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Loudoun County School Board, School Business Partnership Executive Council, Thursday, November 19, 2026

Date	Thursday, November 19, 2026
Place	Loudoun County Public Schools / School Board meeting (see BoardDocs / LCPS-TV)
Length	1h 2m (video)

- Official meeting video (Vimeo / LCPS-TV): https://player.vimeo.com/video/1247456761?rel=0
- BoardDocs (School Board): https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/loudoun/Board.nsf/Public

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Speech-to-text: whisper.cpp, model large-v3-turbo. Produced 2026-11-20. Each paragraph starts with its time [HH:MM:SS] in the meeting video.

[00:00:00] We're going to get started, get your attention. We have a very full agenda today, so we're going to get going and have people filter in. They can filter in and sit down. Good morning.

[00:00:15] Good morning, everyone. Super successful day yesterday. Thank you, Dr. Cross. We've got some pictures up there on the board. of course the one in the middle um is the best one i like the background a lot of yeah i had blast yesterday um man very full day but we had some great students and i'm sure all you guys had some awesome students as well um i ended the day at a ribbon cutting with tony and um and veronica moore brought her job for a day to the ribbon cutting and i was like i was like man you're

[00:00:54] really working them late you know but she was like she wanted to she wanted to have that experience of doing that so it's really really cool all right um your august minutes are in front of you everyone take a quick look at that and then in fact you get a motion to approve those minutes natasha motion second second susan all in favor aye all right any opposed intentions thank you very much. All right. Committee reports. We'll run through those. Tasha membership. I don't have

[00:01:29] any update yet. Like I mentioned before, the new nomination will start next year. We'll let you know guys when. And if someone is not interested to continue with us, just let Rene, Sean, or myself let us

know as soon as possible. Want to step down from the council? Thank you. Rene says you all have to stay alright thank you Natasha Susan where's breakfast Carrie oh sure we are rocking and rolling

[00:02:08] actually Renee and team Dana and Carrie have been setting everything up on the back end we have the link right Carrie link is live we're good to go I believe the link is going to be live on December 1st.

[00:02:28] Okay. Link is live on December 1st. However, if you want to reserve your sponsorship, certainly let me know. I have many people written down, and I can follow up as soon as that link's ready to go. Okay. Nancy's in for, and we'll put you down.

[00:02:46] Anyone? Anyone? Go on once. All right. But we're doing very, very well on sponsorships. We have about, I think we have seven silver sponsors, all the top levels are sold, seven silver sponsorships at $1,000 are left. And then table sponsorships, they're obviously quite a few because we really haven't gone out to the public yet.

[00:03:07] So, and I did a few check-ins this week with sponsors to say, hey, make sure you're still good. Money's starting to come in. You'll see from my report. So good, Susan. Anything else? We're good. Okay. I have one quick thing to add. I was just sharing with Sean and Natasha.

[00:03:25] This is good news. So April is month of the military child. And I connected with John Sutton and every person that is in attendance, we are going to get them a lapel pin that says purple up for military kids.

[00:03:42] And then he has secured us a four-star general to do a little video. Yeah, so we're really excited to talk about what about for military kids. Very cool. Good addition. All right.

[00:03:58] Awesome, Renee. Thank you. Stacey, job for today? Yeah, do I have time to go around the room and have people share quick stories about their students? We can go quick. We've got eight minutes until the next section. Okay. Okay, well, do you have any students? All right, keep going.

[00:04:14] We had two. Two? How was your? It was great. Healthcare was their first choice. Okay. So we had to talk around that a little bit, and, but a student from Heritage and a student from Independence, and they worked on a fueled project, did a great job.

[00:04:32] - Perfect. We did not have any students, unfortunately. Natasha, I know you did. - 13. - Okay. - 13, and it was the highest score, so we were so excited. It was great. We did talk about leadership, we did talk about finance.

[00:04:49] I had a presentation for them to show them the difference between revenue, profit, cash flow, and expenses. And I gave them an example, like how we do the estimate for home, client, and how much the cost is, how much we pay employee percentage and all that.

[00:05:11] So they were very excited. And the good news is I already have one student who already have, for two years, a car detail company. And he's doing it. He's doing, he's opening LLC. And I already hired him to do car detail for our cars in April.

[00:05:35] Marcus, that's the picture what you saw me and him alone. I was insisting to have a picture with him. He's so excited. And also, I have a non-profit person who's mental health youth. He's already also opened that, so I'm going to make connection.

[00:05:52] And I've already got five emails this morning from everybody. They want to be involved. So it was a very great meeting yesterday. It was a very great day. Thank you, Sean. Awesome. Four of my five showed up, which is pretty good.

[00:06:09] One showed up like an hour early because they didn't read their email, but that's all right. We had a great class. We did all the things. I brought a rock star that I have on my team, Chase, in to talk to the kids. It was excellent. Really, there was like one of the kids from Woodgrove really, really stood out. I would have made him a job offer right in there. It was that good.

[00:06:32] Wolverines. Wolverines. But no, we had a great day, so good time. We had a fantastic time. We had four students. We learned everything about business. We had comms. We had communications.

[00:06:47] We had operations. We had scientists. Everybody in the room was fantastic. They said, are you on TikTok? I said, no. I'm going to go in, apply for Lyft VA, which they all did. They were super smart. They had a pipette.

[00:07:03] So we have four additional Lyft VA students from that activity. And the young lady says, we're going to help you get your TikTok stuff together. And the young man said he would help me with the Instagram. So we're already good. And all of them want to be scientists. We're starting to already talk about what universities do what and how they can get involved with the students that we've already worked with.

[00:07:25] And we just had a fantastic time. So thank you all for making sure that I did it this year. Because I always say no because we're too busy. But it was just so, it's heartwarming. And the letter that I got from the girl that hit the door first, like she met us at the door.

[00:07:41] And we always say from a military family, early is on time, long time is late. She's literally there like she's been in the service for her whole life. She was on time early. She wrote the most beautiful letter that did actually bring tears. And I'm a little bit soft, but it was a good experience.

