MACHINE TRANSCRIPT · CORAGGIO CONSULTING

Loudoun County School Board, Loudoun Education Alliance of Families (LEAF) Meeting, Monday, November 16, 2026

Date	Monday, November 16, 2026
Place	Loudoun County Public Schools / School Board meeting (see BoardDocs / LCPS-TV)
Length	1h 35m (video)

- Official meeting video (Vimeo / LCPS-TV): https://player.vimeo.com/video/1246437166?rel=0
- BoardDocs (School Board): https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/loudoun/Board.nsf/Public

> Machine transcript (speech-to-text) produced by Coraggio Consulting. Not an official county record. Names and numbers may be misspelled; check the video at the timestamp before quoting.

Speech-to-text: whisper.cpp, model large-v3-turbo. Produced 2026-11-19. Each paragraph starts with its time [HH:MM:SS] in the meeting video.

[00:00:03] Okay. Hi, friends. I'm going to wait until everybody gets seated, but thank you all for being here. When we split up, I will have some of my friends at this table move over there just so

[00:00:20] that we have a balanced conversation, but you can stay put for now. While we wait, I just wanted to share something with everybody. My 18-year-old son has autism, and we've had kind of a long journey

[00:00:53] in education and he was accepted to his first choice for college today and I am thrilled and I just I want you all to know how much you being here and advocating for your kids matters it is because of 18 years of advocacy that we are where we are and and it's important that that you show up and let your voices be heard it matters to all of our kids so thank you and he's messaging me right now because he's supposed to be running his brother somewhere. He's going to Embry-Riddle,

[00:01:31] so he's really into aviation, and he wants to go into aviation maintenance. So yeah, I'm very, very excited for him. Okay, hopefully I might have to go handle that. Okay, good evening. We're going to officially get started. Thank you for joining us tonight. If you haven't done so already, please take a

moment to sign in using the QR code at your table or in your agenda here. I call this meeting to order. Welcome to the November 16th, 2026 LEAF meeting. This meeting is officially in

[00:02:09] session. The first item on the public on the agenda is public comment. LEAF meetings are open to the public and Loudoun County residents are welcome to attend. We kindly ask that all attendees refrain from interrupting the meeting's agenda to maintain a respectful and productive environment. Per the LEAF bylaws, public comments should address items on the agenda. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, now is the time to do so. There are no public comments, so we're going to move on.

[00:02:36] we need to approve the minutes from october 19th hopefully you had an opportunity to visit leaf the leaf website to review the minutes from last meeting prayer to tonight's meeting a printed copy is also included in the meeting materials at your table i will now entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the october 19th 2026 meeting as submitted is there a motion thank you name what's

[00:03:07] your first and last name okay is there a second great all in favor great all opposed the meetings are approved as submitted at this time i'm going to move things around hold on just a second um we're going to introduce uh lcps superintendent dr aaron spence thank you for taking the time to

[00:03:45] join us this evening there will be time for questions at the end and please remember that you're representing your communities at this meeting and keep comments and questions focused on those issues and concerns. Dr. Spence. Well, thank you. Good evening. So nice to be here with you all. I will begin by apologizing for not having been able to be here last time, but I'm glad that we were able to make tonight work. I want to echo what Brooke said about the importance of your voice, and we'll talk a little bit about that in terms of advocacy tonight when you hear

[00:04:23] from our team about our legislative agenda, but, you know, these relationships really matter to us, and I'm going to talk about some information that we're finding out about these relationships. So at the back of the room, and you can certainly grab one on your way out if you have interest, we have put out our annual report, which we call our Innovation and Achievement Report, and so this is the one from the last school year, which is 25-26, and I want to talk just for a little bit about what's in this report I hope you'll take some time to take a copy and look through it it's

[00:04:59] also available on our website in an interactive format but I think it tells an important story about the work that's happening across our school division by the way I'm a little distracted because there's a balloon that's sitting up there on a heat source which is not great so if it pops know everything is okay it's just that I'm concerned it's going to because it's literally sitting against the light. So anyway, if you can't tell, I have undiagnosed ADHD, and it's okay.

