Thank you for your email and for contacting the school division.  I have listed below information in response to your question.

Two overarching points though:

1 - The school division was taking action to contract the service through Chesterfield County Procurement earlier in the year (February), well before this media inquiry (and not an action taken because of a media inquiry).

2–CCPS plumbing was conducting an inventory of the system back in November 2020.

**Backflow Prevention Summary**

**2019 and 2020 Inspections**

Fire protection backflows at 48 schools were tested in July and August 2019.

On December 18, 2019 County Utilities sent CCPS Facilities individual letters for schools requiring backflow preventer inspections.  CCPS compiled the letters into a list of potable water backflow devices.  Based on the list the newly hired CCPS Preventive Maintenance (PM) Manager ensured that the additional 42 potable water backflows on the list provided by the County were inspected in January and February 2020.  These inspections were titled “2020 Domestic” in the information provided to Channel 6 News.

In March 2020 our buildings were closed for over six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  No further inspections were performed in 2020.

**Identification of Backflow Devices and Update of Inspections**

In November 2019 the position of PM Manager was created and filled to identify and address issues resulting from years of deferred maintenance.

The Director of Facilities and the PM Manager identified discrepancies while reviewing the list provided by County Utilities in January 2020.

As a result of COVID, the efforts of the plumbing department were shifted to assisting in the development of COVID related projects such as water bottle fountains with filtration systems, touchless urinals, toilets, and sinks.

This effort subsided in November 2020, and the Plumbing staff was able to focus their efforts on developing an inventory of backflow devices with the PM Manager.

There are work orders documenting the inventory tasks.  Inventory for all 68 buildings was completed in January 2021.

In February 2021 the Director of Facilities requested the CCPS contracting representative to work with County Procurement to award a purchase order for subsequent inspections. The Purchase Order was awarded on June 4, 2021 for $40K.

**2021 Inspections Update**

The same 48 fire protection backflows were inspected in May 2021.  Those reports were provided to Channel 6.

The PM Manager is working with contractors to schedule the remaining inspections.

Work is expected to be complete before schools reopen in the summer and will be performed annually.

**Continuing Efforts**

CCPS is partnering with County Utilities to review, reconcile inventories and classify all backflow devices.

**Matoaca HS Backflow Tests**

The inspection failure of the Matoaca HS fire protection device in 2019 was due to “Check Valve 2,” and it was repaired in April 2020.

This work was managed by our Fire Protection Team, though the paperwork was not initially forwarded to the PM Manager.

A copy has been provided to County Utilities.

The repair was delayed due to issues locating the shutoff valve.  With support from County Utilities we were able to find the valve and complete the repair.

One of the two check valves on this backflow had failed, leaving the redundant valve to provide protection.

The fire suppression system does not utilize additional chemicals, so this system is “water to water” and is a low risk backflow device.

Our staff found that the failure in the May 2021 inspection was “Check Valve 1” not “Check Valve 2.  The contractor has corrected the paperwork and provided an estimate to repair, which will be expedited.

**CCPS Irrigation Backflows**

CCPS is responsible for 10 irrigation systems at the following Schools.

* Thomas Dale HS
* Bird HS
* Monacan HS
* Meadowbrook HS
* Cosby HS
* Matoaca HS
* Clover Hill HS
* James River HS
* Manchester HS
* Midlothian HS

These systems are managed by Montgomery Irrigation via a County Contract and are inspected annually during spring startup.

The contractor did not provide CCPS copies of the documentation showing that all ten High Schools passed the inspections for 2020.

We have asked the contractor for documentation and once it is provided we will forward it to Utilities.