GERMANNA
FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY

Laurel Ridge
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY

Monday, October 19, 2026

FEA Quarterly Governing Board Meeting

Tentative Meeting Agenda
Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Laurel Ridge Community College 173 Skirmisher Lane, Cornerstone Hall, Room 206
Zoom Link (if needed): https://vccs.zoom.us/j/84058509123

This meeting is being held at a facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person with questions on accessibility should contact Mrs. Mary Beth Dodson, Germanna Community College, 18121 Technology Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701, (540)937-2909. 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

- Chairman Dr. Anthony Brads called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

B. Roll Call

In Person	Virtual
• **Dr. Anthony Brads**, Superintendent (Culpeper) • **Dr. Kimberly Blosser**, President (Laurel Ridge) • **Dr. Jason Van Heukelum**, Superintendent (Winchester) • **Dr. George Hummer,** Superintendent (Frederick) • **Dr. Anna Graham**, Superintendent (Madison) • **Brian, Superintendent (**Page**)** • **Mary Beth Dodson**, FEA Germanna • **David Londrey**, FEA Germanna • **Lori Killough**, FEA Laurel Ridge • **Heidi Michael**, FEA Laurel Ridge • **Jennifer Strickler**, FEA Laurel Ridge • **Nicole Munday**, FEA Laurel Ridge • **Ella Mowery,** Laurel Ridge FEA Senior • **Chloe Merriam**, Laurel Ridge FEA Senior	• **Troy Wright, Superintendent (Warren)** • **Dr. Shannon Grimsley**, Superintendent (Rappahannock) • **Dr. Daniel Hornick**, Superintendent (Orange) • **Melissa Foltz** • **Jessica Vacca**

C. Moment of Silence

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D. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Dr. Hummer moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Blosser seconded the motion. The agenda was approved without objection.

3. Presentations / Recognitions

4. Student Reports

A. Chloe Merriam

Mrs. Lori Killough introduced FEA senior Chloe Merriam from James Wood High School.

Chloe shared her experiences participating in a summer internship at Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School. The internship focused on supporting students identified as being at risk of losing academic skills during the summer months. She discussed adapting instructional strategies to individual student needs and reflected on the differences between learning about teaching in the classroom and working directly with students.

Chloe stated that her practicum and internship experiences have helped prepare her for a future career in education by allowing her to work with students of various age groups. She expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided through FEA and shared that she is considering attending either James Madison University or Shenandoah University after graduation.

- Board members engaged Chloe in a brief question-and-answer session following her presentation.
    - When asked about her plans after graduation, Chloe shared that she is currently considering attending either Shenandoah University or James Madison University to continue her education and pursue her goal of becoming a teacher.
    - Board members also asked what initially led her to enroll in the Future Educators Academy. Chloe explained that she had previously worked with children through her church nursery and summer programs and had already developed an interest in education. After learning about the Future Educators Academy from one of her teachers, she recognized it as a unique opportunity to further explore her passion for teaching and gain valuable hands-on experience. She stated that she did not want to pass up the opportunity to participate in the program.
- Board members thanked Chloe for sharing her experiences and commended her dedication to the teaching profession. Members noted that her enthusiasm for working with children and her commitment to pursuing a career in education exemplify the goals and mission of the Future Educators Academy.

B. Ella Mowery

FEA senior Ella Mowery from Sherando High School spoke about her paid internship with Frederick County Public Schools at Greenwood Mill Elementary School.

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Ella described applying and interviewing for the position and noted how meaningful it was to receive her FCPS employee badge. She currently earns $15 per hour and works approximately 20 hours each week. During the school year, she rotates through multiple grade levels, including special education placements, and is currently working with Mrs. Bretlyn Mann in second grade.

Ella reflected on the value of seeing different teaching styles and instructional approaches and shared that the experience has strengthened her confidence in pursuing a teaching career. She plans to save her earnings for college and is considering either James Madison University or the University of Mary Washington.

