



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
School Board / City Council Joint Work Session
December 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

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

The December 19, 2024, joint work session of the Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville City School Board was called to order by Chair Lisa Torres at 5:05 p.m.

Deputy School Board Clerk Leslie Thacker called the roll for School Board Members, establishing a quorum, and Deputy Clerk of Council Maxicelia Robinson called the roll for City Council, noting the following members present: Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Michael Payne, Natalie Oschrin and Lloyd Snook. Vice Mayor Pinkston announced that Mayor Wade provided previous notice that he would be absent from the meeting.

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

Dr. Royal Gurley, Superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools, presented the City Schools FY26 budget priorities and estimates. Dr. Gurley covered the topics of Student Demographics and Data, Operational Costs, and Budget Considerations. Dr. Gurley and staff answered clarifying questions for Council.

The preliminary estimate of the FY26 City Schools total budget was \$7.9 million above the regular baseline allocation made by the City Council. Dr. Gurley clarified that the Compensation and Benefits budget estimate of \$5.3 million does not include expenses for collective bargaining.

Following discussion on the status of school capital improvement projects, it was stated that staff will provide a comprehensive report on the projects to the City Council at a later time.

Dr. Gurley noted that he may present an increased budget request at the joint work session scheduled for February with the City Council and the School Board.

Chair Torres opened the floor for comments from members of the community, and the following individuals spoke:

- Derrick Hartline, city resident
- Shannon Gilliken – Charlottesville City Schools teacher
- Syleethia Carr, city resident

Chair Torres gave closing remarks, and the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Maxicelia Robinson, Deputy Clerk of Council