[00:05:33] I know, I know, and I'm so glad to hear about your son. My son also is into aviation, so we're waiting to hear back from his schools. So anyway, I want to talk about this report. So the first thing is, I think it's always important for us as a school division to sort of talk about how the investment that our community makes in us is paying off and returning what you all expect for us to be doing so I'm also very competitive and so I love to brag about our school district and about some of the great things that we're doing just in terms of student achievement so I'll just

[00:06:11] start there and I'll just tell you if you dig into what's in this report what you're going to find out is that we continue to see growth and improvement in our test scores across the division across all of our reporting categories.

[00:06:27] And just for context, we are the highest achieving large division in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and we are outperforming all of our colleagues here in Northern Virginia with, I think, the exception of Falls Church, which is about 300 kids. And so we're, count them if you'd like, we don't.

[00:06:45] No, I'm just kidding, they're very nice people. And so we're very pleased by those results. and we should be I think we have a lot to as we look around instructionally at what we're doing in Loudoun County Schools a lot to be really proud of obviously always more work to do my motto be better tomorrow than you are today and that always applies and I think we you know at least can point on the academic side and say our kids do really well and that's because of the hard work that we do every single day in our classrooms that's because of the partnership that we have with our parents and families you know whenever I talk to people and

[00:07:24] they say what's the most important thing you can do to improve a school system I always start with engage your families make sure that your families are working alongside their teacher that they're having conversations because you all know your kids way better than we know your kids and it's and it's helping us come to understand them and their learning needs that really makes us better at what we do and so I think that that is critically important and we talk a lot about that in here too we talk a lot about family engagement and our efforts there I'm going to get into that in a second but before I do I want to get into another piece that's in this report

[00:07:59] which is about belonging so we talk a lot about belonging in LCPS it's one of the core messages that I believe in when I work in a school system is as we shift culture we shift towards a culture of belonging and care and people sometimes look sideways at me like well why don't you just focus on the basics and what I usually tell them is you can't learn if you don't feel safe you can't learn if you don't feel like you belong.

[00:08:26] And there's a lot of psychological evidence behind that. Basically, I think all of us understand that learning is a social interaction we learn from and with each other. And if you don't feel like you're supposed to be in that space and you don't feel included, it's very difficult to engage as a learner. And so we focus a lot on belonging and just wanting our students to know, whoever you are, whatever you bring with you, however you show up as your authentic self, you are welcome in our schools and in our classrooms.

[00:08:52] We want you here. You're supposed to be here. And so we talk a lot about how we build the conditions for that, because that doesn't just always come naturally, right? Like, we're all human beings, this is a human business, and sometimes human beings exclude people for various reasons. And we have to get away from that and towards inclusion.

[00:09:10] What I was really proud of, and what we've reported on in here, is we ask questions about belonging. We specifically ask our students questions about belonging in that annual survey that you all know and love so much when you get it every year. And we kind of have a set of what we call our belonging questions that our data people have developed.

[00:09:30] And what I would say is that 9 out of 10 of students in LCPS report that they feel a sense of belonging here. And I think that's really remarkable. And when you look at the specific numbers across our different levels, it's really great.

[00:09:45] So like 92% of our elementary students report that. 84% of our high school students, which is lower than you might want, but it's way higher than you'll see in many places. 84% of our high school

students say they feel like they belong. And our middle school students, over 90% of our middle school students say where they belong.

[00:10:04] Now, do any of you have middle school students? So you know what I'm talking about when I say, like, how remarkable it is that that number of middle school students are willing to say, like, I feel like I belong here. And what I love about working in LCPS and I've always loved about being here is when I go into our schools, I can feel that.

[00:10:20] You can feel that when you're with our students, and you can feel that just kind of in the vibe and the culture of the building and how our teachers are interacting with our students. Now, again, does it mean every day, every child is feeling that it doesn't? Obviously, the numbers indicate there are some who aren't, and so we know that continues to be part of our work and what we have to do to continue to be better.

[00:10:43] But I would say overall, know that even when we might be missing the mark, it is our goal to make sure that when kids walk in, they know that they're loved and that they're cared for and that they're supposed to be there and that the adults want them there. Because that's the core foundation to learning, being feeling safe, physically having your needs met.

[00:11:02] And then that psychological safety that comes with love and belonging that we all need to be great humans. So I love that that's in there. There's a whole other list of achievements and things that I would encourage you to celebrate and go forth and be our good news carriers for us.

