade (K-5): Devices are stored in classroom carts; no hallway carry or take-home privileges.
- Middle School: Devices are stored in classroom carts; no hallway carry or take-home privileges.
- High School: Maintained at a 1:1 ratio, allowing for hallway carry and take-home privileges.

Device Filtering and Monitoring Systems

- Technology Department (LineWize): Blocks YouTube, inappropriate games, and Generative AI by default. Sends alerts for inappropriate searches and reports AUP violations to school leaders.
- Teachers (ClassWize): Provides a teacher-facing classroom manager for live screen monitoring, blocking/allowing specific websites, pushing URLs, messaging students, and printing usage reports. Training and "Train the Trainer" workshops will be provided to staff.
- Parents (Qustodio): Allows parents to set offline schedules at home, turn the internet on/off, track site logs, and extend monitoring to one personal device. Informational sessions and outreach will be provided to families.

Weekly Estimated EdTech Usage Totals (Minutes)

The estimated weekly minutes assigned per grade level across subjects are:

- PreSchool: 0 minutes (N/A).
- Grades K-1: 55 minutes total (15 Literacy, 10 Math).
- Grades 2-3: 95 minutes total (15 Literacy, 20 Math, 20 Social Studies).
- Grades 4-5: 150 minutes total (40 Literacy, 45 Math, 20 Science, 45 Social Studies).
- Middle School: 210 minutes total (50 Literacy, 60 Math, 25 Science, 75 Social Studies).
- High School: 145 minutes total (60 Math, 25 Science, 60 Social Studies; Literacy is N/A).

Educational Technology Policy Statement

The first reading of the policy statement emphasizes balancing technology's ability to enhance learning, resource access, and digital literacy with students' developmental needs. It mandates ensuring ample opportunities for direct instruction, reading, writing, physical activity, hands-on learning, and interpersonal interaction. The policy establishes clear expectations for purposeful, developmentally appropriate screen time.

Next Steps and Timeline

- August 2026: Policy Information presentation (First Read).
- September 2026: Policy Action and initial Regulations adoption.
- August 2026 – May 2027: Continuous execution of staff training, EdTech footprint evaluations, implementation monitoring, stakeholder feedback collection, and regulation updates.

Questions/Discussion:

- Mr. Meyer inquired about continued access to assistive technology for students with special needs and English language learners. Mr. Cuomo clarified that tools outlined in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are considered essential for curriculum access and are excluded from the broader screen time debate.
- Mr. Meyer raised concerns regarding the middle school transition, specifically for students with fewer home resources, and asked about ad-hoc device checkout options. Mr. Cuomo noted that while classroom carts are the primary model, approximately 100 devices have been reserved for specific instructional needs. He emphasized that the current curriculum does not require home device use for assignments, such as multi-page papers, ensuring that no students face unintended academic consequences due to limited home access.
- Dr. Gurley explained that the initial regulations will focus on immediate expectations, such as no devices in preschool and middle schools during the evaluation period. A more robust community-facing framework, including detailed charts and resources, is expected to go live by the end of the school year.
- Ms. Bryant noted that while home device use may not be a requirement, the division must remain mindful of the "unintended gap" regarding extracurricular opportunities like college research or high school coursework. She suggested leveraging community partners and existing financial insecurity screenings to support these students.
- Ms. Burns inquired about teacher involvement in policy development. Mr. Cuomo described the current policy as a foundation or "starting point" based on research regarding the negative impact of passive screen time on instruction. He detailed plans for "train-the-trainer" models and staff meetings to educate teachers on best practices and the division's new software rubric tool. He emphasized that sunseting programs will be handled with feedback loops to ensure teachers can replace removed tools with more productive alternatives.
- Ms. Burns highlighted the "Guide to the School Year" as a central resource for families to learn about teacher monitoring tools like Classwise. She urged the division to frame technology changes as a move toward healthy habits rather than punitive enforcement, particularly for students who may struggle with technology addiction. Dr. Gurley noted that support staff and clinicians are working to identify students needing more help with this transition.
- Ms. Cooper asked how teacher feedback would be tracked. Mr. Cuomo committed to overseeing this as a project manager, using both quantitative and qualitative data. Dr. Gurley added that the division will produce a written report at the end of the school year containing the evaluation findings and justifications for every tool used across the division.
- Ms. Dooley expressed concern regarding high-stakes testing and the need for students to remain proficient in computer use for assessments like MAP testing. Dr. Gurley clarified that the division must continue to follow state computer science standards starting in kindergarten, noting the inherent challenge of reducing screen time while meeting these state-mandated requirements.
- Ms. Dooley inquired about balancing screen time in credit recovery programs. Dr. Gurley praised the current balance in the LMA program, where core content teachers differentiate instruction so students are not solely reliant on computer-based learning.