[00:07:59] So I'm very thankful. Monty, did you have any students? Unfortunately, we did not participate this year. All right, going around, who was the next person? I have to give my really good excuse, which is we had five state inspectors. They would not let us bring the students on site this year.

[00:08:18] I don't know why. But we got a good inspection. Congratulations. Yes, we had one student, Al. We had a chamber board meeting yesterday. We were actually just down the hallway. And so, same thing. She showed up. She was five minutes early, you know. And then she went to the board meeting, and then she came back and met with our marketing communications team, because that's what her focus is, or wants to be.

[00:08:40] I wanted to do more, but Natasha grabbed all the students. And then we ended the Dulles Association of Realtors at a housing symposium at River Creek. So she went, and so she actually stayed longer than I did. She was learning all about how it's impossible for a young person to be able to afford a house in Loudoun County.

[00:08:58] So I think she's going to graduate high school, and it might be the last you see of her. Good. We had two yesterday, three we signed up, so one didn't show travel issues and trying to figure out how to get to, how to get to Luckett's. Um, but, um, gave me a nice tour on the farm, all the different jobs and all the different things. You know, we focus a lot on leadership and entrepreneurism, um, uh, showed them the

different things we were doing. We got out, we always save a project for them. So we, we planted, um, garlic yesterday.

[00:09:32] Okay. So you see some of the pictures out there. So they were out there that garlic will be used for, it'll eventually get into the, the food, food pantry there in Luckett's. Okay. So we have for the new ag school, we've got a, got a farm mat set up that we're growing all kinds of things specifically for this, for this food bank. So it's been a nice, nice effort there. We did it. We did a cheese and cracker tasting.

[00:09:57] tasting okay so we you know we had three different cheeses we had three different crackers and then we had three different sparkling waters to try the different flavors we did you know we did talk about fruit processing okay a little bit and and you know but also sanitation and hospitality and all the different pieces in that i didn't put the picture up there that i think i need to forward a little bit is um they we got into the shop and we started taking

[00:10:31] apart we have a one of our tillers when we prepped up the ground um our tiller broke so we have to take that apart so they got their hands two young you know small girls but the one girl was i mean she was so petite but she got in there and you know we talked about physics and how you know we changed the wrenches and different things so it was really neat to see them get into it and really enjoy taking some of these bolts apart and learn the process of different tools and making choices and angles and and all that so it really you know to engage all the different science stuff that you learn but then now to use it is is always an important part and then we ended with what i love

[00:11:10] to do is our our some of our mentor uh training things so i always do um uh you um there's no crying in baseball okay to show that little video clip on how we learn to be better mentors and the other one that i always show is um wax on wax off with um karate kid so learning you know how to be you know you want to be a mentor and you know but you also want to want to be mentored and and how you don't always know what that mentor is teaching you at that moment so you've got to, you know, you've got to have a certain amount of trust, but also, you know, not every

[00:11:47] mentor and mentee are fit together. So that's an important part that I like to kind of emphasize that next level. And that again, crosses over so much more than just, just grounds and agriculture that those are life lessons that I love. Anybody on this end? Ours went to pot. I'm going to be honest with you. We had a different team take over the event this year and we normally have upwards of 20 kids. I believe we had one. And he showed up today, not yesterday, which is very unfortunate, but we're doing a debrief to understand what happened this year. So hopefully

[00:12:25] next year will be better. Welcome back. Children get my mornings together, so forgive me as much hard as this. We had five. I wasn't here to cook off the day with them, but I was with Natalie presenting at economic development um but our five students we took them through risac they helped us pack for bloom we gave them a capstone project to kind of end the day around kind of revisiting job for a day in the life of a student so they gave us some feedback on how to read more students but uh overall pretty good we originally had six so we had five show up which was pretty

[00:12:59] good but overall great day um so i'll finish up i know we're late but i had four students and um One was focused on being an equestrian director, one was with our marketing director, one was CEO for the day, and our last one, oh, and our last one worked in our development office.

[00:13:23] So basically, and also with our CFO, basically it all came down to they learned that in nonprofit business, no matter what you're doing, it all focuses on bringing the revenue in. So I had one student that worked on a campaign that we're going to launch next spring about flower beds.

[00:13:42] You can kind of for Valentine's Day and also for Mother's Day. So he worked on that about, you know, kind of dedicating a flower bed to your family or your loved one. Then we had our marketing rep. She ended up doing really cute. She got into Canva and she started doing really cute tags for our Christmas tree for our annual, for our Yuletide in the park.

[00:14:04] event. So it's like a holiday giving tree. So she put that together. We also had our equestrian director and she, you know, worked over at the equestrian center, but then we're hiring for a coordinator. And so we sat down, um, I sat down with the director and I was talking cause she'd put together all these resumes and I was kind of grilling her on what, you know, why she thought these people should go through this next phase, you know, to be interviewed. And so we were kind of going back and forth and we were talking about and one of the candidates I was like are you sure that resume is strong enough and she said yeah but the cover letter do you remember the cover letter

[00:14:41] and we started talking about the importance of the cover letter and so our equestrian student was like I got this I'm gonna like write the best cover letters and I said yeah it's like you never know like a resume can be very vanilla but then this cover letter really brings your personality out. So those were kind of lucky. Yeah, great job. Awesome. All right. Well, thank you, Stacey.

[00:15:02] You're welcome, John. I had two of my four were very interested in electrical work. So I made the write-down Rosenton, and I went, Connects with the IOS. So FYI, if they could say Sean sent them, that was me. All right, let's go over to Carrie for our LAF update. Good morning, everyone.

[00:15:22] Because I always slide it at the end, and this is why I'm here. Let's start with the beginning and the account balance of the School Business Partnership account. So, you'll see that some more sponsorship money has arrived. We are getting ready to pay, like probably today, the deposit on the National Conference Center for the School Business Partnership Awards.

[00:15:45] So, doing well, and a lot has been pledged, so that number will continue to go up. And thank you for your support of the program. And I can't wait to report next month to see what's new. I just wanted to share a few things that we're doing.

