

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Thursday, September 10, 2020 (5:30 PM)**

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

Upon roll being taken, the following persons were present:

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

Also Present: Dr. John B. Gordon III
 Keesha L. Hicks, Deputy Clerk
 Wendell M. Waller, School Board Attorney

Attendance Via Electronic Device: (upon Board approval):¹
 David Mitnick

Absent: Phyllis Byrum, *Chair*
 Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*

5:30 P.M. – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

-Meeting Attendance Via Electronic Device (David Mitnick):¹

Attorney Waller read the following motion for Member Mitnick to attend the meeting by electronic device:

A MOTION IS NEEDED PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3708.2. TO ALLOW BOARD MEMBER DAVID MITNICK TO PARTICIPATE IN TONIGHT'S CLOSED MEETING AND OPEN MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DUE TO A TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITION THAT PREVENTS HIS PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE AT TONIGHT'S MEETING.

Member Riddick moved, and Member Mayo seconded the motion, to approve the attendance by means of electronic device for Member David Mitnick for medical reasons.

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

**There was a pause in the meeting to allow Member Mitnick to join the meeting.*

¹ According to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(2) requires approval by the public body before a member can participate in a meeting through electronic communication means. The School Board voted to allow Board Member Mitnick to participate via electronic communication means due to a medical condition at the opening of the public meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Mitnick participated in the closed meeting and public meeting remotely from the School Administrative Offices, 7th floor conference room.

MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING

Attorney Waller read the following for going into a closed meeting:

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 public officers and 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, Bus Driver, Custodians, Pearson Vue Testing Admin, Cafeteria Associate, Head Custodian, Parent Resource Coordinator, and an Assistant Principal;
 - B. The hiring of instructional personnel for the following subject areas: SPED GC Teachers, 4th Grade Teachers, Spanish Teachers, FACS Teacher, Hearing Impaired SPED Teacher; English/Social Studies 7th, SPED AC Teacher, 1st Grade Teacher, and English Instructional Specialist;
 - C. The hiring of non-instructional personnel for the following positions: Administrative Assistants, Behavior Specialist, Bus Mechanic, Custodian, School Nurse, Speech Language Pathologist, and Teacher Assistants;
 - D. The hiring of a part-time individual employed as Safety Monitor assigned to Hillpoint Elementary;
 - E. The hiring of individuals employed as Substitute Teachers and a Substitute Teacher Assistant;
 - F. The approval of a school employee to be paid a first stipend of \$150 for full or partial training as a Substitute Bus Driver Trainee;
 - G. The approval of four school employees to be paid a second stipend of \$150 for full training or partial training as Substitute Bus Driver Trainees;
 - H. The approval for two school employees to be added to the approved list of special education summer employees as Special Education Teachers at the rate of \$26.40 per hour from Monday, June 15, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020;
 - I. The approval for compensation of an employee to serve as a facilitator for S.T.R.E.A.M.ing in Excellence Summer Camp at Booker T. Washington Elementary from July 28, 2020 to August 14, 2020 at the rate of \$28.00 per hour including FICA;
 - J. The approval for compensation for an employee to serve as an Office Assistant for the 21st CCLC program at Booker T. Washington Elementary School for up to 4 hours per week at the rate of \$18.23 per hour;

- K. The approval for an employee to receive a tradesman licensure stipend for \$1,200 for the 2020-21 school year as a Master Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning position in Food Services;
- L. The approval for three individuals to receive compensation for serving in the capacity of Lawn Maintenance Worker's for Lakeland High, King's Fork High and Nansemond River High Schools;
- M. The approval of termination of a specific bus driver due to job abatement;
- N. The approval of eighty four school teachers to provide services as curriculum writers for the 2020-21 school year from August 17, 2020 until September 30, 2020 at a rate of \$26.40 per hour for the following schools: Florence Bowser Elementary, Kings Fork Middle, John F. Kennedy Middle, Nansemond River High, Lakeland High, King's Fork High, Forest Glenn Middle, College Career at Pruden, John Yeates Middle, Col. Fred Cherry Middle, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, Elephant's Fork Elementary, Creekside Elementary, Oakland Elementary, Kilby Shores Elementary, Northern Shores Elementary, and Mack Benn Elementary Schools;
- O. The approval for exemption authority to end a contract with Soliant Health Services and provide a contract to hire an individual to as an interpreter for \$28,361;
- P. The approval for a school employee to receive additional hours as a Graduation Coach for the Summer School at King's Fork High School at rate of \$31.50 per hour from 4 days a week and up to 9 hours per day;
- Q. The approval of six school employees to receive compensation for organizing the 6th grade transition virtual presentation at King's Fork Middle School at a rate of \$26.40 per hour;
- R. The approval of a request for a school employee to be removed from the substitute teacher list;
- S. The approval of the hiring of an Assistant Principal Designee for Forest Glen Middle School and a Supervisor of Math Instruction at the School Administrative Offices.