[00:11:20] You know, I always think sometimes in school systems, we're our own worst enemy. You know, we get onto one issue that we just don't like and we talk about that a lot. And all of a sudden, it's like the worst place you could ever send a kid. And our teachers do this as well. And I always remind people, step back from that and take a look at the big picture.

[00:11:38] And let's talk about the good things so that people realize like most of what we do is good and then we just have some challenges that we have to keep working on together. I do want to reflect on one other thing that was really important to me. When I came into LCPS a little over three years ago, I did a listening tour.

[00:12:00] Some of you maybe got a chance to come to that. And I just went to like every high school and I met with every faculty in that cluster and any parents who wanted to come into that meeting. And I listened a lot and heard a lot. And one of the things that I found pretty heartbreaking back then was the folks who would say things like, like I remember very specifically one faculty member who said, you know, I've been here for 20 years, and we used to be so proud to work in LCPS, and I don't feel that way anymore.

[00:12:33] And we would have families who said, we just want to trust LCPS again. We just want to feel like you care about our kids. And we measure also, if some of you in business maybe do this as well, we measure net promoter scores. So basically, would you tell other people that you like working here?

[00:12:49] Would you tell other people they should send their kids here and feel good about that? And what I'm really pleased about also is our staff net promoter score in the last three years has gone up 40 points, and our family net promoter score has gone up 10 points. And so it tells me that we're doing a good job of building those bridges.

[00:13:07] And, of course, it tells me we still have more work to do there, too. But, you know, that's what we want. We want people to say, yeah, you know what? You're moving up to Northern Virginia. You need to send your kids to Loudoun County because they're going to have the best possible experience they can have. And we believe that and we're working hard to make that a part of who we are and what we do.

[00:13:26] And I recognize and understand that a lot of that work happens outside of our classrooms. A lot of that work happens through our family engagement that we do through meetings like this where we talk about what's going on of we sort out what's happening and try to try to make ourselves better we have a group of people who do that work every day engaging with our family so if you know do you guys know who our family liaisons are you familiar with them yeah they're pretty amazing folks one of the things that I wanted just to share in terms of some of the numbers also from this past school year about

[00:14:01] that group of people our family liaisons who work as you know with our parents with community organizations to really connect students and families with the supports that they need because again you got to have support if your child's going to come to school and learn they logged 71,000 hours last year supporting students and families they had 50,000 instances of student intervention and support and they had 31,000 instances of family support so our family liaisons are really on the ground doing that incredible work we're also building out partnerships we just had an interfaith luncheon our second interfaith luncheon talking about the ways that

[00:14:39] they can support our schools and our families we have now have 2300 registered business partners across the division that number has doubled over the last two years and so because we've said look we're open for business and we want to bring people together to support our kids and give our kids the opportunities that they deserve and so these numbers represent those relationships and they represent opportunities to take barriers away from our students and our families so that as we're navigating challenges we can work together to do that as a whole community and I think that's

[00:15:12] worth celebrating and I think this report is a reflection of that collective effort that we're engaged in. Something I want to share that we're also working on because I just think it's really cool and it's worth you all knowing about and it's worth your schools that you're representing knowing about is in the next school year we're going to be opening something called the Face hub. So, you know, FACE stands for Family and Community Engagement, and so it is actually a way that we are going to try to centralize and support the work of our family liaisons. It actually came out of an interfaith luncheon that we had last year where I was sitting at a table with two women

[00:15:49] from this wonderful church, and they said, you know, we can't even walk through the hall in our church because it's so full of backpacks that we have that people have donated that they want us to give to kids. And I thought, well, we can help with that. We should be able to find a central place where we can get all of those resources coming together, where we can then build a distribution network to get those resources out to the families and students who need them.

[00:16:13] And, you know, we have Natalie Allen who heads up our DCE and her team, but especially Renee Dawson, who you'll hear from, I think, in a little while, who heads up our FACE team. And they just ran with it. And they're like, yeah, we can do that.

[00:16:28] And we now have had our school board approve the building out of this hub that is going to be a staffed hub with a warehouse distribution network. And so we're going to be able to really continue to grow our ability to meet the needs of our families. And that need is growing.