[00:16:02] We had a collaboration with Equinex where we brought the Learning Undefeated mobile STEM bus, which is Learning Undefeated is a nonprofit organization out of Baltimore. And they hosted the STEM lab at Harper Park. And that administrative team made sure that like 650 of their 800 students were on that bus for the week, which was amazing.

[00:16:28] They worked really hard to coordinate the schedule to make sure all students had a class. And they had some AI curriculum that they were working on. We did a Microsoft collab. As you know, I've talked about this before. I think it's the 10th or 11th Girls in Engineering Day.

[00:16:43] This time we were at Riverbend Middle School. The next one is planned for February, and I appreciate the support of the CTAE team. Sharon does an amazing job working under Nick to help with that program.

[00:17:00] The Willowcroft World Language Scholarship, Mr. Lou Parker, is amazing. And they just had interviews last week, and we're deliberating and deliberating. And this scholarship provides a language immersion travel opportunity to another country, the funding does, over the summer.

[00:17:21] And while they were debating and trying to pick two, he's like, why don't we just do three? And so three kids are going to get this opportunity. And I will announce those winners at the next meeting. And what's that? Is that Huggies?

[00:17:37] Huggies to Lou. He just-- he's amazing. And I mean, we have so many amazing partners. But these are opportunities that are coming up. Giving Tuesday is right around the corner. You, too, can get a membership at Mormon Park. And you also can support classroom grants for our Innovation and Education grant program.

[00:18:04] That's the focus of our end-of-year appeal. CyberSlam is coming up in March. And we're working closely with Chris Stark, teacher at Briarwoods, and Nick Grazita of CTAE to plan that event. And we have actually Microsoft has come in as the signature sponsor for that.

[00:18:22] Speaking of signature sponsors, shout out to HHMI. We'll be sponsoring our regional science and engineering here again. That's coming up. More sponsorship opportunities are available. And I went to the first time, guys, last year. I've worked for Elia for, what, five and a half years.

[00:18:40] And the number of community volunteers that are judges for this, the whole auxiliary gym of Tuscarora High School was full of community volunteers that are supporting this effort.

[00:18:55] So if you want to get involved, let me know. The Loudon International Summit is an opportunity where it's a partnership opportunity where we have students that come in and work with our students from many different nations.

[00:19:11] And they work on the ability issue. We're learning more about this. This is a new project we're going to be working on. And then way down in May, she'll be here in two seconds. Outstanding educators, I think. Do I have a couple minutes?

[00:19:27] Yes. Okay. Three. I try. I try to keep it short. But I want to feature Mrs. Blevins, who is our SHINE recipient. And the reason I like to share this is, number one, first of all, Natasha was there for the big reveal.

[00:19:44] There is an excellent photo of Dr. Spence being all goofy. It's so good. I should have shared that one, but I just wanted to share Mrs. Blevins in action.

[00:19:59] And again, this is why we're here. Just a reminder of why we're here to support the boots on the ground individuals, right? So I'll be quick. Mrs. Blevins has truly changed the way my son feels about school, and for that we are so thankful.

[00:20:18] She has created a classroom environment to feel safe, welcoming, and engaging where my son feels valued, respected, and excited to learn. From the very beginning of the year, Mrs. Blevins has gone above and beyond to build relationships with her students and their families. She took time to personally call every parent in both her homeroom and switch class, even making calls in the evenings and on weekends. She has also offered conferences to the families at both classes outside for additional school hours and created opportunities for parents to come into the classroom and see the learning taking place firsthand. It is clear how much she cares about her students and their

[00:20:54] families. One of the things I appreciate most is how well Mrs. Blevins gets to know each student as an individual. She recognizes their strengths, finds ways to challenge them, and provides learning opportunities that meet them where they are. She sets high expectations while making her students feel supported and capable of reaching them. In the past, my son was often content to do the bare minimum. I can maybe relate, but with Mrs. Blevins, he wants to put in the effort and do his best.

[00:21:24] Seeing that change in him has meant so much to us. More than anything, Mrs. Blevins has made school a place my son generally wants to be. He's excited to go each day, comes home eager to tell us about everything he has learned, and even hates the thought of weekends and days off because he won't get to see her.

[00:21:45] That says so much about the impact she has had on him in just a short amount of time. Mrs. Blevins is everything you hope for in a teacher. She is kind, caring, dedicated, and truly invested in her students. She made such a positive difference in my son's attitude towards school and his desire to learn.

[00:22:01] We couldn't be more grateful for the care she has shown him and the confidence and excitement she has helped bring out in him. Teachers like Mrs. Blevins make a lasting difference, and our family feels incredibly lucky that she is his teacher. Can you tell us where Havada Elementary is? I'm not familiar with that school.

[00:22:24] Hovatter? Hovatter. Hovatter. Sorry. Hovatter is down by Light Ridge. Oh. Yeah. One of the new schools. It's all on the same campus. That's right on it. I've driven past Indy. Yeah. Henrietta Lacks and Hovatter are, like, right next to each other.

[00:22:41] Okay. Awesome. Fantastic. Thank you, Carrie. Thank you, Natasha, for sponsoring. Yeah. We appreciate it. All right. Let's hear from our head start instead. Alexis. That's me. That's you. Hi.

[00:22:57] We're having a little tech. And I have gift cards for you to take with you. That's amazing. And thank you, Tony, also, for donating gift cards. That's amazing. All right, so you want me to just wing it? Yeah, go for it. All right, I'm just going to wing it. I did bring some pictures. Hopefully we can get this going.

[00:23:13] So when he comes back, Jeff is on his way. All right, perfect. All right, so I'm Alexis. I come from Head Start and Step Preschool. Step is starting towards excellence in preschool. And I had the honor of coming to this meeting last year, And it was phenomenal. And I love talking about pre-K. I especially love the support that we've received from this group. So I wanted to give some updates on what that support looked like last year and kind of some updates on just early childhood education in Loudoun County, because I think this information is important. I think it's important to share with our business partners. So background first, I like to start with what is Step and Head Start. And I know I talked about it last year,

[00:23:49] but I'll give a brief overview, just kind of like our snapshot. Head Start is our federally funded preschool program that serves at-risk students. STEP is our state-funded preschool program that serves at-risk students. They are all four years old, and all of our programs are full day. That is something we've been working towards in every single program's full day, which is huge.