10.2 [Budget Development Process \(2027-2028 Proposed Budget Development Calendar\)](#): Renee Hoover, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2027-2028 Budget Development Calendar for the Board's review. The calendar outlines the public schedule for preparation, discussion, and final approval of the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

Questions/Discussion:

- Ms. Dooley asked how teachers provide feedback through their principals and noted that school board leadership meets monthly with teacher representatives.
- Dr. Gurley explained that principals are encouraged to get budget feedback and requests from their teachers and staff, noting that during the 2025–2026 school year, direct teacher input for the budget was gathered primarily through a survey, though issues also arise during regular meetings with the Charlottesville Education Association (CEA) president, PTOs, and the citywide PTA.

- Ms. Dooley observed that approving the calendar would let the CEA know the timeline so their leadership could bring items forward efficiently and asked if the timeline for the December meeting had been adjusted, noting that receiving a first presentation at the same time as city council had been awkward in the past.
- Dr. Gurley confirmed they wanted to sunset the December meeting because it can be confusing as they are often dealing with big numbers and a lot of "what-ifs" before receiving feedback on the governor's budget. However, the city still requested to hold the meeting, so he asserted that nothing new would happen at that meeting because collective bargaining numbers and contracts are already set, and the school board has no control over the funding numbers provided by the city.
- Ms. Dooley noted that transportation and maintenance lines are dictated by the city and typically get adjusted downward, leaving the board at the mercy of the city's budget process.
- Ms. Hoover agreed, stating that in December she can only provide historical trends and forecasts, and numbers subsequently go down as the city works through its budget.
- Dr. Gurley reiterated that nothing new would come from the meeting and that it was difficult to devise a purposeful agenda for both entities without new information, suggesting that Ms. Torres talk with Mayor Wade and perhaps keep the meeting as a tentative "hold" that could be removed if unnecessary.
- Ms. Torres asked if Dr. Gurley had spoken specifically with City Manager Sanders about the meeting's direction.
- Dr. Gurley replied that he spoke with Mr. Sanders and Ms. Hoover spoke with Ms. Hamill to convey that nothing new would happen, noting that the city council had some "heartburn" over previous shifting numbers, but ultimately council still requested to hold the meeting to discuss designated topics.
- Ms. Torres stated she would attempt to address this during their upcoming joint meeting next week and then opened the floor to item 10.3, the budget amendment for the FY26-27 budget.

10.3 FY 2026-2027 Budget Amendment: Renee Hoover, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY 2026–27 Budget Amendment. This amendment addresses the finalization of the state budget, resulting in an additional \$318,847 in state revenue for Charlottesville City Schools, and includes \$822,558 in technical adjustments to support salary increases from collective bargaining. Staff proposed an additional 1% or 2% increase in administrative compensation, in addition to the 3% increase previously adopted.

