

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
(Interim School Board Member Interviews)  
Thursday, February 18, 2021 (6:00 PM)**

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**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held at CCAP with social distancing.**

Upon roll being taken, the following persons were present:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Chair*  
Phyllis Byrum, *Vice-Chair*  
Karen Jenkins  
Lorita Mayo  
Sherri Story

Also Present:           Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent* (attended via electronic device)  
Wendell M. Waller, *School Board Attorney* (attended via electronic device)  
Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*  
Keesha L. Hicks, *Deputy Clerk*

**6:00 P.M. – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The School Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Brooks-Buck.

**MOTION TO RELINQUISH RECORDING DEVICES IN CLOSED MEETING**

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED MEETING DISCUSSIONS A MOTION IS NEEDED TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT’S CLOSED MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD TO RELINQUISH AND HAVE STORED IN A SECURE LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD ALL RECORDING DEVICES TO INCLUDE CAMERAS COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICES, DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDERS SOUND RECORDING TECHNOLOGY OR TAPE-RECORDING DEVICES.

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to approve the motion as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4   Nay: 0   Abstain: 0   Absent: 1 (Riddick). The motion Passed. 4 to 0. (The Clerk mistakenly did not call on Board Chair Brooks-Buck for her vote.)

**MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING**

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed to go into a Closed Meeting to discuss the following item and subject pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended:

The interview of prospective candidates for temporary appointment to fill a school board vacancy to represent the Sleepy Hole Borough on the Suffolk City School Board.

Which is authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded the motion, to go into a closed meeting as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 1 (Story) Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Riddick). The motion Passed. 4 to 1

Member Riddick arrived at the meeting during the first interview.

## **CERTIFICATION OF A CLOSED MEETING**

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

**A RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF THE CLOSED MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3712 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of the City of Suffolk convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires a certification by the School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Board of the City of Suffolk hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this resolution of certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the School Board of the City of Suffolk.

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Riddick seconded the motion, to approve the Certification of the Closed Meeting as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: The motion Passed. 6 to 0.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjournment, the Board Chair informed the public that earlier in the evening that a false and misleading statement was made on Facebook indicating that a violation of FOIA relative to the interview of candidates for the Interim School Board Member should be made public. However, all parties involved knew and understood that there is no FOIA requirement for interviews to be made public therefore, there was no violation of FOIA. Interviews were conducted in accordance with the law.

There being no further business, the Board Chair adjourned the Special Meeting of the School Board at 8:21 p.m.

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Judith Brooks-Buck, Ph.D., *Board Chair*

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Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*