[00:24:12] Ways that children can qualify, it could be homelessness, which Holly will be talking about later too. So homelessness, the federal poverty level. So if you're not familiar with that, it is i think thirty two thousand four hundred dollars for a family of four somewhere around there um so at that level or

below for just a gross income can qualify a family so just to kind of set the stage it doesn't matter if you live in loudon county if you live anywhere else in the united states it's the same federal poverty level that determines eligibility our step preschool program because it is state funded can go up to 200 of that so you're doubling it but still in

[00:24:50] Loudoun County, that might not be enough. So this is a free preschool. Both programs are free for families. Foster care can also qualify family. If a family had low school achievement, so parents didn't graduate from high school, or if the student has an IEP. So if the student has an IEP and their needs can be met in a general education classroom, these are the program for them. So our STEP program serves 320 students. Our Head Start program serves 100 students. We are in 16 schools all throughout the county. We're also in high schools. So we partner with the early childhood education classes

[00:25:26] so the high schoolers can come in. It's a beautiful partnership. So that's kind of my overview of our preschool programs. And then I wanted to talk about data. And I have these beautiful pie charts because I love talking about data, but I'll just tell you about it. So something I wanted just to call attention is that we are very much paying attention to the need in Loudoun. So we are looking at loud and we are looking at what do we need as far as early childhood education goes and we need preschool so when we look at the information when our students register for kindergarten the parents can indicate whether or not their child had preschool experience

[00:26:04] that could be a daycare it could be a public preschool like ours it could be a private preschool it could be home-based did they have pre-k experience and I reached out to our data team and I said I really want to understand what kind of preschool experience are our students coming in with. And four, this is where it's tricky because I don't have my slides, but for Loudoun County for this year, I believe it's 15% of kindergartners did not have preschool experience.

[00:26:31] That's a large number. And we know what kind of a gap that that can create between having pre-K experience and not having pre-K experience. Then I drilled down a little bit more and I wanted to know if I focused on just our Title I schools, what does that data look like? And it doubles.

[00:26:49] So roughly 34%, I think it's like 34.5, they did not indicate that they had preschool experience. So what that tells us as a program is that we need to expand access for preschoolers. And I'm just saying that because I think it's important information for us to have.

[00:27:06] It's important for us to know that there's a need in Loudoun County and that we recognize that and we would like to grow our preschool programs, which is something that we are planning to do. So we are planning to open additional classrooms in our Title I area. of going to the Sterling area to help increase access. And we need to make sure we fill those slots. So I'm like, oh, let's let our community partners and our business partners know that we need the word out there. We need families to know that we exist. We need to make sure that they understand that they can apply for our program and that we have free, high-quality, full-day preschool. That's part of my speech. All right. We're not up and running yet.

[00:27:44] Then I wanted to talk about the holiday event from last year. So I came last year and I said, oh, my goodness, we are going from serving our 100 Head Start families to all 420 families. And it was a very nerve wracking experience.

[00:28:00] We were just trying it. We wanted to serve all of our preschool families. And we did it. And we did it. And I really think coming to this group was phenomenal. So after I left, I had folks reaching out. We

received gift cards. We received toys.

[00:28:15] And we were able to, I think the number was 1,700 toys and gift cards, came into our office and went out to families. And it was a phenomenal experience. So I just wanted to give my deepest gratitude. I had pictures of the event because you would not believe what 1,700.

[00:28:34] 1,700. You guys are running off. There we go. There you go. Am I safe? 1,700. But we had our event at Historic Douglas.

[00:28:51] They have a multi-purpose room. And we, thank you. Oh, I do have my data. Look at this. Okay. Because this says a lot. So here's our no pre-K experience. So there's 16.1%. I was close. All right. And then you jump and there's our Title I schools with no pre-K experience.

[00:29:07] So I'm painting the picture to show the need in Loudoun County and to show that we are very much paying attention to this. And we think that this is somewhere we want to grow. And I wanted to make sure I brought that forward along with our flyer so that we can promote preschool for Loudoun County Public Schools. Oh, and there's our preschool expansion.

[00:29:25] So opening two classrooms to serve those additional slots. You know, working towards, we're calling it closing the gap. So this we call our gap analysis data, and we really want to close that gap. And then partnership impact. So we are so fortunate that we have amazing partners that support our preschool program in so many different ways.

[00:29:44] Whether they are providing professional learning, they're providing support for our holiday program, they're coming in and they're reading in our classrooms, we've got clothing assistance, diaper assistance. We can't do it without our partners. So it supports our teachers in the classroom, it supports our families at home, but we thrive with our partnerships. And then we just wanted to name a few for our holiday assistance. And again, after leaving last year, kind of like, hey, we're going to try this. We're going to quadruple how many families we serve.

[00:30:14] And it happened. And it was so exciting. So I wish we could Zoom and you could get a really great picture. That's actually a DECA program. Just, you know, all of these community organizations and business partners that are supporting us. And that's just a snippet of the side of the room where we literally just lined the whole room with toys. Families came in, they shopped. And it's just, It is the best day of the year to do the job that we're doing and to see those smiles is phenomenal.

[00:30:42] So 1,774 toys and gift cards. We had 36 different organizations that donated between schools and those DECA programs or businesses, community centers, and just families that wanted to donate as well.

[00:30:59] And we had over 350 families sign up for that event. So this year, our goal is to collect over 2,000 toys and gift cards. New this year, we're trying some, oh, here, there's a snapshot of the entire room. Can you see that in the bottom left corner? Yeah, it is so cool to set all of that up and to have families walk in, because I don't think they understand what to expect when they walk in, and it's just amazing.