Questions/Discussion:

- Ms. Torres expressed that the city council's surprise ordinance to withhold \$2 million in a contingency fund—without prior discussion with the school board—was insulting and implied fiscal irresponsibility. She voiced strong support for using the school division's share of the state revenue to fund the administrator pay increase but stated she was unhappy about having to split the state funding and beg council for the contingency funds, promising to raise these concerns respectfully at the upcoming joint session.
- Ms. Bryant agreed with Ms. Torres, adding that not properly compensating administrators will cause the district to lose them. She advocated turning the controversial December 9th meeting into a joint community town hall session, noting that city council tends to make fast budgetary decisions when facing direct community pressure.
- Ms. Burns declared she was "disgusted" and found it "disgraceful" that the city council forced the school board to return and ask for previously approved money without prior communication. She pointed out there has been no indication of financial mismanagement by the board and called the council's posturing irresponsible, urging the public, staff, and union workers to pack the room for the council's August 17th meeting to support the schools.
- Ms. Cooper echoed the call for community presence at the August 17th city council meeting to put pressure on council and bring awareness to the administrator budget issue.
- Mr. Meyer suggested that if a December meeting happens, Dr. Gurley and the Chair should deliver a "state of the schools" presentation to educate council members on student demographics, services, and socioeconomic needs. He also praised the addition of an early community budget engagement session

on September 23rd, recommending forming an ad hoc committee with local parents, PTOs, and the communications team to educate the public ahead of the critical November sales tax referendum.

- Ms. Torres wrapped up the discussion by confirming the upcoming joint meeting details and checking with the board members regarding their consensus on the administrator pay adjustments before moving to the next agenda item.

10.4 [Policy Updates \(July 2026 VSBA Policy Update\)](#): Carolyn Swift, Director of Assessment and Accountability, and the Executive Leadership Team presented policy updates from the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). Per Virginia Code 22.1-253.13(7), the Board must review policies every five years. The new VSBA July policy updates include JO (Student Education Records), JOA (Student Transcripts), and JOD (Release of Student Data/Records).

Questions/Discussion:

- Mr. Meyer inquired whether the division's independent legal counsel (Sands Anderson) also reviews these policy revisions or if the board relies solely on the VSBA's compliance checks.
 - Ms. Swift clarified that the district pays the VSBA to fully vet the sample policies against federal and state codes, meaning separate legal counsel is only utilized when the school board chooses to deviate from standard templates. She added that the VSBA legal team and its new director had thoroughly reviewed these changes with a fine-tooth comb, and that an additional review session would occur next month to ensure everything remains completely up to code.
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Written Reports

11.1 [School Board Member Committee Reports](#): The Board submitted written committee reports for review.

11.2 [Human Resources Vacancy Update \(Written Report\) - Maria Lewis](#): Maria Lewis, Chief Human Resources Officer, prepared the Human Resources Vacancy written report for Board information.

11.3 [Special Education Family Engagement Written Report - Rachel Rasnake](#): Rachel Rasnake, Director of Student Services, prepared the Special Education Family Engagement written report for Board information.

11.4 [Safety Training Updates - Written Report - Kim Powell](#): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, prepared the Safety Training Updates written report for Board information.

Questions/Discussion:

- Mr. Meyer expressed appreciation for the collection of written reports, highlighting the new special education report that he shared with interested community members. He congratulated the staffing team for continuing positive hiring and retention trends, noting that the district has only a few remaining vacancies and stands as one of the best-staffed divisions in the entire state.
- Ms. Bryant shared her appreciation for the special education family engagement report, recalling a prior meeting with the superintendent where they discussed strategies for parent outreach and how board members can better spread the word when approached with community questions. She praised the newly developed "guide to the school year" resource and thanked the communications team for keeping parents thoroughly informed with accessible preparation materials all summer long via social media.
- Ms. Burns thanked the superintendent for receiving the board's past feedback and actively working with staff to ensure that division leadership is highly visible and engaged at multiple levels within the community.
- Ms. Cooper agreed with the positive sentiments of her colleagues, stating that a visible division presence is highly vital to the district. She remarked that the turnout for West Haven Day was heartwarming and

emphasized that it is important for the community to recognize the superintendent and school staff to build trusting relationships with local families.