[00:16:46] It's growing here in Loudoun rapidly, quite frankly, more so than I think many people suspect. And as we look at our field program through the Loudoun Education Foundation, they're now delivering 1,500 to 2,000 meals a week to families.

[00:17:02] And so we want to be a part of helping to support them and all of the needs that folks have. So we're grateful for that. And I would say, hey, families, stay involved with us on that as well, because, you know, your neighbors are in need and we're here to also help be a part of that.

[00:17:18] And I've also had some people say, why do you guys do that? You know, you don't have to do that. Other people do that. The county does that. The food bank does that. We all have to do that because we do know, we all know if our kids aren't coming to school ready to learn, they're going to continue to fall further behind. And so sometimes we just need to step in and be a part of solving that problem and that challenge. I also, before I stop talking and take your questions, just want to give a brief update. It's always good to make sure our families are engaged in the budget process and in the budget conversations that are happening. So we're

[00:17:55] in the midst of the budget cycle. We've started having those priority conversations with our school board and very quickly here we're going to get some numbers coming out of the state and the governor will recommend a budget for the next year here in the next couple of weeks and then in January we're going to present so right after the winter holidays we're going to present our recommended budget to the school board so it's going to happen real fast and there's things that I want to mention about it as as we talk about it because you may have questions about things that we've talked about and I'm happy to address those but

[00:18:30] we some of the things we're wrestling with as we look ahead at the budget so you probably have seen or heard something about enrollment decline in lcps and that's a pretty significant issue across the commonwealth definitely in northern virginia but it's also a national issue and it's happening for a lot of different reasons the primary reasons in loudon that we can identify start with birth rate so birth rate is always a driver of i mean if they're not being born they don't come into our schools and we're seeing a lower birth rate and a later birth rate so

[00:19:06] families are choosing to have children later and so that's a kind of an interesting dynamic that impacts our elementary schools housing affordability continues to be a conversation right so what we basically see is two things going on at the same time with high interest rates we're not seeing a lot of turnover in the housing market and we're seeing kind of the aging out of a lot of our neighborhoods. So what I mean when I say aging out is like the students have all graduated from high school and the families are staying put. And so there's not an opportunity for another

[00:19:40] family to come in with kids who are school-aged and live in that home. And then the homes that are being built in are available. As you all know, the median home price in Loudoun County is now over $800,000. And so young, I don't know if you all remember being young. It's a vague memory for me. But I do know this, when I had little people, that wasn't going to be in my price range. And I think that, you know, if we understand that, we understand what some of our challenges are that are facing us. So kind of in actual numbers, if you look at our projected enrollment for this year

[00:20:16] and our projected enrollment for next year, it's over 2,000 students difference. It's not the same for actual, so our actual numbers are a little bit different. But it's a big drop. It's a big decline in overall student enrollment. We think there's other things going on. The loss of federal jobs is impacting us. We

think some of the immigration policies are impacting us. And I'm not saying that to be political. I'm saying that because we know specifically a large population that's not in our schools this year are EL students. And so we're seeing a significant decline in that group of students. And that's for the first time in a while. That number has been on the rise for the last decade or so and is now declining a little bit. So we just think

[00:20:55] there's a kind of myriad of things that are all coming together at the same time and what that means for us generally is a couple of things is one is you know we we receive money from the state based on a per pupil allocation and we also staff our buildings based on the number of students who are in those buildings and so when we see enrollment declines it means there's going to be changes to staffing in a school it means a little bit less revenue anticipated from the state and then all of that to say the sky's not falling sounds like it when you talk about it that way but the sky is not falling because we also have a robust economy here in Loudoun County and in Northern Virginia in

[00:21:33] general and the local revenue picture is still good and so we're going to be okay but what it does mean is it's tightening the resources that are available to meet our needs and so we you know first and foremost want to take care of our people we have a union we have a collective bargaining agreement where we have negotiated compensation and so the first thing we'll do is we'll deal with that and then we'll look at our staffing and we we really want to and I've said this to our staff we want to ensure the people who are working here today who want to be working here next year will be here and that's our goal so we want to make sure that we we build out a staffing model