[00:31:23] We also have that middle picture is the admin building helping out, and then we have some family center shopping. But new this year, we're using an Amazon wish list. That's our QR code up there. We thought that actually might make it easier, and it sends everything straight to our office. We tuck it away in our storage room, and then we pull it out for our event.

[00:31:39] The deadline for donations is December 15th, and our shopping event will be December 17th at Historic Douglas. Again, we'll set it up just like this. So I wanted to give a huge thank you because coming here, I'm like, oh, I don't really know what to expect. And I left like, oh, my God.

[00:31:56] And I went back to my office. I'm like, all these amazing connections, but it helped out incredibly. So I wanted to share the impact that it made on our families, but also we're just going to continue to grow this. So thank you for your support. And then that leads me to kind of like my, what's something we need?

[00:32:13] I think when I want to reach out to business partners, it's really supporting preschool. So help us increase our enrollment to support the need of Loudoun County. So we recognize the need is there. We've collected that data. We want to grow our program. We need families to apply.

[00:32:29] And so I've linked our preschool flyer in there for everybody. I'll send it out. Perfect. I'm going to send it to you guys on the way. We just went away. You guys will get it. that's a great question so how are we currently marketing all over the place so either we're distributing flyers or connecting with organizations we have a communications plan with lcps so it might hit we this is new we had like social media ads for the first time um but we really want to target specifically that sterling area because we know the need is there and that's where we want to increase enrollment and that's where we want to open new classrooms so if you have if you are in

[00:33:09] the sterling area that's going to be very beneficial for us so are you doing the classrooms in the schools themselves where we have the space we are in we are in the schools themselves okay cool so for next year we are we're putting it in the budget for two additional classrooms and we believe that the space is available okay we're set up like we're set up for for big things and i feel like this is what the county needs um but we need to get our name out there more so in the grocery stores because i'm not sure if they're not already a part of the school system yeah right exactly they're not even aware that you're there but if you're at the grocery store

[00:33:46] they're going in to get their vouchers or whatever they might see something says yeah there's your baby grocery stores laundromats food banks as well obviously there are several very strong non-profit networks in latin county that serve folks that children may be qualified Yeah, there's a question.

[00:34:06] And maybe it's more question in part statement. I learned the other day that Prince William County is working towards universal pre-K. And so, if I did the numbers correctly, you're reaching about, there's 4,000 three-something kindergartens, I assume there's that many four-year-olds, and you're reaching about 10% of those, so there's about 90%.

[00:34:23] They're not, not all of them are in need, but I don't know. Don't you get a little jealous to see our friends down at Prince William moving towards this? They're phasing it in over four years, so they're not jumping into it. Yeah, I know. There are conversations. Yeah. But I'm excited. I'm excited when things like that happen, right?

[00:34:39] So there are people that are paying attention to early childhood education, and I think it's happening. So we are paying attention to it. I'm like, oh, I want our business partners to pay attention to it. Like, this is something that's happening. And, yes, I'm following that very closely. Alicia, are you connected with foundations first?

[00:34:56] Yes, I am, very closely, because we're a part of Virginia Quality Birth to Five, very much aligned. All right, fantastic. Two questions. Sorry, Chad. Go ahead, you're fine. It's hard if you can't see me on your website. um first question kind of following off of what tony was bringing up about the non-profits do you have partnerships and things that are going on for the holiday seasons there are a bunch of non-profits that are already doing a toy campaign so how are we not duplicating efforts we aren't so we actually will get families and that's why we might not have all 420 that are participating in hours but we actually support our families with signing up for those because we know that those

[00:35:32] go like this the moment their registration opens they fill so we actually had an in-person session like in our office we invited families in to help them get through that registration process to help them um because i know like salvation army does like an amazing one as well but there's there's closing literally 15 minutes it did it was so quick and i think not all the families in our were able to get in in times but we know that so we actually did an in-person session so yes there are other non-profits that are doing phenomenal things and ours i don't think is as comprehensive as like that salvation army one is um but we are working towards making it more comprehensive and

[00:36:07] serving a wider variety of students. Do you have a potential, like, opportunity to do a wait list where you're gathering some of those people's information so that there could be a distribution list to get them later on and to direct them to other resources that they might not be aware of? Yeah, so we do have a family community partnership specialist on our team, and she and her team are connecting with families for what do they need. So it could be holiday assistance, in which she has her list of all the nonprofits that are giving that holiday assistance. Ours is kind of like that icing on top. Last question. I loved your pie charts. I love a good pie chart. It's so good.

[00:36:46] And that one, I speak some volumes. I was curious about the stats for the ones that did have preschool. Did you have in your survey where they were giving them or was it nonprofits? Were they paying for it? So that information is available. This is all just from their registration. So when they register their child in kindergarten, they have the option of selecting which one they picked.

[00:37:06] And I just zoned in on no pre-K. So there could be public, there could be private. There's a variety of things they could have chosen, but I didn't pull that data. I could pull that data. But I really wanted to understand who has no pre-K experience. So anyway, sorry. Thank you for letting me go a little bit over time. Thank you for letting me come back, Renee. I love talking about pre-K, but I really wanted just to make sure that we're aware that we are paying attention and the need is out there and having you partner with us either a for our holiday assistance which is huge but also just to get our name out there to get that flyer out there on the flyer is a qr

[00:37:43] code for families just to go ahead and apply so if they don't know if they qualify just apply awesome well thank you i just want to say that the uh rotary from broadlands is doing a gift card drive for um head start instead of you'll pass this to alexis and so uh from now until december 15th we are collecting gift cards a 25 dollar target or walmart or you can just venmo me some cash and i'm gonna send my admin to buy them on the 14th so um if you want to participate just let me know love to and for those of you that already have participated thank you very much

[00:38:23] and the gift cards last year i mean that was huge because that was the piece we didn't know if we could do it our goal was to make sure every family had a gift card we ended up with more than enough so what we did is when our families apply they get a selection criteria score so basically we rank their need

so then we were able to give extra gift cards to the families with the highest need so every gift card that came out went out but it was all determined by family we got we got about two thousand dollars right now collected to date so hopefully it'll be more like three or four by the time we get it to you right 61 members so we expect Live in Hunger Relief will be giving out Thanksgiving back this Saturday.

