

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, August 14, 2025 ~ 5:00 P.M.¹

Suffolk City Hall, 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Board Members Present:

Heather Howell, *Chair*
Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham
Valerie Fields
Tyron Riddick²
Kimberly Slingluff

Virtual Attendance:

Sean McGee, *Vice Chair*³
Karen Jenkins

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent*
Wendell M. Waller, *Esquire, School Board Attorney*
Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*
Keesha Johnson, *Deputy Clerk*

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION

➤ Call to Order:

Board Chair Howell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and verified that Mr. McGee was able to participate in the meeting.

➤ 2024-2025 Administrative Services Discipline Data Review

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Rodney Brown, Chief of Administrative Services, highlighted and explained discipline data that covered seven (7) years of data that included referral history increases and decreases, and a comparison graph which gave a breakdown of incidents in the division by month. He also discussed student discipline by school and location stating that 47 students accounted for three or more referrals which drives the high number of referrals being written. Dr. Brown also discussed school initiatives such as behavior remediation lessons, re-entry meetings, revised “division-wide” Student Code of Conduct Handbook, optimized weapons detector placement, restructured PBIS Teams, comprehensive anti-bullying campaigns, classroom guidance lessons, Handle With Care training, wraparound student supports, and adding innovation teams at schools needing additional resources, all aimed at reducing referrals.

Board Members, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Brown and staff discussed new initiatives and updated data being shared with the board each semester. They also discussed the Department of Criminal Justice survey, PBIS team restructuring/information, repositioning of metal detectors,

¹ At the September 11, 2025 meeting of the School Board, the Board voted to “approve the minutes of August 14, 2025 with the “Addition of verbatim comments from the start of board member comments (Business by Board Members), when Mr. Riddick began to speak, to the end of all available audio recordings of the meeting.” The verbatim comments taken from the audio recording can be found on pages 9 thru 13 of these minutes. The audio recording of the meeting ended at 10:10 PM. There were additional comments made by Mr. Riddick and others when the meeting was no longer subject to audio recording and those comments were not captured and could not be transcribed.

² Board Member Riddick arrived at the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

³ Due to a personal manner and more specifically work responsibilities, Vice Chair McGee attended the meeting via electronic device from Panama City, Florida as provided for by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(B)4).

students vaping in bathrooms, measures for repeat offenders/nolle processed referrals, and parent/staff communication regarding processed referrals. Board members requested to receive a breakdown of incidents by borough for the 2024-2025 vs. 2025-2026 school years.

➤ Student Identification Badges

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Rodney Brown provided an overview of the student identification badge program. He explained that the badges would enhance security, monitor ridership on buses, and provide student recognition to bus drivers. Dr. Brown also explained the roll-out plan, locations, and future possibilities/multiple usage for student identification badges including media center, cafeteria, nurse/clinic, attendance, student count, athletic events. He also explained that once all equipment has been received and installed on the buses, the program will be piloted at on one elementary and middle school. After an assessment of the program, implementation will begin at the high school level.

Board Members, Dr. Gordon and Dr. Brown discussed ensuring correct usage and pictures on badges via community partnerships, additional program implementation in December 2025, assessing information from implementation of the pilot program, and the benefits/safeguards regarding this program for bus drivers and parents.

➤ SPS Instructional Overview

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Branch, Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Katelyn Leitner, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Casaundra McNair, Director of Special Education, gave an overview of Suffolk Public Schools' instructional services. Dr. Branch began by providing information regarding the 2025 Summer Series held at Hillpoint Elementary, King's Fork Middle, and Lakeland High Schools. Literacy and mathematics were integrated across all core content and supporting areas, remediation and/or SOL Academy, ESY, and Summer Bridge programs offered students a variety of intensive instructional support over a three weeks period. Additional summer programming included STEM Extravaganza which serviced 89 students, Gifted & Talented Summer Academy Student Showcase serviced 63 QUEST students, and the Music Recording and Production Camps which serviced 100 students. Dr. Branch also highlighted the phenomenal support received from the summer series partners.

Dr. Leitner provided instructional highlights including elevated focus areas for instructional consistency, enhanced interdisciplinary integration and real-world connections, targeted professional learning, and strengthened early learning and literacy foundations. She also provided updates regarding English, the Virginia Literacy Act, professional development, and the new History/Social Studies Standards of Learning. Dr. Leitner explained the progress taking place at the STEM Academy at BTWES. She highlighted the following: (1) staff hiring, (2) professional development, (3) community partnership and transportation meetings, and (4) Parent Kick-Off Night (over 260 in attendance). The STEM Academy at BTWES is the first STEM elementary school in the state of Virginia which will use the 5E Instructional Model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) across all content areas. She also talked about instructional resources, curriculum guides, and instructional programming and supports.