[00:22:13] in the budget that allows that to happen so any staffing reductions we're going to try to do through normal attrition things like people retiring or moving out of the county that we see every year. And then we'll look at other things. So compensation and benefits first, maintaining the staffing, not necessarily maintaining all of the staffing that we have, but keeping the people that we have now that want to be here next year. And then we'll get into, you know, meeting the commitments that we have in some of our programming. So we've opened the Academy for Global Linguistic Studies. We're still growing our IB program. Our HEMSci, our Health and Medical

[00:22:51] sciences programs are coming into their last years with staffing needs and so looking at all of that and taking care of those ongoing commitments we're also making adjustments for inflation I don't know if you've noticed that your fuel bills have gone up ours have gone up a little bit so we have a projected shortfall of about two million dollars in our fuel budget this year so we're you know we're okay we can manage that in a two billion dollar budget we just have to move things around to do so and so next year we'll have to budget for that and so once you get to all of that I guess what I'm saying is at the end of that the money available to do new things or to

[00:23:26] meet the needs that we still perceive that our schools and our students have gets it just gets a little tighter and so there's going to be trade-offs and a lot of good conversation with our school board and what I would say is then I want to you know ask you to is to be a part of that process to engage with your board members to engage with us and identify your priorities and just know that there's going to be trade-offs as we as we run into what those priorities are that different groups have for each other.

[00:23:56] So that's kind of it around schools and around schools, around the budget and what we're up to these days. And I'm just going to stop there and I'll take any questions that you might have for a few minutes. Yes, ma'am.

[00:24:23] Yeah, and our board has identified that as part of their priorities.

[00:24:39] And so we're certainly looking at, I think you're talking about, I mean, I'm not sure if I heard it, but I'm pretty sure you're talking about technology. Yeah. So, yes, you haven't seen it yet because we haven't brought forward a budget yet. We've just been starting initial conversations. No. So, I would just encourage you to watch it again because we didn't say, here's what we are doing.

[00:25:06] That was just a conversation about here's some of the things that we're thinking about. When I present the budget in January is where we'll really talk about what we're recommending. So, the first presentation in January is where I present the estimate of needs, and that's where we're telling the board, these are our recommendations.

[00:25:22] but to be sure the board has signaled to us that one of their priorities is looking at device distribution and internally what i can tell you is we're absolutely looking at that we the costs are extreme right now to your point 60 to 80 percent increases in technology costs and so we want to make sure that we are both looking at the purpose of technology making sure that it's intentional productive responsible use looking at the age appropriateness of technology and then figuring out are there cost savings associated with those two conversations in tandem for sure

[00:25:52] yes ma'am see any of that so you used to have it sorry where you where you used to have it where you know the kids would take an assessment and then go over it with the teacher and then it would go home so parents could look over it with them maybe have a discussion at the dinner table

[00:26:26] now it seems that you know the kids are taking a lot of assessments but then we're not as families able to really see what that is is there a plan sort of in place to help maybe bridge that gap and i can see it as both a parent and i'm also a teacher here in loudon um and i can see it from that lens as well like is are we thinking about how to bridge that so that parents are more involved with that yeah you know it's a it's a great question i have to be honest with with regards specifically to the common assessments that we're now giving, I hadn't come up in

[00:27:06] conversation about that. So I appreciate you asking the question. What I'm going to do is jot it down and I'm going to make sure I go sit with Ashley since you know, since you're here with our teaching and learning team and ask that question of how are we showing parents the results of those common assessments. So thank you for asking it. So what else is on your mind? So also I'll just throw this

[00:27:40] out there because it just keeps coming up and I just want to like put a nail on this one. As a part the budget conversation speaking about our october presentation one of the things that we always do also is bring up you know when you think about enrollment decline staffing is going to be a thing that we're going to look at we always bring up schools and whether or not we need to look at consolidating schools that seemed to have stirred quite a bit of conversation so i don't know if we've got anybody here from the west and i just want to remind folks what we did was we just asked the board do you want us to look into this further and the board said no so we're not looking into that at this time i will signal moving forward that we're going to be going

[00:28:19] through a district district wide rezoning on our secondary schools starting in the spring so looking at all of the secondary school attendance zones that's going to come concurrent with the planned opening of a new high school in dulles in the dulles area high school 14 thornton summit actually has a name now i keep forgetting thornton summit high school is going to be opening up and so we're going to rezone we got to rezone that one anyway so the board said let's just do them all take a look um and so um and then the board has established a policy now where we look at them every five years so one of the

things we're going to have to do is we think about enrollment is just make sure we right size our buildings and if enrollment decline continues