[00:39:02] We actually already have. We got some already for our program. Okay, fantastic. All right, then. Well, we'll move on to McKinney-Vento. Holly? Hi, good morning, everybody. I'm Holly Engel. I'm the McKinney-Vento Specialist for the division. And so what that means is I get to lead a very small but mighty team that serve students experiencing homelessness.

[00:39:21] And on the screen, you will see all four of us who work with all 100 schools and educational centers in LCPS. So for those of you that don't know, McKinney-Vento is a federal program that ensures the educational rights and stability for those students who are experiencing homelessness, according to the federal McKinney-Vento definition.

[00:39:41] And that just means that they're lacking a fixed, regular, and nighttime adequate, oh my gosh, fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. I can never say that correctly, so I'm so sorry. And this year in LCPS, we have found over 1,100 students eligible so far.

[00:39:59] And we do rolling eligibility throughout the entire year, all the way up to the very last day of school. So I am here to talk to you guys about this, specifically because November is the National Youth Homelessness Awareness Month.

[00:40:15] And in our community, as you can imagine, homelessness looks very different every day for every single student. and it can include our families who call a hotel home and in those hotels they don't usually have a kitchen they don't usually have a stove or anything like that and oftentimes what we see is that's really the first stop for our families for even a short period or a long period of time that's where they're living. So to support those specific families in November three years ago our team came up with the Cooking Up Hope initiative and this year with support from the LEF sponsorship

[00:40:49] from LEF and support from Dr. Grove's team. We are working with family and community, sorry, family and consumer science students from Light Ridge, Briarwoods, and Independence High School, and they are cooking food to prepare warm meals that get delivered directly to the families who want one who are living in hotels. So they cook the food, they plan the food, they budget for it, they do everything that they can do. They package them and then my team goes and picks up the meals

[00:41:23] from their schools. And we have volunteers from LCPS staff across the division who go out in teams and deliver the food directly to the families in their hotel rooms on the Tuesday night before Thanksgiving. And it is just a really amazing way for us to show the students and their families that we care about them outside of our school building. This year we're actually delivering about 80 meals. So we're providing the meals to their students and anybody who is in that hotel room with them. And so this year it is about 80 meals right now. That number always jumps the day

[00:41:57] of. So we request higher meal counts than what we have. They also include a snack bag. So the students at Light Ridge last year who worked with us really wanted to be able to provide extra snacks for those kiddos during the holiday break. And so they curated a snack bag. And so every student gets a snack bag as well. And it's just a really, really great way for our students to help serve one another, right? And

they learn about what student homelessness looks like prior to cooking the meals. And in these schools, thankfully, while every school in Loudoun County has at least one

[00:42:34] student experiencing homelessness, these three high schools have the lowest amount, usually, of students experiencing homelessness. So they don't really get to see what that looks like in our community. And it's a great way for them to be able to be brought into that conversation and learn what it looks like and know that some of their peers could be experiencing this.

[00:42:50] So because homelessness and youth hunger extends far beyond Thanksgiving, we are really just wanting to partnership more with our community partners as well as our nonprofit partners and our faith-based partners to think about ways that we can do this throughout the year, just not during the week of Thanksgiving. This program has grown huge over the last three years. The first year we did it, it was actually with a donation from a nonprofit partner. We said, here, let's just go buy the meals from a restaurant. And then last year we were like, oh, we don't have that partnership anymore. What can we do? And Dr. Hitchman and the Light Ridge team was like, yes, we'll do this.

[00:43:28] Let's make this happen. And we fundraised in this building to get the money to do that. This year, we have the sponsorship from LEF and we've worked with Dr. Grubbs and his team to bring on more schools, to bring in more impact. And so we're just hoping that it continues to grow every year and that maybe we can do things like this or similar to this throughout the year at different periods of time. So we welcome any ideas that you have or any partnership ideas that you might have, you can contact me directly and I'd be happy to communicate them, speak through them with you.

[00:43:57] It is just a program I'm super passionate about and it's really exciting and our staff love it. If you volunteer, I know Renee has done it a handful of times, and delivering the meals and just really seeing the families and the students outside of the school building is really powerful in them, really understanding that we do care about them.

[00:44:15] So I know that Academies of Love has a, do they support in any way? So we reached out to them this year, and I believe that their head chef is out of the building during this time, so they couldn't participate this year, is that? We're working on it.

[00:44:33] We had some conversations, I have an expectation. I have an anticipation. An anticipation. They will be participating, but Jen Alpers, my team worked really close with Holly on bringing independence.

[00:44:50] Briar. Briar along, so great question, Susan. I was thinking about how we can leverage them so that we can start getting credentials, not per se, but experience in the real world. And I'm, you know, along with that.

[00:45:06] Not to go super in the weeds, one of the challenges with that program is, program is, and we brought into the academies a lot, and it went from a two-year to a one-year program. And so the time to really do the catering, it really got dropped out. And so we're working on maybe becoming a two-year program so that the upperclassmen could do more of the catering and the hosting and things like that, or adjusting to some of the curriculum. And Chef has been, you've seen an increased job for a day. They're now cooking for that event, for the celebration.

[00:45:38] Yeah, so we're making some progress, but we're getting there. What's interesting, too, is it's just, it's far beyond just even the cooking. Like Light Ridge, I don't, this is really, you can zoom in, but if

you see, like, those sweatshirts that were all wearing those white sweatshirts, they have a logo that they designed on it.

[00:45:55] And it's a turkey, and it's Light Ridge, and it says Cookie and Coke, right? They designed that as a team and brought it out. So it's, like, budgeting, it's marketing, it's all of those things all at once that they're doing. Instructors played it well, too, because they said, this was so great. We need new ovens.

[00:46:10] Yeah, of course. Well, in their defense. We bought them these big brand new ovens. In their defense, theirs was down last year. They were working on just one oven, cooking all these turkeys and everything else last year. We got them a whole new setup. We worked with Silk Weasel. We have a ton of media joining this year, too.

