

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Thursday, February 11, 2021 (5:00 PM)**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held at CCAP electronically while practicing social distancing.

Upon roll being taken, the following persons were present:

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

Also Present:

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

5:00 P.M. – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

MOTION TO RELINQUISH RECORDING DEVICES

Attorney Waller read the following:

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 Mayo seconded the motion to approve the motion as read.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Story) Absent: 0. The motion Passed. 5 to 1.

At this time, Member Riddick requested to add the following items to the agenda:

1. Moved to add “School Employees who may have Received an Overpayment in Unemployment Insurance Benefits” to the closed session agenda.

There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed.

2. Moved to add to the closed session agenda, “Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Sherri D. Story Versus School Board.”

There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed.

3. Moved to add a discussion of Superintendent's terms of employment and compensation packet to the closed session agenda.

There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed.

MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

MOTION FOR CLOSED MEETING

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

1. The discussion and/or consideration of the Personnel Report regarding prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific employees of the school board, and more specifically as it relates to the following:

A. The resignations of individuals employed in the following positions: Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Speech Language Pathologists, Bus Drivers, Cafeteria Associates, ISS Monitor, Testing Admin Proctor, Head Custodian, and Supervisor of English Instruction;

B. Recommendation for dismissal of school custodian, Personnel Action: 20/21-1;

C. The hiring of instructional personnel for the following subject areas: CTE Marketing Teacher, Math Teacher, 1st Grade Teacher; Health/PE Teacher, English 6 Teacher, SPED GC Teachers, Kindergarten Teacher, English Teacher, and 1st Grade Teacher;

D. The hiring of non-instructional personnel for the following positions: Administrative Assistants, Safety Monitor, Custodians, Proximity Learning Facilitator, Speech Language Pathologist, and Teacher Assistants;

E. The hiring of individuals employed as a substitute Bus Driver, Safety Monitor, and Teachers;

F. The approval of two (2) school employees to receive a first stipend in the amount of \$300 for full training as a Substitute Bus Driver Trainee;

G. The request for approval of two (2) substitute bus driver trainee's;

H. Request for approval for five (5) part-time tutors/mentors, and teachers to receive compensation for providing ELL Support during the 2020-21 school year at the rate of \$26.40 per hour for students enrolled at Northern Shores Elementary, John F. Kennedy Middle, Mack Benn Elementary, and King's Fork Middle Schools;

I. The approval for a teacher assistant individual to receive compensation

for extra duty at Kilby Shores Elementary at the rate of \$5.00 per hour above her current rate of pay effective October 16, 2020 thru January 29, 2021;

J. Request for approval of compensation for extra duty teacher assistants;

K. Request for approval of extra duty supplements for athletic coaches at Kings Fork High School, Nansemond River High School, and Lakeland High School as per the 2020/2021 published classification and compensation plan for athletic salary supplements;

L. The approval of termination on the grounds of job abatement for a part-time 12-month custodian at Kings Fork High School;

M. Request for approval of two (2) teachers to receive compensation for organizing the 9th grade transition virtual presentation staff at Kings For High School at the rate of \$26.40 per hour;

N. Request for approval for teachers to receive compensation for providing ELL Support during the 2020-21 school year at the rate of \$26.40 per hour for students enrolled at Col. Fred Cherry Middle School and Mack Benn Jr. Elementary School;

O. Request for approval of thirteen (13) instructional personnel to receive compensation for serving as Nansemond Parkway Elementary Leadership Team members throughout the 2020-21 school year at rate of \$26.40 per hour;

P. Request for approval of twenty-five (25) teachers to receive compensation for After-School Tutoring (SOL) and/or After-School Detention Staff for 2020-2021 school year at Kings Fork High School at the rate of \$26.40 per hour;

Q. Request for approval of twelve (12) teachers to receive compensation for providing services as Assessment Writing Personnel at the rate of \$26.40 per hour;

R. Request for approval to provide an annual stipend of \$1200 for a teacher to serve as the ECSE Lead Teacher;

S. Request for approval of a special education teacher to serve as a Homebound/Homebased Teacher at the rate of \$27.40 per hour;

