

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

**FEA Quarterly Governing Board Meeting MINUTES**

**Tentative Meeting Agenda**

**Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm**

**Laurel Ridge Community College, 173 Skirmisher Ln #104, Middletown, VA 22645; Room 202**

**Zoom Link (if needed): ): <https://vccs.zoom.us/j/83757293918>**

**This meeting is being held at a facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person with questions on accessibility should contact Ms. Mary Beth Dodson, Laurel Ridge Community College, 173 Skirmisher Ln #104, Middletown, VA 22645; Room 202. Persons needing interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify Mrs. Mary Beth Dodson no later than (1) week prior to the meeting.**

**1. Meeting Opening**

A. Call to Order

- Dr. Tony Brads called the meeting to order at **2:01 PM**.

B. [Roll Call](#)

In Person	Virtual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Anthony Brads, Superintendent (Culpeper)</li> <li>- Dr. Kimberly Blosser, President (Laurel Ridge)</li> <li>- Dr. Melody Sheppard Superintendent (Shenandoah)</li> <li>- Dr. George Hummer, Superintendent (Frederick)</li> <li>- Jason Van Heukelum Superintendent (Winchester)</li> <li>- Dr. Rick Bolling Superintendent (Clarke County)</li> <li>- Dr. Anna Graham, Superintendent (Madison)</li> <li>- Mary Beth Dodson, FEA Germanna</li> <li>- David Londrey, FEA Germanna</li> <li>- Eliza Gardner (FEA Student)</li> <li>- Sarah Hirst (FEA Student)</li> <li>- Lori Killogh, Laurel Ridge</li> <li>- Brenda Byard, Laurel Ridge</li> <li>- Heidi Michael, Laurel Ridge</li> <li>- Nicole Munday, Laurel Ridge</li> <li>- Jennifer Strickler, Laurel Ridge (Professor)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Shashauna Gray (Germanna)</li> <li>- Dr. Daniel Hornick, Superintendent (Orange)</li> <li>- Dr. Shannan Grimsley Superintendent (Rappahannock)</li> </ul>

C. Moment of Silence

## D. Pledge of Allegiance

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

---

A. Approval/Changes to the Agenda can be made at this time.

- Motion to approve: **Dr. Dan Hornick**
- Second: **George Hummer**
- **Agenda approved.**

## 3. Presentations / Recognitions

---

A. Program Overview and Student Perspectives

Mary Beth Dodson introduced FEA instructor Jennifer Strickler, who provided an overview of FEA instructional programming at Laurel Ridge, highlighting student engagement, deep connections to school communities, field experiences, and academic rigor.

Student testimonials were provided by:

- Eliza Gardner (John Handley High School), who shared that FEA helped clarify her career pathway and strengthened her time management skills.
- Sarah Hirst (James Wood High School), who described the strong sense of community within the cohort and the academic and personal support students provide one another.

## 4. Delegations

---

A. Request to Speak – Public Comment

- No speakers

## 5. Consent Agenda

---

A. The minutes from the March 3, 2026 Governing Board meeting were presented for approval.

- Motion: Dr. Kimberly Blosser
- Second: Dr. Anna Graham
- Result: Approved

## 6. Action Items

---

- **Cell phone policy**
  - The Board reviewed proposed updates to the FEA cell phone policy to align with current practice effective July 1, 2026. The revised policy requires phones to be powered off and stored away during program hours, while remaining in student possession. The Board agreed that lockers or phone pouches could be considered if future issues arise.
    - Motion to approve revised policy: Dr. Kimberly Blosser

- Second: Dr. George Hummer
- Result: Approved

- **Student Conduct and Representation**

- The Board discussed revisions to the student conduct policy following a recent incident originating at a base school. Members agreed additional clarity was needed regarding suspension definitions and escalation procedures. The Board supported establishing a disciplinary committee process rather than fixed thresholds, consisting of at least three executive committee members convened after notice to the Board Chair.
  - Motion to approve amendments establishing disciplinary committee process: Dr. Anna Graham
  - Second: Dr. George Hummer
  - Result: Approved
- Final policy refinement will continue, with broader revisions anticipated for review at a future meeting.

## 7. Coordinator / Staff Reports

---

### A. FEA Germanna Updates – Mary Beth Dodson

- Presented at the ODU Center for Educational Innovation Summit, collaborating with lab schools statewide.
- Participated in the Rural School Summit at Virginia Tech, establishing new connections with VDOE representatives interested in visiting FEA classrooms.
- Highlighted strong student outcomes, including college placements and scholarship awards.
- Reported progress on expanding the Educational Resource Library at Daniel Technology Center to support practicum experiences.
- Shared details on upcoming events:
  - New Student Orientation (designed by current juniors)
  - Senior Signing Day

### B. FEA Laurel Ridge Updates – Lori Killough

- Reported on innovative guest speakers and experiential learning activities.
- Highlighted the success of Transfer Institution Day, coordinated by Heidi Michael, drawing approximately 100 students and families.
- Noted the Children’s Art Exhibit and its integration into Human Growth and Development coursework.
- Reviewed upcoming field trips and potential summer volunteer opportunities, including partnerships with Frederick County’s summer reading program.

## 8. Board Member Reports

---

### A. Board Member Comments

The Board engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding program sustainability, noting that current funding is scheduled to conclude in FY 2027–28.

Key discussion points included:

- Positive feedback from state education leaders, including Secretary of Education Jeff Smith and State Superintendent Jenna Conway, regarding FEA’s model.
- Exploration of funding avenues including Virginia Career Works, PATH Foundation, and other philanthropic opportunities.
- The importance of calculating a clear per-student cost, inclusive of staffing, to strengthen proposals and advocacy efforts.
- Consideration of adjusting student recruitment timelines to ensure long-term stability.

Board members agreed to continue coordinated advocacy with VDOE, VCCS, and local partners, emphasizing documented student success.

## 9. Information Items

---

- Laurel Ridge FEA Shenandoah University Field Trip – **April 24, 2026**
- Germanna FEA Orientation – **April 29, 2026**
- FEA Senior Signing Day – **May 5, 2026**, 9:00–10:30 AM
- Laurel Ridge FEA Orientation – **May 19, 2026**

## 10. Future Meeting Dates

---

- Advisory Committee Meeting (rescheduled): **June 22, 2026**, 1:00 PM, via Zoom
- Governing Board Meeting: **July 27, 2026**, 2:00 PM, Daniel Technology Center
- Advisory Committee Meeting: **September 28, 2026**, 1:00 PM, via Zoom
- Governing Board Meeting: **October 26, 2026**, 2:00 PM, Laurel Ridge Middletown Campus
- Advisory Committee Meeting: **December 14, 2026**, 1:00 PM, via Zoom
- Governing Board Meeting: **January 19, 2027**, 2:00 PM, Daniel Technology Center
- Advisory Committee Meeting: **February 22, 2027**, 1:00 PM, via Zoom

## **11. Closed Session (If Needed)**

---

No closed session was requested or held.

## **12. Adjournment**

---

### **A. Meeting Adjourned**

- Motion to adjourn: Dr. Kimberly Blosser
- Second: Dr. George Hummer

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.