- Board members engaged Ella in a brief question-and-answer session following her presentation.
    - Dr. Grimsley expressed appreciation for the internship program and asked about Ella's postsecondary plans. Ella shared that she is currently considering attending either James Madison University or the University of Mary Washington.
    - When asked what motivated her to apply for the internship opportunity, Ella explained that she was already a Future Educators Academy student and had been seeking employment. When she learned about an opportunity connected to education, she immediately recognized it as a valuable experience aligned with her career goals.
    - Dr. Brads asked what initially attracted her to the Future Educators Academy. Ella responded that she had always wanted to become a teacher and was particularly interested in the opportunity to earn an associate degree while still in high school.
    - Nicole Munday asked how Ella manages working more than 20 hours per week during the school day while also completing her high school coursework. Ella explained that her elementary school principal has been very supportive and works with her schedule to ensure she can fulfill her responsibilities and return to her high school as needed.
- Board members offered words of encouragement and praise to both student presenters. Dr. Hummer commended their professionalism, confidence, and public speaking abilities, noting that their passion for education was evident and served as a strong example of the impact of the Future Educators Academy program.

Board members commended both students for their professionalism, public speaking abilities, and passion for education. Discussion followed regarding Frederick County's internship model and how similar opportunities might be replicated across participating divisions. Members highlighted the importance of providing students with meaningful classroom experiences while also addressing teacher shortages and creating opportunities for students to "earn while they learn."

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5. Delegations

A. Request to Speak – Public Comment

- No requests for public comment were received.

6. Consent Agenda

A.Approval of Minutes- Governing Board Meeting July 7, 2026

- Dr. Blosser moved to approve the July 7, 2026 Governing Board meeting minutes. Dr. Graham seconded the motion.

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- Motion carried 6-0.

7. Action Items

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8. Coordinator / Staff Reports

A.Germanna Updates- Mary Beth Dodson

Mrs. Mary Beth Dodson provided an update on the activities, enrollment, and financial status of the Germanna Future Educators Academy (FEA).

- The 2026-2027 cohort includes 47 students, consisting of 23 seniors and 24 juniors, representing five school divisions, nine high schools, and eight elementary schools. Mrs. Dodson reported that students returned for the fall semester and quickly transitioned into coursework and practicum experiences.
    - Practicum placements began on the second day of classes, allowing students to immediately engage in hands-on learning within local elementary schools.
    - Students have been actively involved in supporting classrooms and working directly with elementary students. Examples shared included assisting with coding activities using Bee-Bots, supporting small-group instruction, and working alongside mentor teachers in elementary classrooms throughout the region.
    - Positive feedback from mentor teachers highlighted students' initiative, professionalism, and ability to build meaningful relationships with young learners.
- Mrs. Dodson also highlighted FEA's participation in local community outreach events, including the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce Business in Education Day and the Madison County Public Schools Vendor Fair.
    - These events provided opportunities to promote the program while supporting educators throughout the region. Raffle prize winners included Brianna Hoover of Eastern View High School and Emily Carpenter of Waverly Yowell Elementary School.
- Additional service-learning opportunities were provided through the Pearl Sample Elementary School Block Party, where FEA students volunteered alongside school staff to facilitate activities for students and families.
    - Feedback from school personnel praised participating FEA students for their leadership, engagement, and commitment to serving the school community.
    - Mentor teachers noted that students demonstrated professionalism, initiative, and strong communication skills while interacting with children and families.
- Mrs. Dodson shared updates from classroom instruction, including projects and activities completed in BIO 101, as well as recognition of student achievements through the program's Senior of the Month initiative.
- An overview of the program budget was presented.
    - Mrs. Dodson reported that Year Two expenditures remained below budget, resulting in a carryover that was largely attributable to personnel and benefits savings.
    - She noted that staffing adjustments and the use of qualified adjunct faculty will help reduce future expenditures while maintaining program quality.
    - The program also continues to pursue cost-saving measures through the increased use of Open Educational Resources (OER), reducing textbook expenses in future years.
    - Budget projections for Years Three through Five were reviewed, with continued attention given to maintaining essential program supports such as Praxis preparation resources, student recognition events, and program recruitment activities while planning for long-term sustainability.

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- Mrs. Dodson concluded by emphasizing the program's commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship while continuing to provide high-quality educational experiences that prepare students to enter the educator workforce.