T. Request for approval of sixteen (16) teachers to receive compensation for participating as Hillpoint Elementary Leadership/Data Team members at the rate of \$26.40 per hour;

U. Request for approval of twenty (20) certified and not certified school employee's to receive a \$200 stipend and four (4) school employee's to receive a \$100 stipend for serving as the School Webmasters for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year;

V. Request for approval of a teacher to serve as a Homebound Instructor for the 2020-2021 school year at Nansemond River High School at the rate of \$27.40 per hour;

W. The approval of a request for five (5) school employees which includes a 12 month custodian, (2) bus drivers, a teacher assistant and a SPED teacher, to receive a leave of absence;

X. The approval of requests for seven (7) school employees to be removed from the substitute teacher, teacher assistant, and custodian lists;

Y. Recommendations: Supervisor of English Instruction.

Z. The discussion and/or consideration of the Superintendent's term of employment.

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

2. The discussion and/or consideration of the Student Services Report where the discussion in an open meeting would involve the disclosure of information contained in a student's scholastic record, and more specifically as it relates to the following:

Nineteen (19) out of zone requests for students enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools to attend school out of their designated school attendance zone.

All of which is authorized by Section 2-2-3711 A.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

3. The discussion of prospective candidates for appointment to serve on an interim basis to represent the Sleepy Hole borough.

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

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

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

The Board reconvened in the Public Meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Attorney Waller read the Certification of the Closed Meeting.

Vice-Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to approve the Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting to recess.

RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The School Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair.

7:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARINGS

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair.

Suffolk City Police MOU –

Police Chief Chandler was invited to speak and explained the information in the MOU and was available for questions. No citizens signed up to provide comments regarding the Suffolk City Police MOU. There being no speakers, Board Members were invited to share their questions or concerns with Police Chief Chandler.

Interim Appointment to the School Board –

Board Chair Brooks-Buck asked if there were any speakers who would like to share their comments. There being no speakers, Dr. Buck then called the names of the candidates who applied for the Interim Appointment to the School Board.

There being no further discussion, the Board Chair adjourned the public hearings meeting.

RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair.

Member Mayo lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

-Personnel Report

Vice-Chair Byrum moved, and Member Story seconded the motion, to accept the Personnel Report but tabled Personnel Action 20/21-1.

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

-Pupil Personnel Reports

Vice-Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to accept the Pupil Personnel Reports with an amendment to the Pupil Personnel Report for December which removes student #10 from the report.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to approve the amended agenda to add under New Business “Special Recognition of School Board Clerk Ms. Gardner and change Item 4 under Anew Business to “Info” only.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

1. Richard Sroka – Regression of Our Special Needs Students Due to Lack of In-Person Schooling and Therapies Normally Received in School
2. Amanda Bauswell – Allow Student The Option To Return To School (Letter)
3. ~~Concerned Parent – Kids Going Back To School (Letter)~~ Anonymous letters are not accepted by the Board.

REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Good News Reports: Dr. Gordon presented information from the Good News Report
 - a. SPS Alumni – Where are They Now? – Jasmine Griffith - NRHS
 - b. News Channel 3 “People Taking Action” Award Recipient (Angela Sproul)
 - c. LHS Fleet Reserve Essay Competition Winners
 - d. World Read Aloud Day
 - e. School Board Appreciation Month
 - f. SPS Teacher Spotlight – January
- School Board Appreciation
- Recognition of David P. Mitnick
- Your Voice is Power (YVIP)
- SPS Administrative UVA Cohort
- Calendar of Special Events

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Recognition of Clerk (this was an info item)

Item 2 – Request for School Board Meeting Date Change (April 2021)

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve the date change of the April Monthly School Board Meeting from April 21, 2021 to April 15, 2021 as presented.

