



Fairfax County School Board Meeting

Accountability Score Card

School Board Meeting Date: **September 9, 2021**

Total Time that School Board met: **3 hours, 45 minutes**

(Note: The meeting started 48 minutes late)

Topic	Time Spent at SB mtg (minutes)	Time Spent at SB mtg (%)	Notes
Citizen participation	48 min	21%	Majority of comments about a virtual option.
Academics/Curriculum changes	0 min	0%	
Learning Loss/Catch Up Learning	0 min.	0%	
Testing/Grading Changes	0 min.	0%	
Addressing Special Needs population concerns/issues	0 min.	0%	
COVID Updates/Guidance	112 min.	50%	See below.
New Superintendent Hiring	0 min.	0%	
Other: ESSER III Spending Plan	0 min.	0%	
Votes	Key Sponsor	Passed (Y/N)	Who Voted
9/11 Resolution	Anderson	Y	All voted Yes, except Omeish who voted No.
Confirmation of Action Taken in a Closed Meeting	Anderson	?	Meren, Cohen, Frisch, KKG, Sizemore Heizer, McLaughlin abstained.
ESSER II Follow On Motion – correct bonus disparity - \$1000 instead of \$500	Omeish	N	No second on the motion.
Consent agenda items	Sizemore-Heiser	Y	No objections.
New business agenda items	Sizemore-Heiser	N/A	No vote. To be discussed at a future meeting.

Addition Notes from Meeting

Other Issues Discussed:

- The Board considered a resolution by Dr. Anderson honoring the victims and first responders on 9/11. Omeish offered an alternate resolution. All school board members voted for Dr. Anderson's resolution. Omeish voted against it.

Brabrand's Report:

- Brabrand gave a Return to School/Covid update –
 - 100% of schools opened for 5 days of in person learning
 - 100% remain open
 - 99.5% of students returned for in person learning
 - Recognize that Covid is not going away and that it will remain in the foreseeable future
 - **We will prioritize in person learning**
 - Community transmission data shows we are still very much in pandemic mode. Starting to see a beginning of a decline of Covid transmission in our community.
 - Will be providing an **update on testing at our working session on 9/21**
 - FCPS Covid data – **we are successfully limiting community transmission** (August 31-Sept. 8). In school transmission is incredibly low!
 - 501 (0.24%) students/teachers positive cases
 - 39 (0.53%) student athletes positive cases
 - Cumulative impact of isolation, pause and quarantine is greater than the positive cases and recognize the impact on our students. Notably:
 - 340 students in **quarantine** with the greatest impact on Elementary School students (299)
 - 403 students in **isolation** with the greatest impact on Elementary School students (273)
 - No numbers for students **paused**.
 - Implemented new changes to accelerate the contact tracing process. Have a POC in each school for contact tracing purposes.
 - **Quarantine lengths are determined by Health Department which recognizes a 14-day timeline.** School districts down state have shortened to 7-10 days. Surrounding school districts at 14 days.
 - County vaccine mandate for teachers – 80% of full-time and part-time staff surveyed, 97% of those are vaccinated.
 - Athletics vaccination – The highest number of pauses involved high school athletic programs. Five of the seven outbreaks were related to athletics. Only students 16 and older participating in athletics will be required to be

vaccinated. Exemptions will be allowed. Unvaccinated students will be required to provide a negative test weekly. **Working on a vendor for the testing requirements.**

- Lunch –**The \$10 million approved last meeting is going directly into school accounts for these types of activities.** Have outdoor tents installed at 103 ES, 16 MS and 15 HS. 36 ES, 7 MS, 12 HS are pending installation. These will be available all year round.
- Acknowledge requests for virtual learning. We can't staff in person learning and virtual. **Clear verdict from staff that concurrent learning is not a sustainable model.**
- We will monitor Covid variants and make adjustments. **If we have to return to virtual, we will do that.**
- Q&A between Brabrand and SB:
 - Anderson addressed rumor about schools closing. **Important that it be communicated that it will not be happening and SB1303 being a big part of that.** She also asked about how long it is taking to address Covid cases and the reason for the backlog.
 - Frisch thank Brabrand for the vaccination of athletes. **We talked about other areas that are not academic to consider requiring vaccination.**
 - KKG **noted it is too great of a burden on staff to offer concurrent learning and expressed concern about live streaming.** Expressed the need to acknowledge that we are having staffing issues across the county, the state and nationwide. There are no other people to hire. **Also expressed a need to provide more support to our elementary school students since they can't be vaccinated.**
 - Omeish asked about care rooms and if monitors could be used for that. Also asked about the drop in enrollment and how to explain it. Student enrollment is at 178,000 students. Official enrollment will come at end of September which determines our state funding. **Omeish also asked that anti-body testing or alternatives to vaccines be looked into.**
 - KCS noted the **biggest challenge is enforcement of the mask policy** in her community, not just students but teachers too. She asked about **limiting large group gatherings for faculty and students.**
 - Tholen noted that an entire football team was out due to 2 positive cases. Anxious to hear new procedures.
 - Choudhary noted that it could be beneficial to watch something on demand vs. PPT slides. **On masking, we could benefit from clear expectations when in lunch like moving around the lunchroom.**
 - Cohen expressed concern that live streaming will become concurrent. **We promised our teachers and families not to do concurrent and it isn't a**

best practice. She asked about connectivity and bandwidth issues in schools. **She also noted that we don't want to lose kids for 14 days; it's too much work getting them back up to speed and we need to figure this out. We have money out there and there is desire to make this happen. We want to be part of the solution to help you fix this.**

- Meren talked about the data and lack of information related to numbers of paused. **I believe it is in your purview for the health department to revisit its guidance on 14 days of quarantine.**
- McLaughlin talked about her list of 8 items related to Covid challenges and a Return to School management plan and pressed Brabrand that updates are not a plan. **She pressed on a virtual option especially for ES students including through another third-party K-12 program noting it isn't enough to say we can't do it.** "So, if we can't provide it for some, we won't do it for anyone" noting that we are legally obligated to provide instructional services to everyone. **She also indicated that we need to look at test and stay options. We have to be very careful about telling families we can't make something work and ask kids to sit at home for 14 days without any instruction.**
- Sizemore-Heizer **expressed concern about kids at home on pause for extended time.** She also expressed concern about concurrent vs. livestreaming and a need to recognize that not everyone is self-directing.
- Pekarsky asked for more details/follow up on how we can make something work on a virtual front like we are seeing in neighboring districts. **She noted that we must do everything we can to find ways to give people access to education when on quarantine because asynchronous doesn't work.**