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

13.1 Board Member Comments:

- Ms. Dooley expressed appreciation for the written report adoption format and requested the division keep them coming. She welcomed Mr. Jones and praised his team's positive response to student requests regarding menu options. Highlighting the wellness policy, she reminded the board that two elementary schools still do not have cafeterias and urged colleagues to keep this infrastructure top of mind. She concluded by stating she is eagerly looking forward to returning to a routine with the start of the new school year on Wednesday.
- Ms. Burns made the community aware of multiple back-to-school events happening over the weekend, starting with a shoe discount at Legends with Stop the Violence 434 and Buck Squad. She highlighted a grade 5–9 back-to-school day party hosted by Denzel Jones at Mejicali. Additionally, she detailed three events centered around the proper downtown area: a cuts and kicks bash at the Boys and Girls Club, a Charlottesville City Schools registration, transportation, open house, and vaccine resource event at the middle school featuring a special performance by the CMS steppers, and a Parks and Recreation sounds of summer event at Forest Hills Park featuring food trucks, live music, a water slide, and information on after-school wraparound services. She concluded by expressing hope that school would start Wednesday.
- Ms. Bryant shared how much she enjoyed the PL Palooza event, noting that the genuine excitement of the division's educators outweighs any challenges the district faces. She highlighted a personal summer interaction with a parent who chose to move their family to Charlottesville specifically to attend one of the district's elementary schools. She noted that this story proves public education is doing well and strongly emphasizes why it is vital for the City Council to make funding the schools a top priority.
- Mr. Meyer commended the division's excellent summer communications, specifically noting that an article detailing reading strategies landed very well in his household. He shared that he wore his school division shirt on the downtown mall during lunch and received a high amount of prideful nods and comments from community members. He thanked Dr. Gurley and the staff for actively finding a solution to ensure all interested girls can participate in volleyball at Charlottesville Middle School by expanding sports slots and adding other after-school clubs. He brought up a positive rumor that students might get free admission to sporting events when accompanied by an adult, noting it would be a great policy change to foster community connection. Finally, he reminded the community to rally behind and support the generational school infrastructure sales tax referendum on the ballot in early November.
- Ms. Torres thanked the board members for their great conversation, thanked the teachers and staff who supported students during summer school and summer graduation, and extended gratitude to Dr. Gurley and his team for their hard work over the summer months. She encouraged everyone to listen to the inspirational message Dr. Gurley shared with staff. She stated the board will review staff input gathered from PL Palooza to fine-tune its board priorities for the upcoming academic year.
- Ms. Dooley interjected to state that they would be remiss if they did not celebrate the fact that the district's reconfiguration plan is finally coming to fruition next week. She called it a "big freaking deal" and gave a round of applause to every employee in the division who helped make it happen.
- Ms. Torres agreed with the interjection and thanked Mr. Jordan for his hard work in helping navigate the challenges of the reconfiguration process.

14.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley expressed gratitude to the entire school division staff, highlighting the tireless work of the custodians who assisted with building transitions across every school over the summer. He emphasized themes of collaboration and attention to detail, noting that these elements are key to the district's ongoing "punch list" of priorities. Additionally, Dr. Gurley highlighted that the communications team is developing an

upcoming annual report that will showcase the overall health of the schools, detailing the success stories of the district's educators, students, and support staff.

Dr. Gurley stated that as the board prepares to meet with city council, council members should be reminded that strong investments in the public schools directly motivate families to purchase homes and move into the city. He concluded by praising the division for operating at the pace of a district three times its size with half the staff, and shared his excitement for a wonderful upcoming school year.

15.1 [Work Session Wrap-Up - Carolyn Swift](#): There were no requests from the Board.

16.1 [Upcoming Meetings](#): Ms. Torres read the list of upcoming meetings.

17.1 [Adjourn](#): The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk