

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 2023 ~ 6:00 P.M.**  
**King's Fork Middle School, 350 King's Fork Road, Suffolk, VA 23434**

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**Board Members Present:**

Tyron Riddick, *Chair*  
Heather Howell, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham  
Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck  
Karen Jenkins  
Kimberly Slingluff

**Administrative Staff Present:**

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

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**OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION**

➤ **Call to Order:**

Dr. Gordon, Division Superintendent called the meeting to order.

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ **Oath of Office:**

The Oath of Office for the following new/re-elected School Board Members was conducted by Mr. W. Randolph Carter, Jr., Clerk of Circuit Court.

Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham – Holy Neck Borough (New Member)  
Kimberly Slingluff – Chuckatuck Borough (New Member)  
Karen Jenkins – Cypress Borough (Re-elected Member)  
Tyron Riddick – Suffolk Borough (Re-elected Member)

**ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK**

➤ **Nominations for Chairperson / Close Nomination:**

Dr. Gordon presided over the election of the Chair of the School Board and asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Suffolk City School Board.

- Member Dr. Brook-Buck nominated Member Jenkins
- Member Dr. Brittingham nominated Mr. Riddick

There being no further nominations, Dr. Gordon closed the nominations for School Board Chair and called for a roll-call vote. Each member was instructed to indicate whom his/her vote was to be casted for.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 for Riddick (Brittingham, Howell, Riddick, Slingluff) / 3 for Jenkins (Dr. Brooks-Buck, Byrum, Jenkins). The selection of Member Tyron Riddick for School Board Chair, Passed by vote of 4 to 3.

Dr. Gordon congratulated Board Chair Riddick and passed him the gavel to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

➤ Nominations for Vice-Chairperson / Close Nomination:

Board Chair Riddick opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Suffolk City School Board.

- Member Byrum nominated Member Howell

There being no further nominations, Board Chair Riddick closed nominations and called for the vote.

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

➤ Appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk:

Member Jenkins moved, and Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to appoint Tarshia Gardner as Clerk of the Board and Keesha Hicks as Deputy Clerk.

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

### **SETTING OF SALARIES**

Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Member Byrum seconded the motion to set salaries at \$10,000 for Board Members and an additional \$1,400 for Chair duties.

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

### **SETTING OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

Member Byrum moved and Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to use the calendar as approved for 2023 for School Board meetings, (second Thursday of each month for School Board meetings beginning at 5 p.m. with a Work Session, and 7 p.m. for the Public Meeting).

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

There was a five minutes recess to allow the Chair and Vice-Chair to review resumes and appoint members to the Standing Committees / Foundation Boards.

### **RECONVENE IN PUBLIC MEETING**

➤ Meeting Call to Order:

Board Chair, Riddick reconvened the public meeting.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

➤ Finance Committee:

Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to appoint Board Chair Riddick and Vice Chair Howell as members, and Members Dr. Brooks-Buck and Slingluff as alternates to the Finance Committee.

(The initial motion was made without the mention of alternates so Dr. Brook-Buck amended her motion to include alternates.)

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

➤ Policy Review Committee:

Board Chair Riddick stated that the number of members to be appointed to the Policy Review Committee will be three instead of two as previous years. Board Chair Riddick stated and Attorney Waller confirmed that the additional appointee does not violate board policy regarding the number of appointments to this committee. The policy does not stipulate a set number of board members to serve on standing committees. It was common practice of the Board to appoint two members.

Member Jenkins moved and Vice-Chair Howell seconded the motion to appoint Members Dr. Brooks-Buck, Byrum, and Dr. Brittingham as members, and Vice Chair Howell as an alternate to the Policy Review Committee.

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

➤ Legislative Committee:

Vice Chair Howell moved and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to appoint Members Jenkins and Slingluff as members, and Vice Chair Howell as an alternate to the Legislative Committee.

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

➤ ACCESS College Foundation Board of Directors:

Vice Chair Howell moved and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to appoint Member Slingluff as member, and Member Jenkins as an alternate to the ACCESS College Foundation Board of Directors.

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

➤ SECEP Board:

Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to appoint Member Dr. Brooks-Buck as member, and Member Dr. Brittingham as an alternate to the SECEP Foundation Board.

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

➤ Suffolk Education Foundation Board:

Vice Chair Howell moved and Member Dr. Brook-Buck seconded the motion to appoint Member Jenkins, and Vice Chair Howell as an alternate to the Suffolk Education Foundation Board.

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

➤ WHRO/HRETA Educational Advisory Board:

Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to appoint Member Slingluff as a member, and Board Chair Riddick as an alternate to the WHRO/HRETA Educational Advisory Board.

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

➤ The Governor's School for the Arts:

Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to appoint the Board Chair Riddick as a member, and Member Dr. Brooks-Buck as an alternate to the Governor's School for the Arts Foundation Board.

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

➤ Virginia School Board Association:

Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Vice Chair Howell seconded the motion to appoint Board Chair Riddick and Vice Chair Howell to the Virginia School Board Association.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEES**

Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to approve Dr. Okema Branch (Chief Academic Officer), and Dr. Rodney Brown (Chief of Administrative Services) as the Superintendent's designees for the 2023 calendar year as recommended.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

➤ Adjournment of Meeting:

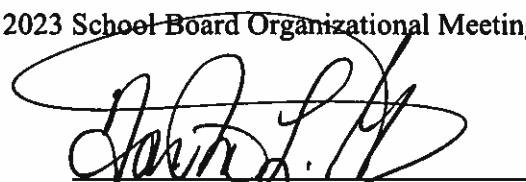
Board Chair Riddick expressed that the goal of the board is to mend fences and come together for the good of the students and community. He highlighted the need of the community as partners, not liabilities.

There being no further business or questions, Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

➤ Board Chair Riddick adjourned the January 4, 2023 School Board Organizational Meeting at 6:48 p.m.

  
Tyrone Riddick, Board Chair

  
Tarshia L. Gardner, Board Clerk