Dr. McNair discussed High Leverage Practices, including collaboration, data-driven instructional planning, instruction in behavior and academics, and opportunities to intensify and intervene as necessary. She also explained that over 1200 building visits were completed with over 99% compliance. Dr. McNair highlighted a letter received from the Virginia Department of Education indicating that the Special Education Department is no longer under

watch for compliance. All information, instruction, and compliance will be shared with all educators to ensure all are informed and operating with consistency.

Dr. Branch concluded the presentation by providing information on goal setting, the Comprehensive School Performance Plan, content data review, checkpoints, quarterly/mid-year reviews, and responding to data, feedback and supporting the needs of the division.

Board Members, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Branch and her team discussed the impact of the STEM Academy on transportation, possible shuttle services, information dissemination via flyers to parents of students with disabilities, and parent drop-off/pick-up.

MEETING RECESS

➤ Meeting Called to Order:

There being no further discussion, Board Chair Howell recessed the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

➤ Meeting Called to Order:

Board Chair Howell re-opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.⁴

➤ Pledge of Allegiance:

Board Member Slingluff led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance.

➤ The Mission of Suffolk Public Schools:

Board Member Riddick read the mission of SPS.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

➤ Approval of Agenda:

Vice Chair McGee moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 / Nay: 1 (Fields) / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 6 to 1.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

➤ Citizen Comments on Agenda Items:

The Clerk read the statement of decorum for speakers who sign up to address the Board.

1. Elizabeth Morningstar – Re: Forensic Audit. Ms. Morningstar supported a forensic audit in order to rebuild public trust.
2. Jennifer Willman – Re: Proposed Audit & Published Agenda Itself. Ms. Willman supported a forensic audit every three to five years, board members' commitment to campaign promises, second school board meetings at City Hall, and board members

⁴ Board Member Karen Jenkins joined the meeting via electronic device at 7:30 p.m. from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina due to a personal manner as provided for by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(B)4).

removing distractions by eliminating electronic devices during meetings (gavel to gavel).

CONSENT AGENDA

➤ Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda by removing the July 10, 2025 minutes from the Consent Agenda and adding it to New Business.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

➤ Request for Proposal of Audit

Vice Chair McGee moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to direct the Superintendent to instruct the Purchasing Department to issue a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for a forensic review and internal control review, encompassing the following four areas: 1. Purchase Card (P-Cards) review procedures, 2. Accounts payable review procedures, 3. Cash and bank account review procedures, 4. A comprehensive evaluation of the internal control environment related to financial operations, with specific emphasis on P-Card usage, accounts payable, cash and bank accounts, and any additional areas as outlined in the attached supporting document labeled Forensic Accounting Investigation and Internal Control Review.

Dialogue ensued between board members and Attorney Waller as they discussed the difference/process between a Request for Information (RFI) and a Request for Proposal (RFP). Additional conversation was had regarding clarification of the goal for the RFP, the scope of work to include all board members not just a few, funding for audit, individual members' authority, Treasurer's Office/private schools involvement in audit, FOIA violations. Board Chair Howell and Attorney Waller addressed/provided clarification regarding the allegation of a FOIA violation. Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Forsman clarified that vendors who provide goods and services have the ability to provide costs for services, however for professional services, information within the law indicates that it must be decided first which professionals you want to use before negotiating a price. However, a general cost can be included in an RFI, if requested. They also discussed possible timelines for an RFP/RFI and the specificity of information needed for the scope of work for both in order to obtain a price. Additional conversation ensued regarding review cycles, frequency of using RFIs, obligation to vendors proving information for an RFP, input from all board members/citizens, specificity of financial information in an RFI vs. RFP, and the recommendation to do the RFI first then the RFP. After discussion, Vice Chair McGee amended his original motion to be in compliance with the date timeframe mentioned by Mrs. Forsman.

Vice Chair McGee moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to direct the Superintendent to instruct the Purchasing Department to issue a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for a forensic review and internal control review, encompassing the following four areas: 1. Purchase Card (P-Cards) review procedures, 2. Accounts payable review procedures, 3. Cash and bank account review procedures, 4. A comprehensive evaluation of the internal control environment related to financial operations, with specific emphasis on P-Card usage, accounts payable, cash and bank accounts, and any additional areas as outlined

in the attached supporting document labeled Forensic Accounting Investigation and Internal Control Review and including the timeline of 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 2 (Fields, Riddick) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Jenkins). The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 2.⁵

- Ordinance 2025/26-5: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Article 16, Section 7-16.1 entitled “Hiring by School Board; Emergency Situations” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to send Ordinance 2025/26-5 back to the Policy Review Committee for full review to include Vice Principal.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Jenkins). The motion Passed by vote of 6 to 0.

- Ordinance 2025/26-7: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-1.4 entitled “Policy effective date; Suspension of policies” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2025/26-7.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Jenkins). The motion Passed by vote of 6 to 0.

- Ordinance 2025/26-8, Ordinance 2025/26-9, & Ordinance 2025/26-10 - Second Reading
Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to collectively approve Ordinance 2025/26-8, Ordinance 2025/26-9, & Ordinance 2025/26-10.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Jenkins). The motion Passed by vote of 6 to 0.

- Ordinance 2025/26-11: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-1.3 entitled “Policy and Regulation Defined; Administration in absence of policy” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the Ordinance 2025/26-11 as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.⁶

- Ordinance 2025/26-12: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Article 13, Section 4-13.2 entitled “Superintendent to declare surplus personal property; When attempt to dispose of property is unsuccessful; certification required by officers and employees of school division; obsolete educational technology; deposit of funds; report to School Board” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

⁵ Due to technical difficulties, Board Member Jenkins was absent from the meeting beginning at 8:27 p.m. when voting occurred.

⁶ Board Member Jenkins returned to the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2025/26-12, as submitted.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ New Course Proposals 2026-2027

Dr. Leitner, and Dr. King, Coordinator of School Counseling, using PowerPoint presentation, recommended the following three (3) new courses for the 2026-2027 school year: AP Seminar English 10, AP African American Studies, Sports and Entertainment Marketing.

Board Member Riddick moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the new course proposals for 2026-2027, as submitted.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

➤ Payment of Bills and Payroll June 2025

Board Member Fields moved and Board Member Jenkins seconded the motion to approve the bills and payroll for June 2025, as submitted.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Dr. Brittingham, Slingluff) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

➤ Payment of Bills and Payroll July 2025

Board Member Riddick moved and Board Member Jenkins seconded the motion to approve the bills and payroll for July 2025, as submitted.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Dr. Brittingham, Slingluff) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 2.

➤ Budget Development Calendar 2026-2027

Dr. Gordon provided an overview of the budget development calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

Conversation ensued regarding a closing date for submitting budgetary priorities.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the Budget Development Calendar 2026-2027, as submitted.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

➤ Resolution 25/26-5: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Approving an Award to A.R. Chesson Construction Company, Inc. Pursuant to Written Invitation for Bid Issued by Suffolk Public Schools

Board Member Fields moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to approve Resolution 25/26-5, as submitted.

Dr. Gordon clarified that the resolution was regarding the expansion project at NSES.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Capital Improvement Projects needing School Board Prioritizing for Fiscal Years 2027-2036 before submission to the City of Suffolk September 20, 2025 deadline.
Information item only, no action required at this time. Board Chair Howell encouraged Board Members to consider their priorities and be prepared to make their choices at the next school board meeting.
- Ordinance 2025/26-13 through Ordinance 2025/26-22
First reading only, no action required at this time. Brief discussion was had regarding Ordinance 2025/26-17 and the SEAC Committee review of the policy prior to a vote.
- School Board Meeting Minutes: July 10, 2025 – First Monthly Meeting
Board Member Slingluff requested a correction/clarification to the minutes on page 4 (discussion regarding the request for proposal of an audit.) She requested for the minutes to specifically reflect that during the meeting, Attorney Waller twice stated that there was no board/board members violation of policy.

Discussion was had regarding documents/information dissemination for all employees.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the July 10, 2025 meeting minutes with the correction to page 4.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Good News Report:
Anthonette Dickens, Community Engagement Officer, shared good news happening within the division utilizing a PowerPoint presentation.
- Calendar of Special Events:
Dr. Gordon, Division Superintendent, highlighted information from the calendar of special events. He stated that 155 new teachers were welcomed to SPS on Monday at New Teacher Orientation and he thanked Mayor Duman, Councilmen Rector and Bennett for participating/supporting that event. Dr. Gordon also expressed excitement for the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for the STEM Academy at BTWES.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

- Citizen Comments on Agenda Items:
The Clerk read the statement of decorum for speakers who sign up to address the Board.
 1. Lucia Ulloa – Re: Disability Has Not Been Addressed Correctly. Ms. Ulloa stated that her grandson had not received services for the past two years and requested services.

MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Wendell Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed to go into a closed meeting to discuss the following item and subject pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act found at Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

The discussion and/or consideration of the findings of fact and recommendation from a hearing officer regarding the superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employment of a classroom teacher and whether the School Board will accept or reject the recommendation or schedule a further hearing as provided for by Virginia Code Section 22.1-311 and 22.1-313.

This is authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, found at Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1).

Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to go into the closed meeting as read by Attorney Waller.

Upon roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

Board Chair Howell reminded Board Members that personal devices are not allowed in closed meeting, but SPS issued laptops are permitted in the closed meeting area.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC MEETING

- Meeting Called to Order:

Board Chair Howell reconvened the public meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Wendell Waller read the following certification:

A Resolution of Certification of the Closed Meeting of August 14, 2025 Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia

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, 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.

Board Member Riddick moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve the Certification of the Closed Meeting as read by Attorney Waller.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 2 (Jenkins, McGee did not vote as they were not a part of the Closed Meeting) / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 0.

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

➤ Employee Appeal Number 2025/26-1

Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation for dismissal (Resolution 25/26-6).

Board Chair Howell reminded Vice Chair McGee and Board Member Jenkins that their vote would be recorded because the information was available for their review a week in advance of the meeting.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Jenkins, Riddick) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 2.

BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS

➤ Comments and Reports by School Board Members:

Board Chair Howell reminded Board Members that each board member will have five minutes for their board member comments. This being the same amount of time for public speakers who appear before the school board.

Board Members thanked Dr. Gordon and his staff for their presentations and information, enjoyed summer school graduation, the Gifted and Talented Academy summer program, new teacher orientation, and looked forward to a great school year. They appreciated videos posted on social media of the work being done at JFKMS, the Citizens Advisory Committee Training session, and the 6th grade transition program at CFCMS. They also looked forward to the bus tours and encouraged students to enjoy what was left of the summer and to be ready for a great start of the year. Board members expressed their concern with disparaging/offensive remarks made by board members that are overlooked, baseless new policies and procedures, cliquish behavior by board members, and behaviors being displayed that are not indicative of the work accomplished at the school board retreat. Reminded all that our children are watching, and that employees are leaving SPS due to Board behaviors/policies being passed.

Heckling erupted in the audience and Board Chair Howell reminded all that the business meeting was still in progress. Board Chair Howell sought to recess the meeting in order to regain order and decorum, and then afterwards she adjourned the meeting.

Board Member Riddick:

Can I get my seconds back cuz I didn't speak yet? The citizens time don't start until they speak. Um, I find it quite interesting to see how the times have changed. I want to quote something that was shared with me um by a chair, and inspires me, "We are not here to try to lose people, we are here to attract people to our city. We're not here to try to lose people, we're here to attract people to our city." Tonight, I had the pro, the privilege to hear one of our citizens, I believe from the Holy Neck borough or the Chuckatuck borough, who um referenced about us setting aside our differences and working together. I want to tell you your actions have consequences and impact. This is not political, this is fact. There are people who are walking away from our school division as employees, because how board members have made them feel. Over the weeks, the month of July, I had the privilege to hear from former employees

and unsolicited, they told me why they left. When you are being demeaned for your work, and now people are saying offensive language on the dais and it's being overlooked, um and then when you correct the person, we get new procedures um that just, more, come out of nowhere. I find it baffling. I'mma be very clear, none of you put me here; none of you gonna remove me. I'm here to represent the historic Suffolk borough. My constituencies look different from yours. I'm going to represent my people. You don't have to like it. You didn't put me here. And because I work with people on both sides of the aisle, those who didn't put me here, I'm still their representative as well.

Um, I had a fruitful conversation with the consultant that we hired from California about us coming to the middle, and the question was, is, where did we go wrong? We talked so much great information at that retreat and then we came, and it was just like it was all undone; and I'm dealing with a group of people who throw a rock and hide their hands and holler Jesus. It is what it is. I didn't come to play. I came to do a job, and the job is to move Suffolk forward in the right direction, not in the direction that fits people fancies. I'm baffled how policies and new ordinances and procedures are just coming out of the woodworks, not going to policy review committee. And just because a policy is not in place, don't give the latitude as chair to just create something despite what advice and from whom you may have received it. I'm baffled how, what's good for one board member to say, it's dismissive when someone else said it. Or how other board members are talking to, while other board members are allowed to continue with their banter.

I had the privilege to go to several good events such as the citizens academy. When we were talking to the citizens and one of the major gripes that, not even a gripe, one of the major concerns that citizens had, those who volunteered to come and support, not just come to the dais and complain. What they said was how are we able to do our job with the policy that this board pushed through? Are we violating any federal rights? Are we, are we putting the board at this? They were af. There was great concern about that. I'm sorry I don't have a good fairy tale story to tell you as some of you may want to hear, but this is relative to board business and business by this board member, and I'm gonna speak my business because there's nothing in policy that says I can't. If we're going to build the best Suffolk Public Schools, this little click of three, and sometimes thee, has to stop because at the end of the day, these kids are watching. And I know my time is almost up.