[00:46:29] I'm really excited. We're going to have a bunch of media folks, so this will be all over the news. Holly's not giving herself enough credit. She makes it so easy to partner and collaborate. It didn't even feel like we were working, doing anything. It was just so natural. So thanks for all you did. Well, awesome.

[00:46:45] And you could kind of spin this thing into each school doing their own and having that little level of competition and taking it to another level. But I'm so happy to hear those kids are cooking for purpose. And that's, you know, we have to eat three times a day.

[00:47:03] You know, we sit there and teach them to grow it. But, boy, that next step is to make sure it's prepared and consumable. So thank you. I also look up, I don't know all the details. The Rosetta has a charitable arm called the Rosetta Foundation. We do emergency grants up to $2,500.

[00:47:19] And I still believe there's like $60,000 or $70,000 left in the year to do that. So as long as it falls within the three pillars of the type of giving we do, you can apply for the grant. It comes pretty quickly. Thank you for that. Do you have any information for professional volunteer chefs to participate?

[00:47:40] That is not something that we've thought about yet, but I'm open to it. Definitely. I have some ideas. Yeah. Awesome. Holly, thank you very much. You're doing a great job. We appreciate you and your team. Let's go to good news.

[00:47:57] Start with Natalie. Yay! So, across the school nation, we had amazing Veterans Day celebrations. So, we had tons of schools across the county honor veterans in their communities and help students understand the meaning of Veterans Day. School-wide assemblies, music performances, breakfast, student presentations, and tributes. We have lots of veterans all throughout our schools, which is really exciting. This is the first school division I've ever been in where

[00:48:34] we're open on Veterans Day, and it's just honestly, it makes so much sense because you go to any of these schools, and we're, you know, inviting veterans, and they're not only are students learning about Veterans Day and the meaning of Veterans Day, but I truly feel like, I mean, you see veterans being honored in a way that they might not if schools were closed. I was at Luckett's Elementary with my kiddo, and there was a special assembly, and we had lots of grandparents in the audience, and they, you know, stood up and honored, and I was like, Renee, let go of your way crying,

[00:49:11] And so it's just, you know, it's a great day. We also had our Empowered English Learner Conference this past weekend, and we had so many families come to the conference.

[00:49:26] All of the sessions were full. And so this is a conference that, this is its second year, right? Third? So thanks. But occurred, and it connects our English Learner families with community

organizations and LCPS staff.

[00:49:45] There's a resource fair, and they learn about available program services and supports. They had food trucks out on site, and child care was provided, and it was just a really successful day. We had a fentanyl awareness forum last week with the sheriff's office and with the county, and that was held over at the Sterling Library.

[00:50:05] We're starting to see a small uptick in juvenile overdoses again, not in school, luckily. But, you know, as soon as we're kind of seeing this in the community, obviously it's something that we want to educate nip in the bud. So not that that's good news, but important news.

[00:50:23] And then I know we got to tour Medi and Flossie when we were here, but there was the official ribbon cutting for the HealthWorks and LCPS partnership a couple weeks ago, and that was absolutely wonderful. And then lastly, I will close it out with our LCPS student publications earned 20 state recognitions this year through VHSL's publications awards.

[00:50:50] And I mean, so many of them were top honors. And so it's just, our students are amazing. They're just fantastic. And we had 25 of our LCPS schools ranked among Virginia's top 100 in the U.S. News and World Report rankings as well.

[00:51:06] So it's lots of great stuff. All right. Fantastic. Go to Dr. Boyce. All right. Good morning, everyone. I will continue on with the Thanksgiving theme today. It kind of seems to be the trend. So November and December are super busy times for our family liaison team, just making sure that our families are taken care of over the holidays and over the break.

[00:51:29] In the month of October, we serve—our numbers are going up, as you can see. So in the month of October, our team served about 6,700 students and almost 5,000 families just in that month alone. Wanted to draw attention to a couple of events and activities that have been happening.

[00:51:46] On the left-hand side, this was an amazing event that I got to participate in at Sterling Elementary School. Their family liaison applied for a grant through a program called Operation Warm, and it was a partnership with Operation Warm at United Airlines, where every single kid in the school, every kid, got a brand new winter coat.

[00:52:06] So it was an awesome event. The kids got to come in classroom by classroom, and we had volunteers there to help them try on the coats and zip up the coats and put your arms up, make sure they fit you, and find the colors that they wanted. So it was just a really awesome opportunity to make sure that every single child in the school had a brand new winter coat.

[00:52:24] Some students may have needed one, some students may have already had one, but this is just making sure that we were covering everybody in the school. And then, again, with Thanksgiving, I really wanted to shout out Loud and Hunger Relief. That's a picture of our team, the ELFACE team, and Loud & Hunker Relief.

[00:52:40] We did a tour of their Leesburg pantry a couple of weeks ago. But they have just been incredible partners. They were able to provide over 2,200 Thanksgiving meal bags just for our families and LCPs. So they worked with the community to get donations of bags, and they actually delivered them to our schools this year, which was huge.

[00:53:00] It meant that our staff didn't have to go out to the facility and bring them back. So each bag had all the items to cook up a full Thanksgiving meal with size and a dessert. It also came with a gift card so the families could go out and buy a protein of their choice. So we're just super grateful for them for that.

[00:53:16] The middle picture is from Rockridge High School. They just had to do a little extra. So they had the meal bags from Loud and Hungry League, but then also with a partner that they have, some of their internal staff in PTA, they put together some extra goodies to include in those bags.

[00:53:32] So you see some cookies and some fun things that they included as well. And then just a lot going on with Thanksgiving this evening. Myself, Holly, some of our other colleagues are going over to Sully Elementary School. Our community school coordinator, Rosanna, over there has created a Thanksgiving meal that we'll be providing for the families there.

[00:53:52] America's Soup Kitchen is sponsoring the meal. So they'll be cooking up like a roast chicken and all the sides and things. And we'll be there serving the families. Families are also going to be able to take like a family portrait as well that we'll print out so they can take that home with them as well to have kind of that memory of the event for them.

