

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES – October 8, 2025**  
**VIRTUAL**

**ATTENDANCE**

Angi Green (Chair)  
Catherine Clinger  
Dan Edwards  
Daniel Daponte  
Donna Kenley

Kobie Griffin  
Mandy Ruff  
Marcia Jackson  
Merideth Forbes  
Nicole Davi

Suzanne Marie Hess  
Terry Glover  
Tim Beaty  
Ursula Rocha

**Excused Absent**

Carrie Phillips  
Christine Raino  
Kate Garvey  
Laura Funes Quinones  
Mayor Alia Gaskins

Council Member Sarah  
Bagley  
Laura Durham  
Michelle Rief  
Rose Dawson

Gennet Negussie  
Isabel Shultz

**Unexcused Absent**

**Staff**

Barbara Paulson  
Chelsea Eickert

**Guests**

Allen Lomax  
Dr. Clint Page

**WELCOME**

Chair Angi Green opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The September 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

**ACPS STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – DR. CLINT PAGE, OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY, ACPS**

Chair Angi Green introduced Dr. Clint Page, who shared an overview of the ACPS 2030 Strategic Plan, highlighting its purpose, development process, and areas of alignment with the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC). Dr. Page, a fourth-generation Alexandrian, has led or participated in several strategic planning efforts for ACPS and expressed optimism about implementing this plan without the disruption of a global pandemic.

Dr. Page explained that the Plan was designed to serve as a “North Star” for ACPS over the next five years, providing direction while remaining adaptable as circumstances evolve. Dr. Page also discussed the balance between strategy and culture, noting that “culture eats strategy for

breakfast.” The plan therefore includes a three-part framework integrating purpose (mission and vision), strategy (goals and metrics), and culture (core values and practices).

The Plan’s five goal areas include: 1. Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Environments, 2. Academic Excellence; 3. Recruit, Develop, and Retain High-Quality Staff; 4. Community Engagement and Communication; and 5. Postsecondary Preparation (College, Career, and Community Readiness). Dr. Page described several strategic actions and performance measures, such as increasing student reports of feeling safe at school, reducing chronic absenteeism, supporting professional learning for staff, and expanding real-world learning opportunities through project-based learning and internships.

During the discussion, commissioners reflected on last year’s CYFCC listening session with Youth in Progress (YIP), noting that many parents expressed concerns about school safety, particularly in hallways and bathrooms. Dr. Page was asked how the Strategic Plan addresses those concerns and ensures that Hispanic students and families feel safe and welcome. ACPS data show student perceptions of safety declined sharply after the pandemic but have since improved. He affirmed that “if students don’t feel safe, their brains aren’t in a place to learn,” and said that safety both inside and outside of schools remains a top organizational priority.

Commissioners also asked about expanding “third space” opportunities for youth that provide the same kind of safe, relationship-based environments like YIP and whether ACPS could help replicate successful models. Dr. Page agreed that out-of-school engagement is a crucial driver of student connection and attendance, noting that ACPS seeks to partner with community organizations to “leverage resources” and scale successful programs.

Commissioners were curious about the connection between the Strategic Plan and the ACPS budget, since the CYFCC also makes funding recommendations. Dr. Page explained that the plan and budget are directly linked, and beginning with the next fiscal year, the Superintendent’s proposed operating budget will explicitly align with the plan’s goals and strategies.

Commissioners raised concerns about transportation barriers to internships and out-of-school time opportunities, asking how those are being addressed. Dr. Page acknowledged that transportation remains a barrier for equitable access and committed to sharing that feedback with the appropriate goal team to explore solutions.

Chair Green suggested developing a crosswalk to visually map CYFCC and Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP) priorities with ACPS’s strategic goals and other citywide plans (e.g., the Community Health Improvement Plan).

Dr. Page invited commissioners to visit the ACPS 2030 Strategic Plan webpage (<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/about-us/acps-2030-strategic-plan>) for more details.

The Commission thanked Dr. Page for his time and expressed appreciation for ACPS’s intentional focus on equity, culture, and collaboration with community partners.

## **DISCUSS ADVOCACY PRIORITIES AND CITY BUDGET LETTER**

Catherine Clinger and Daniel Daponte led a discussion on the draft CYFCC Budget Letter to City Council, which builds upon the Commission's 2024-25 advocacy priorities. The letter focuses on three main areas: 1. expanding access to Out-of-School Time (OST) programs; 2. supporting students with disabilities through developmentally appropriate programming; and 3. promoting youth empowerment through leadership and service-learning opportunities.

Catherine provided background on how the priorities were determined, noting that the CYFCC's 2024 meetings centered on these topics through presentations by community partners and City staff, including Youth in Progress (YIP), Therapeutic Recreation, and ACPS service-learning programs. She emphasized that this year's recommendations are framed to align with the City's ongoing support for basic needs and youth well-being.

Commissioners expressed interest in learning more about waitlists for therapeutic recreation programs and whether that could be referenced in the letter as evidence of ongoing need.

Members recommended removing a specific example under the "Youth Empowerment Opportunities" section to keep the language focused and policy-oriented.

Some commissioners discussed ensuring that advocacy for continued funding of ALX Beyond's Program Locator complements existing roles such as ACPS parent liaisons and school social workers, rather than duplicating efforts. Commissioners supported emphasizing direct allocation of funds to sustain effective initiatives.

Commissioners agreed that the letter effectively highlights collaboration across City, school, and community partners and that these align with the CYCP's goals for equitable access and youth engagement.

**Action:** After Commissioners briefly confirmed quorum requirements, they proceeded with the vote. A motion to approve and submit the CYFCC FY2027 Budget Letter to City Council passed with nine votes in favor.

#### **DISCUSS PARENT/CAREGIVER INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT**

There was insufficient time to discuss this agenda item. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.