B. Laurel Ridge Updates- Lori Killough

Mrs. Lori Killough reported the following:

- Current enrollment includes 44 Future Educators, consisting of 18 seniors and 26 juniors.
- Practicums began on September 25 and continue through January 15.
- Students are serving in 13 elementary schools alongside 44 mentor teachers.
- Mentor teachers received Laurel Ridge canvas bags filled with classroom supplies as expressions of appreciation.
- Juniors participated in a field experience at Belle Grove Plantation on October 13 that supported course objectives in HIS 121 and also provided opportunities to discuss the planning responsibilities involved in student field trips.
- ENG 111 students completed a collaborative essay examining the question, "To what extent is a four-year college degree worth the time and money?" The project focused on collaboration, communication, and writing skills.
- Upcoming events include a holiday food drive, partnerships with local elementary schools, Transfer Day, college visits, and recruitment efforts for the Class of 2029.
- An update was provided regarding student Skyla Stewart, whose family experienced a house fire. Support from neighbors and the FEA community has enabled her to remain enrolled and continue pursuing her educational goals.
- Laurel Ridge's FY29 budget projections were reviewed, including investments in instructional resources such as literacy libraries and mathematics manipulatives.

9. Board Member Reports

A. Board Member Comments

- Sustainability Discussion
- Dr. Brads distributed informational rack cards for board members to use when communicating with legislators and other stakeholders about the Future Educators Academy's sustainability efforts. He shared that he has been in discussions with representatives from the Virginia Department of Education regarding potential mechanisms for sustaining successful laboratory schools beyond the current funding period. Dr. Brads emphasized the importance of continuing to build awareness among policymakers and educational leaders about the impact of FEA and the need to maintain support for programs that are demonstrating measurable success.
- Dr. Blosser reported that conversations among Virginia community college presidents indicate that limited information has been released regarding the Commonwealth's long-term plans for laboratory schools. Board members noted that laboratory schools were created to serve as innovative educational models and expressed confidence that FEA has proven itself to be a highly successful example. Members discussed the importance of clearly communicating both the program's outcomes and its sustainability model to state decision-makers.
- Dr. Grimsley emphasized that one of FEA's strongest arguments for continued support is its role in addressing Virginia's critical teacher shortage, which remains a key priority across the Commonwealth.

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Board members agreed that future sustainability discussions should focus on demonstrating how FEA directly contributes to strengthening the educator workforce through a "Grow Your Own" approach to teacher preparation.

- Discussion also highlighted the unique nature of FEA's regional partnership model. Among Virginia's laboratory schools, FEA serves an unusually large number of participating school divisions and provides a direct pathway into the teaching profession. Board members noted the value of ongoing research partnerships and data collection efforts that help measure the program's effectiveness and long-term impact.
- Members discussed the importance of presenting data that demonstrates both the severity of teacher shortages and FEA's ability to help address those needs. Suggestions included highlighting teacher vacancy rates, projected workforce needs, retention data, and the number of FEA graduates who ultimately return to serve in local school divisions. Members also noted the economic benefits associated with developing local educators and reducing recruitment and training costs, particularly in rural communities.
- Dr. Graham raised the possibility of exploring future funding models similar to Virginia's Governor's School structure. Board members discussed whether a specialized teacher-focused model could provide a long-term framework for sustainability.
- The discussion concluded with consensus that FEA's strongest case for continued funding is its demonstrated ability to help solve teacher shortages across participating divisions. Board members agreed that future advocacy efforts should center on clear, data-driven evidence showing the program's impact on workforce development, educator preparation, and student success.

B. Sustainability Discussion/Recruitment for the 2027/2028 School Year

10. Information Items

October 21: Germanna- FEA Open House: Daniel Technology Center, Culpeper, Virginia

October 23: Germanna- UMW coming to visit

November 2: Laurel Ridge- Virtual Day

November 3: No Classes at either campus

November 6: Germanna- Senior Field Trip to Fine Arts Museum in Richmond

November 10: Madison Student Information Session at MCHS 6:00pm

November 20: Madison Students coming to tour FEA

November 25-27: Thanksgiving Break

December 7-11: Final Exams

January 19: Spring Classes Begin

11. Future Meeting Dates

A. Advisory Committee Meeting: December 14, 2026 VIA Zoom at 1 pm.

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B. Governing Board Meeting: January 19, 2027 at 2pm at Daniel Technology Center

C. Advisory Committee Meeting: February 22, 2027 VIA Zoom at 1 pm.

12. Closed Session (If Needed)

A. Motion to go into Closed Session

n/a

13. Reconvene to Open Meeting

A Motion to end Closed Session

14. Action on Closed Meeting

A. Recommendations

15. Adjournment

A. Meeting Adjourned 3:37

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