[00:54:08] They have 83 people signed up for that event right now. And this is in this room. We're not marketing it as for being for McKinney-Vento families, but they were really trying to prioritize the families in the school that have the biggest need. We're framing it for the students as you're especially invited to this exciting meal.

[00:54:26] So it'll be a great time this evening. And then just one quick story from our recent report. This was from one of our elementary schools in the Leesburg area. Our family liaison shared, in early October, I partnered with our PTA to coordinate a large-scale clothing donation that is free for our community. We collected, sorted, and organized hundreds of items and opened up on a Saturday for families to come in and take with me.

[00:54:47] Very little was remaining at the end of the event. It was very successful, and we will have another event in the spring. Another thing that happened this month was that I was helping two families with birthday gift assistance. So I reached out to a partner organization called Birthday Blessings to provide four students birthday gifts.

[00:55:04] Lastly, a family that we have been assisting with chronic homelessness for several months has finally settled into a shared housing situation. We've been partnering with my social worker and Good Shepherd Alliance and utilizing community network to source several pieces of needed furniture and housewares, including three dressers, pots and pans, two sets of dining room, tables and chairs, and various other household items.

[00:55:26] So a lot of times, you know, Holly talked about homelessness right today. And so sometimes it doesn't look like not just having a place to live, but not having the adequate things that you need within that house. So they were able to secure that from this family, as well as securing another family with two beds and a crib for the same community that worked.

[00:55:43] So lots of good things happening, especially this time of year. I'm certainly in no way, shape or form, trying to compete with Alexis and the Head Start program. But a lot of our family liaisons run holiday giving programs within their school. Every school does it a little bit different.

[00:55:58] It has its own flavor at every school. So if you are so inclined to want to help a preschool family and then also maybe an elementary or secondary family, you're welcome to reach out to the family liaison at your local school to let you know kind of what's going on with their holiday giving program there. Awesome.

[00:56:14] Fantastic. All right. Dr. Groves. All right. I will keep mine as short as possible. Two areas I'll probably lean into. Last week, we did a future ready lesson. It was the first time that we did something like this. Every sixth, seventh, and eighth grader was exposed to a career-connected learning experience.

[00:56:35] It was a two-hour experience where all students got the RISAC training. We've taken some of the members of this group through RISAC. It's six letters that capture your themes of your skills, your values, your interests. We had over 11,000 students complete a survey.

[00:56:54] We have feedback on their future special programs that they're interested in, programs that they would like to see us add. And then we have a really nice breakdown of their top letter. And so for those of you who don't recall, RISAC, RISAC, the R stands for realistic, which is doers.

[00:57:12] I is investigative, think scientists. S is social, A is artistic, E is entrepreneurship, and C is conventional. Does anybody want to take a guess out of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, their top letter in the school system? R makes me feel good with all of our MATA programs.

[00:57:34] R was number two, actually. Artistic. Artistic was our number one that our students identified as their top leading theme. We remind them through the lesson that these are just clues. They can change. Don't identify as just one letter for the rest of your life.

[00:57:50] But it was really good data for our students. The other part, the other aspect that this served was that we used to do testing for the Academies of Loudoun on a Saturday, which increased barriers for students to test for AET and AOS.

[00:58:07] While students were going through this lesson, any student that applied to AET or AOS did the testing in their school that day. And so it really reduced our transportation barriers, our weekend barriers, and one clean swoop we impacted over 15,000 students on just one day which is incredible lift and that's really through academic programs with Katie Clark and in partnership with school counseling we contracted out the course and you can see an example of our realistic programs it almost had like a comic book future feature our students could identify their letters and then map

[00:58:43] their rooms against their interests so a really cool program the spirit of reading quotes today. I was so inspired. I will read a quote from that day. A parent emailed Dr. Spence and said, just wanted to send you and your LCPS colleagues a quick but heartfelt thank you for the career and school planning session yesterday. Catherine and Alexandra, his daughters, came home buzzing with excitement and ideas about their futures. Catherine walked me through all the different special programs with all the different categories, RIASAC, and what she might

[00:59:18] be interested in. Alexandra was excited as well and extra motivated to do her English homework. It's wonderful that the school puts so many resources and so much effort into students to dream and plan their futures. So just a really, really great opportunity to have you last week.

[00:59:36] Christina is out today, so I try to put my Christina hat on and look at John for a day data. Attendance reports are still coming in, so I think maybe working with Stacey and Renee maybe next

meeting we'll unpack some of the job per day data but we did have roughly 450 students placed i say roughly because it didn't include the nova day students that are participating today um we did have representation across all 14 career clusters roughly 75 business partners um and again i'll we'll share some data maybe the next meeting um but i pulled what i could quickly last night so So, thanks, everybody.

[01:00:14] Awesome. Well, thank you, Dr. Grubbs. I want to say, as an employer this year, I thought the communication around Job Verday was the best it's ever been. And getting the attendance report card kind of in the mail and the multiple updates was really, really helpful.

[01:00:31] So, yeah, Tristina did a fantastic job. She did a fantastic job. She's rocking it. And I was also, one other comment, and I'll wrap this up here. Our friends over at Starling Middle School were really excited about the ability to test at the school, and because their students are most impacted about not having transportation to go to the academy.

[01:00:52] So I think that was excellent. That was a really good opportunity and choice for them. All right, future events. We have the Awards Breakfast on 4-15, First Responders Event on 6-22. I want to mention that December 1st is Giving Tuesday, so if everyone would please consider maybe making a donation to LEF or to the Loud Chamber Foundation.

[01:01:15] Those are both excellent options. And then, do we have anything else? That's it. Do we need a breakfast meeting, Carrie, afterwards? Not this time. Perfect. All right. Well, guys, I will see everyone December 17th for our next school business partnership meeting and enjoy your Thanksgiving.

[01:01:37] Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving. And thank you for this beautiful gift. Thank you very much. - Oh, this is so cute, really.