[00:28:59] make sure that we're being good stewards of the resources that we do have sure yeah no it's the

[00:30:37] right venue absolutely and it's and that's part of the advocacy that i'm talking about right is and it's also frankly part of the trade-offs that we're talking about right because to your point if you if you change the staffing number so everything just if you don't know kind of generally how it works we have a ton of positions that are linked to a staffing standard so not every position but we do have a lot of our positions and the staffing standard will say something like x number of teachers for x number of students x number of counselors for a building that has x number of students and if you go above or below that threshold then we we move we give you a counselor

[00:31:14] we take away a counselor and that's what you've experienced and then what we do on an annual basis working with our board is we'll come and we'll say okay here are our recommended staffing standards for the next year and sometimes that's very strategic so I'll give you a good example I just mentioned the number of EL students that the decline in our EL students if I were to come with a budget in January that represent that fairly represented our staffing standard for EL learners and el teachers we would lose 54 el teachers overnight um so i'm probably not going to do that what i'm going to do is try to be a little bit more strategic about that staffing standard and

[00:31:51] see if i can't adjust that so that we can handle that through attrition um and so then that means can i then do i have money to make an adjustment to our counseling standards so those are the things we have to think about i'm i'm all uh for our counselors i think they're amazing i love what they do um i also not i also and i don't mean it sound like excuse making we want to look and see how are we doing compared to other folks and one of the things i know is we have a pretty good counselor to student ratio compared to most most most districts in the commonwealth and so then the question is okay yes it could be better where are the trade-offs so no we'll think about it but

[00:32:30] that that truly is the kind of advocacy and i i mean those that's what your board members need to to know hey if you're making decisions about trade-offs we prefer counselors above all else and and that helps them yeah no no I yeah for sure we we have some positions that we hold on to called flexible staffing positions for this reason where our our school leadership folks like the executive principals will work with their principals and say yeah you're you're like five under but you're

[00:33:09] probably maybe you're gonna catch those up after the school year starts maybe we'll hold you harmless and keep that person in place and so we do that but it really is a conversation usually between the principal and leadership about whether or not we can afford a flexible staffing position there and then the other part of that is it's usually for one year and then they got to figure out if they're getting it next year so yeah of course no I appreciate that and no this is absolutely the right place for that kind of advocacy so so thank you all for your time I am I've got to run do you have another commitment but I appreciate the opportunity to be here i always appreciate the opportunity to be with leaf i'm sorry it's as infrequent as it is

[00:33:47] but we can we can do better and i'm happy to come back during budget season and talk more about that if you all have interest or if there are other topics of interest i'm happy to come back and work with you on those as well but i know i'm leaving you in great hands tonight with our team you've got our folks that are going to talk about our legislative agenda well all i'll say on their behalf is uh you know sometimes it's hard to be a prophet in your own land and so you know when When I'm standing up saying,

you know, we need to fund education, we need to do this, we need to do that, they're like, oh, we keep hearing from this guy every year.

[00:34:20] We don't hear from anyone else. We'd really love for them to hear from other people, you know, not them, not them, our board, them, the folks in Richmond who do these things for us. So anyway, thank you all so much for your time. Appreciate you. Thank you. Yes, you may. Sorry. Okay.

[00:34:39] Thank you, Dr. Spence. At this time, I'm going to welcome our school board representative, Ross Svensson, to provide a school board update. We're going to go fast. I promise, Brooke, I would keep it brief.

[00:34:54] So what I'll do is just flag the areas for folks to focus on that we and the school board have been focused on, and we'd love your feedback. One big thing that's been taking up our attention is elementary school rezoning for Eastern Loudoun. So we've had a series of public hearings and work sessions talking about the proposed staff plans and now some board member proposed plans for rezoning.

[00:35:18] I would say the most popular plans at the moment are the ones that do the least amount of change to the zoning. So please take a look at those, particularly those of you in Eastern Loudoun, and let us know your thoughts on those. But I can say that there's a couple plans that make some tweaks and one plan that makes no changes, and those seem to be generating the most interest from the board.

