



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

School Board / City Council Joint Budget Work Session

February 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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

The February 10, 2025, joint work session of the Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville City School Board was called to order by Chair Emily Dooley.

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 Councilors Natalie Oschric and Lloyd Snook. Councilor Michael Payne requested to attend electronically but was unable to join the meeting because of technical difficulties; he was inaudible to in-person attendees.

Without objection the proposed agenda was approved.

Dr. Royal Gurley, Superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools, presented the City Schools Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 budget development update. He presented budget priorities in the areas of 1) increasing academic achievement; 2) providing a culture of safety, wellness and belonging; 3) supporting staff; and 4) ensuring effective and efficient operations. Regarding the Schools Operating Budget, he covered the topics of staff allocation, collective bargaining, salaries and benefits, City maintenance contract, CATEC (Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center) operations, and support for English learners. Dr. Gurley also reported on School Capital Projects needs and emphasized the need for a dedicated project manager to focus on managing school CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) projects to completion.

City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr. introduced the following discussion topics:

- Budget to Actuals for FY2022-2024
- Agreements for services between Schools and the City
- Evaluation of the funding formula
- Long-term capital needs

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget, added context about the formula used to fund schools from the City's budget. Michael Goddard, Deputy Director of Public Works, described some of the challenges facing school infrastructure project requests and maintenance needs.

Dr. Gurley and School Board members answered clarifying questions for Council about urgent items from a recent safety audit report being included in the budget request and about fundraising amounts for lighting around the high school track. Vice Mayor Pinkston expressed a desire for future discussion of an assessment of school CIP priorities.

Responding to a question from Chair Dooley, Mr. Sanders stated his intention to convene a small group of city staff to review the existing service agreements with City Schools to determine how to modify, combine and strengthen the agreements. He stated that this evening's conversation informed him and he will work through next steps with staff, while being considerate of City Council priorities, and there may be a joint work session during the summer.

Chair Dooley opened the floor for comments from members of the community and the following individual spoke:

- Peter Davis, teacher at Charlottesville High School, spoke about the need for school modernization and finding ways to complete projects in a timely manner.
- Ms. Dooley acknowledged School Board receipt of a letter from Mr. Allen Wong.

Ms. Dooley made closing remarks, announcing future meeting dates for the School Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council