

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
School Board / City Council Joint Work Session
January 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Walker Upper Elementary School Cafeteria, 1564 Dairy Road, Charlottesville, VA

The January 10, 2024 joint work session of the Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville City School Board was called to order by Chair Lisa Torres at 5:00 p.m.

Deputy School Board Clerk Leslie Thacker called the roll for School Board Members, establishing a quorum, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll for City Council, noting the following members present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilor Michael Payne. Councilors Oschrin and Snook arrived before the first item for discussion was introduced.

Chair Torres called a vote for agenda approval, and the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Mayor Wade introduced city staff. Dr. Royal Gurley introduced Schools staff and the discussion items:

Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, provided an update on Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC). She reviewed transition items that have been completed since closing the acquisition in July 2023. She reviewed slot reservation and tuition information, items in progress and next steps, and answered clarifying questions for Council.

Knight School: Lamont Trotter, Program Director, provided an introduction and overview of Knight School, an alternative educational option for students in need of additional support that cannot be offered at Charlottesville High School or Lugo-McGinness Academy. The program was launched on November 27, 2023, and is conducted at the Lugo-McGinness Academy. The program works with various community groups as resources. Fourteen students are enrolled in the program and the goal is to provide wrap-around support services for thirty students within the limited space of the Academy. Dr. Gurley and Mr. Trotter answered questions from Council.

Pre-K Center: Regarding the Pre-K Center, Dr. Gurley provided an overview of recent Capital Improvement Plan presentation made by Construction Manager Michael Goddard to the School Board. Chair Torres explained that as follow-up to the Capital Improvement request made a couple of years ago, where City Council agreed to fund renovations to Buford Middle School, the School Board is asking to place Walker Upper Elementary School into the Capital Improvement program, as was previously presented.

Mr. Goddard provided background information and a high-level project scope, stating that it would be a good idea to set aside approximately \$27 Million. Krisy Hammill, City Budget Director, provided input on budget and bond capacity and stated that the current Capital Improvement Plan is aggressive. City Manager Sanders stated that City Council will need to make big decisions and reconcile the list of priorities that are demanding budget dollars.

After discussion, it was agreed that budget considerations will be discussed at the February 7 scheduled joint budget work session with City Council and the School Board, including recent news about State funding.

Chair Torres opened the floor for comments from members of the community. There were no speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council