[00:35:37] So take a look at that. Also, we've been working on the capital budget. This is the capital budget book. It's available online and has a really helpful school by school section so you can see what improvements are planned for your school. And so that's been something, you know, I personally have been working very closely with the operations team for make sure that the broad run district schools are getting what they need.

[00:35:59] I know other board members are doing the same for their district. So please get in touch with us if you have thoughts on the capital budget. And then I will just say that on common assessments, because you had mentioned a question I had asked in the Curriculum Instruction Committee meeting on November 4th, there's some presentation that staff gave on that and I think that the answer for that was they're working on, because the answers that come in through the common assessments that the students are giving are kind of informing the model for the future questions that they're giving, it's this interactive process and I think they're, because of the way the technology has this interplay, thinking

[00:36:37] about the best way that they can share answers and results with students without impacting the integrity of like helping generate the test so that is an important question that folks have been asking and I know folks have also asked about the use of technology during those common assessments so that is something staff has kind of taken back and working on and they are getting a lot of feedback from teachers and working collaboratively with them so this is a new new process and it's I think it is something that we as a board have heard a lot about so those are the things that I'll highlight for now and then you know next next next meeting I'll it can get even more into the budget thanks thanks for being fast

[00:37:14] okay as we've mentioned before LEAF does not meet in December or January due to the winter holidays and the school board's organizational meeting however we have the opportunity to help support the Loudon Education Foundation in January through their LEF fuel program LEAF will be filling backpacks on January 19th and it is January 19th time to be determined which we'll share with the

volunteers. You'll have an opportunity tonight to indicate your interest in participating. Also, on that form, you'll be able to indicate if you're interested in being

[00:37:52] considered for panels or discussion groups as they come up with LCPS, as we've previously discussed. So that will be the QR code that's tell us what you're interested in. That's going to be that one. I'm going to ask you to do the first one first and do the second one second just for time purposes.

[00:38:08] As we've done in prior years, the leadership team has put together a survey for our members to get a sense as we approach the middle of the year of how the committee is going and if there are opportunities for improvement. The survey is useful to the leadership team for planning purposes it is anonymous and we are asking for your honest opinions and feedback. Last year it helped us identify that we needed to be better about closing the feedback loop with the school board which not only changed some of our discussions in the committee but was feedback I took to the strategic planning committee. There's also a section to identify what departments you are most interested in hearing from as we move into the spring. So we're going to take five to ten

[00:38:44] minutes for the survey, and I'm just going to kind of monitor when I think everyone's done so we can

[00:38:49] get to collaborative conversations. Thank you, guys. About two more minutes, if that works. If

[00:46:05] you're done, could you put your phone down just so I can tell? I was like, oh no, people are going

[00:46:13] to scroll, and I'll be like, I don't know. Okay, it looks like most people have finished up, so

[00:47:31] if you're not, those links will remain live. We're going to move on to our collaborative conversations tonight. We're going to have two rotations. And look, people showed up so we don't have to move. Yay. We're happy to welcome John Sutton to discuss the legislative agenda and then our fearless leader, Renee Dawson, to share about family and community engagement.

[00:47:54] Here's how we're going to rotate. Renee is going to start to my left and John to my right. After about maybe 15 to 18 minutes, we'll rotate. As a reminder, please remember that our committee is structured around two-way communication and discussion and dialogue is encouraged.

[00:48:09] Here we go. Excuse the interruption. This is a five-minute warning. One-minute warning before

[01:06:50] we switch groups. Please wrap it up and get ready to switch. Sorry for the interruption. This is

[01:21:49] your five-minute warning. This is the one-minute wrap-up. Okay, friends, I'm so sorry to have to do

[01:27:24] this, but I know you guys want to go home. But we still have a couple more things to do, so I please ask that you stay for just a couple more minutes. Mr. Sutton is going to run upstairs and get cards to hand out. And so I'm going to talk for just a couple minutes to give him time to go get those cards. But he has to leave now to go get his cards. And what we also were just talking about is the schedule for the legislative session is I wrote it somewhere in January and

[01:28:03] I've given him the leaf email and once he has updates that are going to be given to the board and to Mr. Svensson he's going to also include us in that email and so then we can help distribute that to

the committee at large especially because we won't meet in January so that you are kept up to date as to what is happening in the legislature. I think that's a really fantastic thing that hopefully will be a benefit to all of us here, and you can provide some more input and

[01:28:37] feedback as well. Okay, now I'm going to talk for a minute about, without my child calling, okay, so we have to talk about some business relief. As our committee matures, we have a few things we would like to discuss with the full membership, which we're going to do in February. At this time, I want to introduce some of the changes so that you have time to consider them to allow for a robust dialogue when we return. In your packet is the bylaws, which I'll get to in a second.

