



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
School Board / City Council Joint Work Session  
February 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

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

The February 9, 2026, joint budget work session of the Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville City School Board was called to order by Vice Chair Amanda Barnes.

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 Natalie Oschrein, and Councilor Lloyd Snook. Councilor Jen Fleisher requested to participate electronically over Zoom while on vacation in Costa Rica.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 3-0 approved electronic participation by Councilor Fleisher.

Ms. Barnes called a vote for agenda approval, and the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Royal Gurley, Superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools (CCS), announced a successful collective bargaining meeting held earlier in the day, resulting in CEA (Charlottesville Education Association) agreeing to put forth a contract to include.... Dr. Gurley's presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 covered the topics of budget priorities, trends in State enrollment, CCS Fall membership trends, State budget impacts on CCS, and expenditures, including salaries and wages. Budget priorities include:

- Increase academic achievement
- Provide a culture of safety, wellness, and belonging
- Support our staff
- Ensure effective and efficient operations

Councilor Payne joined the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Dr. Gurley reviewed personnel resource allocation, compensation increase options, personnel savings, and non-discretionary expenditures such as maintenance and transportation. With total revenue expenses and a projected State revenue loss, the request from Schools is projected to be \$2,992,879 above the formulaic annual contribution.

City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., summarized work being done by city staff to balance the city budget, and considerations for balancing the budget for proposal to City Council.

Councilor Snook explained that because of the budget development process, City Council members were not briefed on school compensation matters before this meeting. Councilors asked various questions and made comments about the budget process

Ms. Barnes opened the floor for comments from members of the community, and the following individuals spoke:

- Bryce Estes, teacher at Trailblazer Elementary School
- Shemeka Hanson, Instructional Assistant at Jackson Via Elementary School

- Abigail Johnson, teacher at Jackson Via Elementary School
- Michael Salvatiera, teacher at Trailblazer Elementary School
- Alex Heinsman, parent of multiple CCS students
- Christine Esposito, 26-year teacher at CCS
- Emily Kingsley, teacher at Walker Upper Elementary School
- Terry Stipe, 19-year teacher at Sunrise Elementary School
- Dee Nelson, CCS staff member
- Sylethia Howard, member of the bargaining team
- Sidney Reid, Special Education Instructional Assistant at Jackson Via Elementary School
- Asa Shinnett, teacher at Walker Upper Elementary School

Vice Chair Barnes adjourned the School Board and on motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, City Council adjourned by acclimation at 6:29 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council