Citizen Comment:

Inaudible on the recording.

Board Member Riddick:

Uh, thank God for you too that you have a right to say that.

Board Chair Howell:

I'm sorry, can you pause his time. Set it back to 10. Ladies and gentlemen of the...

Board Member Riddick:

...yeah.

Board Chair Howell:

...the audience, the community.

Board Member Riddick:

Cause she can leave.

Board Chair Howell:

I'm going to respectfully ask you to conduct yourselves with maturity and professionalism as well because we are still in the middle of business.

Board Member Riddick:

Mm-hmm.

Board Chair Howell:

So, if you have additional commentary, use your email or step outside.

Board Member Riddick:

Thank you, before I was rudely interrupted. Um, moving forward, I represent my citizens, and if you have an opinion, you go to your representative, because I'm going to represent mine and I don't care how you feel about it because at the end of the day, *(the five minutes timer expired at this time and began chirping)*, the 14,500 students that I have been sworn to represent, I'm going to do it...

Board Chair Howell:

Thank you, Mr. Riddick.

Board Member Riddick:

...and if you don't like it, I said what I said and I stand 10 toes down on it. And I was gonna comply, but since you asked for the smoke, I'm going to give you the smoke.

Board Chair Howell:

Mr. Riddick, no. We're gonna...

Board Member Riddick:

Because the foolishness...

Board Chair Howell:

...move on maturely. Attorney Waller, could you help me with this?

Board Member Riddick:

...the foolishness that stop, we're not gonna deal with it. This click that is trying...

Board Chair Howell:

Mr. Littlefield, can you please put us in recess? *Video feed was disconnected at this time.*

Board Member Riddick:

...this click that is trying to run the school board is not gonna work. It's not going to work.

Board Chair Howell:

Mr. Riddick, I'm asking you nicely one more time to step back into your role as an adult and a professional...

Board Member Riddick:

Inaudible.

Board Chair Howell:

...and abide by...

Board Member Riddick:

You violated the Norms and Protocol by insinuating that I'm not an adult because I'm exercising my First Amendment Rights. How can you try to correct me and insult me at the same time?

Board Chair Howell:

I didn't say you're...

Board Member Riddick:

Inaudible.

Board Chair Howell:

...not an adult.

Board Member Riddick:

Inaudible...I'm asking you to step back in your role as an adult, that means I'm out of my role as an adult and what role am I in then at that point. Please speak to that specifically.

Board Chair Howell:

I don't think that's appropriate at this point, but you can ah, can discuss...

Board Member Riddick:

Why, because your response is not appropriate. Is that what you're saying?

Board Chair Howell:

Okay Mr. Riddick, your time is up. Board Member Slingluff.

Board Member Riddick:

No, nope, you-you corrected me, I'm asking you a question.

Board Chair Howell:

I'm not responding...

Board Member Riddick:

Exactly.

Board Chair Howell:

...I'm not required to.

Board Member Riddick:

You didn't respond when we were called ignorant.

Board Chair Howell:

Mr. Riddick, you are out of order.

Board Member Riddick:

Okay. What you gonna do?

Board Chair Howell:

Uh, Attorney Waller, what am I able to do when he's disregarding board um protocol and the chair's attempt to facilitate a productive meeting?

Attorney Waller:

The most you can do is call him out of order.

Board Chair Howell:

Okay, so we just stay in recess till he calms down?

Board Member Riddick:

I'm not upset.

Attorney Waller:

I guess you could stay...

Board Member Riddick:

You just called me a child.

Attorney Waller:

...in recess.

Board Member Riddick:

And then I correct you for...

Board Chair Howell:

So, stop illustrating it.

Board Member Riddick:

...calling me a child. I-I'm call. So, now I'm demonstrating. So, where's your professional conduct?

Board Member Dr. Brittingham:

Can he be removed?

Board Chair Howell:

Uh, Dawn Marie, you have no place in this. If we're all going to act like children, this meeting is convened. Miss Slingluff, if you have further comments, please share them on Facebook. *(gavel strike)* Good night. *End of video feed.*

Board Member Riddick:

I mean, I find it funny. *End of recording.*

ADJOURNMENT

➤ Adjournment of Meeting:

Board Chair Howell adjourned the August 14, 2025 School Board Meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Heather Howell, *School Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*