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

Item 3 – SPS Health Dashboard Update

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve March 15th to return Special Education student to four (4) days per week and our youngest students (grades Pk-5) to Hybrid Learning two (2) days per week; and March 22, return students in grades 6-12 with Hybrid Instruction two (2) days per week.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 2 (Riddick, Brooks-Buck) Abstain: 0 Absent: 0. The motion Passed. 4 to 2

Item 4 – 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 School Calendar Change

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Riddick seconded, the motion to accept the changes as presented.

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

Item 5 – Term of Employment for the Superintendent (This item was changed to an information item)

Member Riddick asked the board to consider the Superintendent’s compensation packet to be reflected in the budget when it is submitted and to not have to add it at a later time. It should be submitted with the Budget.

Dr. Gordon asked for clarity of the 30-day window and Dr. Brooks Buck clarified the meaning of the 30 day window.

Item 6 – Budget Transfer # 2 Fiscal 2020-2021

Member Riddick moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to accept the budget transfer as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Story) Abstain: 0 Absent: 0. The motion Passed. 5 to 1

Item 7 – Set the date of February 25, 2021, 6 p.m. at City Council Chamber for the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget Hearing and Selection of Interim School Board Member Representing the Sleepy Hole Borough

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to accept February 25, 2021 at 6 p.m. at City Council for the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget Hearing and Selection of an Interim School Board Member Representing the Sleepy Hole Borough as presented.

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

Item 8 – School Board to Set Dates, and Times to Interview Candidates during the Weeks of February 15th and 22nd, 2021 for the Interim Appointment to Represent the Sleepy Hole Borough

Member Riddick moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to accept the weeks of February 15th and 22nd to interview candidates for the Interim Appointment to Represent the Sleepy Hole Borough as presented.

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

Item 9 – Resolution 20/21-15: Resolution of the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia Approving the Policy Services Agreement Between VSBA and Suffolk City School Board

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-25 as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Story) Abstain: 0 Absent: 0. The motion Passed. 5 to 1

Item 10 – Resolution 20/21-16: Resolution of the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia Approving the Terms and Conditions of a Deed Agreement Between Isle of Wight County School Board and the Suffolk City School Board

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-16 as presented.

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

Item 11 – Resolution 20/21-17: A Resolution Approving the Terms and Conditions of a Deed of Gift and Donation for a Proposed Permanent Public Utility Easement to the City of Suffolk from the Suffolk City School Board

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-17 as presented.

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

Item 12 – Resolution 20/21-18: A Resolution Approving the Terms and Conditions of Land in Fee Simple with General Warranty and English Covenants of the Title to the City of Suffolk from the Suffolk City School Board

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-18 as presented.

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

Item 13 – Resolution 20/21-19: A Resolution Approving the Terms and Conditions of a Right of Way Agreement Between the Suffolk City School Board and Virginia Electric and Power Company D/B/A Dominion Energy Virginia

Member Mayo moved, and Member Story seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-19 as presented.

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

Item 14 – Resolution 20/21-20: A Resolution Approving the Terms and Conditions of a Deed of Easement Agreement Between the Suffolk City School Board and Verizon Virginia, LLC.

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-20 as presented.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

1. Deborah Kliche – Budget
2. Catherine Blackmon – Possibly Opening the Schools for Return of Children (Letter
3. Miller Cary – Budget

BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Comments and reports were made by School Board Members

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Accident Report January 2021
- Financial Report: Capital Projects
- Financial Report January 2021
- School Activity Fund Audit – Fiscal Year 2019-2020
- DRAFT of proposed expenditures on C.A.R.E.S. Act II
- School Activity Funds Statements of School Allocations, Clubs, Activities and Athletic Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2020
- SPS Condolences:
 - *Vivian Barnes – Retired Teacher Assistant – 15 Years of Service – Passed away 12/30/2020
 - *James Lawrence – Current Bus Driver – 10 Years of Service – Passed away 01/20/2021
 - *James Field – Retired Bus Driver (retired 12/01/2015) – 12 Years of Service – Passed away 02/04/2021

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Chair Brooks-Buck adjourned the February 11, 2021 School Board Meeting at 10:51 p.m.

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*