



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **Fox Elementary School Fire Investigation Complete**

**Richmond, VA** — The Richmond Fire Investigations Unit has completed the investigation into the three-alarm fire at Fox Elementary School, which occurred on February 11, 2022. The fire is classified as accidental and the cause is undetermined. This means that there is no evidence to support any deliberate or criminal act.

Custody of Fox Elementary School was turned over to Richmond Public Schools on June 29, 2022.

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### **Background for reference:**

As initially stated on February 11, 2022, the 911 call center never received notice of an alarm going off at Fox Elementary School. 911 received a call from a passerby, who stated they could hear an alarm coming from within the school as well as see strobes lights flashing. Richmond Fire Department (RFD) responded to Fox Elementary School and reported no smoke or flames were coming from the structure. RFD began an initial exterior investigation around the building.

RFD Command called the 911 Communications Officer stating that they were unable to gain access to the building and requested that a Richmond Public Schools representative provide access to the building. 911 advised there was no answer from RPS security.

Due to the fact that RPS security was unavailable, RFD manipulated the lock of a janitorial entrance on the rear of the building to gain access to the ground floor. RFD walked through to open the front door for the rest of the firefighters on the scene. The alarm panel did not show any indication of a fire alarm activation. Crews then searched the inside of the entire building twice, checking all known areas, and found no indication of any hazards. Thermal imaging cameras were used during the search and crews spotted nothing out of the ordinary. They searched all known areas of the exterior and interior of the building for at least 38 minutes without locating any indication of fire.

After firefighters left the school subsequent to the initial search of the premises, firefighters responded to a second 911 call, approximately 25 minutes later, from a passerby stating that Fox Elementary School was on fire. Firefighters returned to an apparent fire and worked to extinguish the blaze. Once the fire was extinguished, RFD took control of the building and began its investigation. The results of the investigation have been stated above.

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