



Fairfax County School Board

Strategic Governance Manual

Adopted: December 7, 2006
Effective: January 1, 2007
Last Revised: February 19, 2015

APPENDICES

A. BYLAWS

I. Fairfax County School Board

The Fairfax County School Board is charged by the statutes of Virginia and the regulations of the Virginia Board of Education to provide and operate the public schools of Fairfax County. It is the function of the Board to set general school policy and, within the framework of Virginia Board of Education regulations, to establish guidelines that will ensure the proper administration of the county school program. The twelve School Board members are elected for four-year terms; one member represents each of the county's nine magisterial districts, and three members serve at large.

The School Board must approve the use of the name "Fairfax County School Board" as a sponsor or participant in any activity, program, or publication sponsored, in whole or in part, by persons or groups outside of the school system.

II. School Board Members

A. Officers

The chair and the vice chair of the School Board shall be elected by the School Board members during the organizational meeting, which is the first regular business meeting held in July, and shall serve a one-year term (until their successors are elected at the next year's organizational meeting.) [Code of VA § 22.1-72 and 22.1-76(A)]

B. Salary, Professional Development, and Reimbursement

1. Annual Salary

School Board members shall receive an annual salary, not to exceed the limit established by the General Assembly, approved by the School Board in accordance with the *Code of VA* § 22.1-32. Effective June 2007, the annual salary for School Board members was set at \$20,000. The chair of the School Board shall receive an additional annual stipend of \$2,000, as permitted by law.

2. Professional Development

School Board members are required "...to participate annually in high-quality professional development activities at the state, local, or national levels on governance, including, but not limited to, personnel policies and practices; curriculum and instruction; use of data in planning and decision making; and current issues

in education as part of their service on the local board..." [Code of VA § 22.1-253.13:5(D)] Board members shall be reimbursed for expenses related to professional development activities and travel (see #3 below).

3. Reimbursement

Board members shall be reimbursed for necessary travel incurred while on authorized School Board business at the same rate per mile as that paid employees.

- a. Board members also shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred while attending School Board-related conferences, meetings, or workshops, including transportation, meals, room, and registration fees. The School Board office shall make arrangements for members to attend conferences and meetings. All necessary expenses of attending, including transportation, meals, room, and registration fees, shall be charged against School Board-appropriated funds.
- b. Board members may be reimbursed for expenses associated with non-political education-related community events that they attend in their role as elected officials.
- c. All reimbursements for events under b. shall be authorized by the School Board chair.

C. Orientation

1. Attendance at Meetings

In the interim between being elected and actually assuming office, new Board members shall be invited to attend all meetings and functions of the Board and shall receive pertinent materials normally sent to Board members.

2. School Division Operations

Meetings shall be scheduled for the primary purpose of orienting each new Board member to his or her responsibilities (including the requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act), to the operation of the school division, and to school division policies and concerns.

3. Governance Training

The chair or designee will arrange for training in Strategic Governance for all official candidates for the School Board.

4. Publications and Documents

New Board members shall be provided with information on how to access all appropriate publications and documents.