

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY OF SUFFOLK and SUFFOLK CITY
SCHOOL BOARD**

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 ~ 4:00 P.M.

City Council Chamber, 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held while practicing social distancing.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Chair*

Phyllis Byrum, *Vice Chair*

Karen Jenkins

Linda Johnson

Lorita Mayo

Tyron Riddick

Sherri Story

City Council Members Present:

Michael Duman, *Mayor*

Leroy Bennett, *Vice Mayor*

Shelley Butler Barlow

Roger Fawcett

Donald Goldberg

Timothy Johnson

Lue Ward

LeOtis Williams

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent*

Wendell M. Waller, *School Board Attorney*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*

OPENING OF JOINT MEETING

➤ **Welcome and Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Duman. He welcomed all in attendance, introduced City Council Members and introduced School Board Vice-Chair, Phyllis Byrum who introduced the School Board Members.¹

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ **FY 2023-2032 CIP Overview – Mr. Albert S. Moor, P.E., City Manager:**

Mr. Moor highlighted the draft of the City's CIP and provided explanation of six (6) on-going general fund initiatives, the proposed FY 2023-2032 CIP, Suffolk Public Schools' submitted CIP requests and the plan for John F. Kennedy Middle School. He explained the difference in funding listed by the City versus what was submitted by the School Board. Mr. Moor explained how they arrived at the figures and how they are trying to allocate monies for the greatest needs.

¹ Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck arrived after the start of the meeting due to traffic.

- **FY 2023-2032 CIP Comments – Dr. John B. Gordon III, Division Superintendent**
Dr. Gordon explained the vision for CCAP and the need to make an adjustment in funding. He stated that funding needs to be returned to the schools and that a 100% match is needed for funding next year. He indicated that some aspects of renovations and expansion of CCAP’s timeline must be adjusted and pushed out further into the future. He indicated that some renovations can be completed using SPS’s operation funds but others cannot. He recommended adjustments that will be budget neutral for the 2022-2023 school year. Dr. Gordon also explained that the earlier renovations on the HR building, more than likely the price could be kept at a lower cost and the same could be for rebuilding JFK. He also expressed that the addition at NSES is a major concern and said he will continue working with Mr. Moor and his team for strategies to move the project forward with the idea of being budget neutral with City Council. Dr. Gordon also explained what was “NOT Allowable” for use with C.A.R.E.S Act monies and the timeline for this money to be spent.

Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck arrived during this time. She was recognized by Mayor Duman and provided additional comments regarding money received from the City and by working together will allow them to successfully accomplish their tasks.

- **City Council and Board Member Comments:**
Board Members and City Council were thankful for the meeting and looked forward to working together. School Board Members expressed their gratitude for John F. Kennedy Middle School receiving high priority. They all agreed that it was important to provide students with a safe atmosphere and building that was conducive to learning in order for them to be successful. Board Members and City Council Members agreed that much could be accomplished through communication and collaboration. Members from both bodies thanked Dr. Gordon and Mr. Moor for setting the example and for working closing together to accomplish the goals of the city and the school division.

Adjournment

Mayor Duman provided closing remarks by thanking all in attending, for their collaboration, and for working diligently to move the city and schools into a successful future.

Clerk Erika Dawley read the motion to close the Joint meeting of the School Board and City Council. By a majority vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.


Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Board Chair*


Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*