[01:29:15] The first thing I want to propose has to do with the name LEAF. And you may have heard me talk about this. Some people have heard me talk about this, but I'm going to tell everybody. We are the only school board designated committee that does not include advisory committee in our name one of my goals this year is to help align our committee more with the other advisory committees like SEAC and MSAC and GEAC multicultural special education and gifted and talented and it's very easy when I say those names for you to understand what those committees do yes yes because the names are very

[01:29:51] self-explanatory LEAF on the other hand is the Loudon Education Alliance of Families and if you tell somebody who's not a part of LEAF that acronym, they look at you like you have 17 heads. So my advocacy this year has been centered around the reconsideration of the name LEAF so that people have a better understanding of what the committee does. And I think it will make it easier for us to share the information that we get here, as well as build our membership, because people will be clearer about what the mission is. So a couple of suggestions that we have discussed

[01:30:28] as a leadership team and with Mr. Svensson and with Ms. Chandler and with the LCPS team are either the Family Advisory Committee or the Loudon Parent Advisory Committee. Those are just suggestions, but I would really love for you to consider that over the next couple of months and we would love to hear any other suggestions that help clearly communicate our mission and and that has to be voted on by the membership and then I have there's been a little bit of confusion about how exactly we're going to go about doing this but I have asked that the

[01:31:06] school board to help champion that I think that they're all in agreement that this is a good and and positive thing that will help align us just more clearly with the other advisory committees but i definitely want their um support as we as we go forward to do this so um i'm putting that out there to consider um yes um so the family advisory committee or loud and parent advisory committee or some version of that and and think about how it sounds with you know because it gets

[01:31:40] shortened so m sac cac gac um so those are those are a couple things to consider and then we're also we would also like to propose some amendments to the bylaws. We've included them in the packet and I would ask that over the next two months you look at them. I know it's hard once you leave here to remember that that we exist. I sometimes forget. If you have suggestions or proposed changes please email your ideas to connectwithleaf at gmail.com. The process for amending is going to work like this. We will discuss it as a committee and provide LCPS staff with our recommendations

[01:32:17] for the amendments. I think, yes, we'll agree as a committee about what changes we want to make, and then they take those to the legal department and then to the superintendent's cabinet. And once they've approved the proposed changes, then they will come back to the committee and we will vote

to approve them. And then the revised bylaws go to the full school board for final approval. So it's going to take some time, which is why we want to start in February.

[01:32:47] One of the changes we are proposing is moving our officer elections to May, which would allow for us to work through the summer and be ready to go in August. It just creates a little bit of stuff, having it in either August or September.

[01:33:06] We also would like for you to consider the attendance requirements to see if adjustments are once again needed. Currently, the way that it's written, I think, is that we have two. If you miss two meetings, then we ask that they find somebody else to fill the position. And so I'm just throwing it out there for something to consider.

[01:33:26] Also, I am really sad to share that our vice chair of communications, Sarah Levinetti, needed to step down from her position. I've really enjoyed having her as a part of our leadership team and I'm grateful for her service. So if anybody is interested in stepping into that role, we will hold an election in February for that position.

[01:33:46] And then as a quick reminder, I know you filled out a lot of things tonight, but if you want to share any feedback from tonight's meeting, we would love to hear that as well, but you've already given us a lot of feedback, so I understand if you don't. And then I really apologize about not getting out a recap from last meeting because I had had surgery, and then with Sarah having a family emergency, things just kind of got a little bit dropped, but we are committed to getting those out you will get them this month please share them with your committee or with your communities and and we will be on top of the ball so thank you thank you all so much for your participation

[01:34:22] tonight I'm sorry we ran a little bit long but we will see you in February if we don't see you as a part of the Latin Education Foundation backpack volunteer opportunity thank you guys