

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 ~ 6:00 P.M.

King's Fork Middle School, 350 King's Fork Road, Suffolk, VA 23434

Board Members Present:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Chair*
Karen Jenkins
Lorita Mayo
Tyron Riddick

Absent:

Sherri Story

Attendance via Electronic Device (Upon Board Approval):

Phyllis Byrum, *Vice Chair*
Heather Howell

Administrative Staff Present:

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

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION

➤ Call to Order:

Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck called the meeting to order.

➤ Motion for Meeting Attendance Via Electronic Device (Phyllis Byrum):

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3, Subsection B.1. To allow Vice Chair Phyllis Byrum to participate in tonight's special meeting of the School Board through electronic communication means from 1596 Great Fork Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23438 due to a temporary medical condition that prevents Vice Chair Byrum's attendance at tonight's meeting.

Member Riddick moved and Member Mayo seconded the motion to approve virtual attendance for Board Member Byrum as read by Mr. Waller.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 3 (Byrum/Howell/Story). The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 0.

➤ Motion for Meeting Attendance Via Electronic Device (Heather Howell):

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3, Subsection B.2. To allow Board Member Heather Howell to participate in tonight's public meeting of the School Board through electronic communication means from 117 Foxcroft Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23435 due to a medical condition of a family member that requires Board Member Howell to provide care which prevents her physical attendance at tonight's meeting.

Member Riddick moved and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to approve virtual attendance for Board Member Howell as read by Mr. Waller.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 2 (Byrum/Story). The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 0.

There was a pause in the meeting to allow both Members Byrum and Howell to be admitted into the meeting.

➤ Pledge of Allegiance:

Member Jenkins led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ Legislative Review Committee Report:

Member Mayo presented the Legislative Review Committee's report and described each of the following legislative positions and amendments submitted by the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) which will be presented for approval by a vote at the Delegate Assembly to be held prior to VSBA's Annual Conference in November:

- Legislative Position No. 1 – Fair Assessment of English Learners (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 2 – State Testing and Coordination Support (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 3 – Educational Technology Funding (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 4 – School Bus Purchase (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 5 – School Facility Construction Funds and Financing (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 6 – Standards of Quality and Standards of Accreditation (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 7 – Safe School Environment (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 8 – Education of Children with Disabilities (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 9 – Mathematics and Science Education (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 10 – Increased Student Assess for Work-Based Learning Opportunities (Proposed Amendment)
- Legislative Position No. 11 – Student Transportation and School Bus Drivers (Proposed New Position)
- Legislative Position No. 12 – Non-Public School Students Participating in Virginia High School League Activities (Proposed to Delete Position)

The Legislative Review Committee recommended that the School Board support VSBA Legislative Positions numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. However, the Committee did not support Legislative Position No. 12 and recommended that the School Board oppose Position No. 12. The Committee further recommended that the delegate representing Suffolk City School Board at the VSBA Delegate Assembly meeting scheduled for November 10, 2022, cast her vote consistent with the aforementioned recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 22/23-7: A resolution of the Suffolk City School Board approving, in part, legislative positions of the Virginia School Board Association Legislative Committee, and directing the School Board's representative serving as a member of the Delegate Assembly of

the Virginia School Board Association to vote in accordance with directions set forth in this resolution

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

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

- Resolution 22/23-8: A resolution of the Suffolk City School Board authorizing the Office of the School Board Attorney to make grammatical and non-substantive revisions to policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Member Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded the motion to approve Resolution 22/23-8 as read.

Board Members asked for clarification regarding the meaning of the resolution presented. Attorney Waller explained that the resolution was a way to streamline the process and allow for grammatical and non-substantive changes to Board policies without the need for Board action. This will expedite the process and avoid the need to have the Policy Review Committee meet to discuss grammatical and non-substantive changes to Board policies. He further explained that any revisions made by his office to any policy of the School Board would be presented to the School Board within 30 days and if the Board did not agree with the grammatical and non-substantive revision made to a policy, the Board could vote to vacate the revision.

Board Members requested additional details/clarity of the resolution and recommended that the item be tabled until the next meeting.

Member Riddick moved, and Member Howell seconded the motion to table Resolution 22/23-8 until the next meeting to get additional details on the resolution.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 3 (Mayo/Byrum/Brooks-Buck) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Story). The motion Failed by a tie vote of 3 to 3.¹

The Board then voted on the initial motion provided by Vice-Chair Byrum (Member Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded the motion to approve Resolution 22/23-8 as read.)

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 2 (Howell/Riddick) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Story). The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 2.²

¹ In that there was a tie vote and a member of the School Board was not in attendance, this motion is being carried over until the November meeting of the School Board. School Board Policy 2-6.1 and Virginia Code Section 22.1-75.

² Also, the vote on the resolution is held in abeyance until the November School Board meeting while the motion to table is pending.

- Presentation of Certificate for Completing the Foundations of School Board Governance through the Virginia School Boards Association's School Board U:

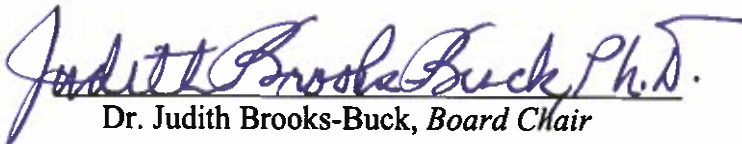
Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck presented Member Riddick with a certificate for completing the necessary courses of study in the Foundations of School Board Governance program offered by Virginia School Boards Association's School Board U - Learning for Leaders.

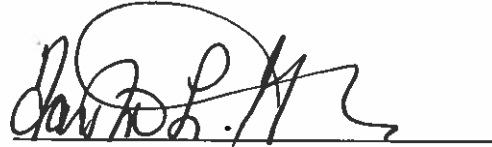
Member Riddick was congratulated by Board Members for his accomplishment.

ADJOURNMENT

- Adjournment of Meeting:

There being no further business or questions Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck adjourned the Special School Board Meeting of October 26, 2022 at 6:50 p.m. as unanimously agreed upon by all members.


Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Board Chair*


Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*