

**Section 2-2.1. Powers and duties generally.** — A. The School Board shall exercise all the powers conferred and shall perform all the duties imposed upon it by law. Complete and final control in all matters pertaining to Suffolk Public Schools shall be vested in the School Board. The School Board's powers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) See that the school laws are properly explained, enforced and observed.
- (2) Perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the State Board of Education or as imposed by law.
- (3) Act as a policy making body and through its own action, legislate to make its policies effective.
- (4) Adopt broad goals and objectives for each aspect of the Suffolk Public School's operation based upon the identified needs of the community. The goals and objectives shall be documented, reviewed and revised periodically in light of changing community needs.
- (5) Establish basic policies to implement these goals and objectives and provide a framework of general rules and guidelines for Suffolk Public School's administration affecting major educational and financial problems of Suffolk Public Schools.
- (6) Evaluate the performance and progress of Suffolk Public Schools against the stated goals and objectives. The measures used shall be:
  - (i) Progress toward objectives
  - (ii) Administration operations within School Board policy
  - (iii) Concise and meaningful management reports on current operations provided to the School Board by the division superintendent on a regular basis
  - (iv) Performance of the division superintendent
- (7) Provide leadership in presenting needs of Suffolk Public Schools to regional, state and federal government or agencies, the general public or the media by a planned program of external public relations.
- (8) Act upon recommendations that may come to it through the

administration or its own members which concern the progress and improvement of Suffolk Public Schools.

- (9) Act upon all recommendations of the division superintendent as they relate to implementation of School Board policy.
- (10) Care for, manage and control the property of the school division and provide for erecting, furnishing, and equipping of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof.
- (11) Secure, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the operation of Suffolk Public Schools and to ensure that the schools are being operated according to law and with the utmost efficiency.
- (12) Operate and maintain the public schools in the school division and determine the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued, the methods of teaching and governance to be employed in the schools.
- (13) Review and act upon the recommended attendance boundaries within the division in compliance with state and federal mandates.
- (14) Provide for the consolidation of schools whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division.
- (15) Review and approve the annual operating budget for Suffolk Public Schools prepared by the division superintendent to ensure that there is the most prudent utilization of public resources.
- (16) Authorize expenditures and approve bills presented for payment of expenditures.
- (17) Prescribe qualifications of all employees of the School Board and fix salary schedules for such employees.
- (18) Employ a division superintendent and establish the salary and terms of contract, provided the terms shall be in conformity with existing laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

- (19) Employ a school board attorney and establish the salary and terms of contract, provided the terms shall be in conformity with existing laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- (20) Evaluate the superintendent's performance and the school board attorney's performance on a continuing basis. Criteria for appraisals shall be specific and communicated to the division superintendent and school board attorney. Performance appraisals based on the stated criteria shall be conducted in a closed meeting of the School Board. Formal evaluations shall occur annually with informal evaluation as the parties deem appropriate.
- (21) On the recommendation of the division superintendent, employ teachers and other personnel as may be needed for the efficient operation of the schools.
- (22) Approve or reject personnel recommended by the superintendent and enter into contracts with such personnel when required by law.
- (23) Acts as a body of final administrative appeal in all cases which may be appealed to the School Board from a ruling or decision made by the division superintendent, as provided for by established law and policy.
- (24) Act upon legal matters with advice from the school board attorney.
- (25) Be responsible for the safety of pupils involved in school activities, including transportation in school buses.
- (26) Act upon textbooks and courses of study recommended by the division superintendent.
- (27) Obtains public comment through a public hearing not less than ten days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing:
  - (1) for the consolidation of schools;
  - (2) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all instructional services for any public school classroom or all non-instructional services in the

school division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization;

(3) for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of fifteen percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of fifteen percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at same time and place as the meeting of the School Board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken.

(28) Surveys, at least annually, the school division to identify critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter, and school bus drivers and reports such critical shortages to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Virginia Retirement System or requests the superintendent to conduct such survey and submit such report to the School Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Virginia Retirement System.

(29) Ensures that the public schools within the school division are registered with the Department of State Police to receive electronic notice of the registration or re-registration of any sex offender within the school division pursuant to Virginia Code Section 9-1.914.

(30) Performs such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Education or imposed by law.

(Adopted: June 8, 1995)

**Legal Authority** - Virginia Code §§22.1-79, 22.1-78, 22.1-70.3 (1950), as amended.