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

2. The discussion and/or consideration of the Pupil Personnel 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:

- A. Four hundred and thirty (430) out of zone requests for students enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year; and
- B. Disciplinary actions assigning four (4) students to Turlington Woods School for a period of time; three (3) students being returned to their base school; one student assigned to the Tidewater Regional Alternative Educational Program; and One student assigned to Virtual Learning through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

All of which is authorized by Section 2.2-3711.A.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended. September 10, 2020

Member Story moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to approve as read.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 (Byrum). The motion Passed. 6 to 0.

The School Board returned to the open meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Attorney Waller read the Certification of the Closed Meeting.

A RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF THE CLOSED MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 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.

Member Riddick 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: 1 (Byrum). The motion Passed. 6 to 0.

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting to recess.

7:00 P.M. – RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

-Vice Chair Brooks-Buck took a Point of Privilege and announced that the Board Chair Byrum would not be in attendance tonight due to her husband's illness. Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck called for a moment silence for Board Chair and her family.

Member Mayo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

-Personnel Report

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to accept the Personnel Report as presented.

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

Superintendent Gordon introduced the Interim Assistant Principal for Forest Glen Middle School Mrs. Cara Byrd.

Kelly Greening was introduced as the new Math Supervisor.

-Pupil Personnel Reports

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to accept the Pupil Personnel Reports as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Byrum). The motion Passed. 6 to 0 to 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

-No Citizen were scheduled to speak

REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Good News Reports: Ms. Ward presented information from the Good News Report

- OBICI Healthcare Foundation Grant Award: COVID-19 Respond Fund
- Zoey Swindell – 3rd Annual “Zoey’s Tea Party”
- Aaron Dalla Villa – SPS Alumni an Actor/Lead Role in Upcoming Film

- LHS Groundskeeper Say Farewell – Ron Robertson and Roy Waller
- Shalise Taylor & Katelyn Black Selected for ASCD 2020 Emerging Leaders Program
- Jimmy LaRue with the Suffolk News Herald was chosen as SPS Media Honor Roll recognized by VSBA
- VSBA Certification of Appreciation – Karen Jenkins (2020 VSBA Audit Committee)
- Special Recognition Teaching and Learning Department

- Educate & Innovate – Canvas Classroom Presentation
 - The Teaching and Learning Department was recognized for all of the hard work on preparing students for the start of school
 - Dr. Maria Lawson-Davenport was recognized for all work with the T & L Team
 - Dr. Branch stated there was a lot that went into place to prepare for the opening of school.
 - 1197 Staff completed the growing with Canvas Course over 6 weeks
 - Over 150 Content Supervisors, Specialist and Teachers participated in 4,00 hours of curriculum writing
 - Over 100 courses provided with content to begin the school year within 2 weeks
 - Zaretta Hammond provided a District-wide Professional Learning Session on Friday, August 28, 2020
 - The Five “Model E” was introduced along with how Canvas was designed which highlighted Synchronous and Asynchronous learning and small group instruction
 - Teachers work daily with a five-day work week with teachers are reporting to work on Tuesday and Wednesdays.
 - Fridays are designated for small group, 1:1, conferencing etc. Teacher work hours will be from 8:15 a.m. – 3:15.
 - Teacher will be recording instructions for students to watch at a later time. Recording will be available up to 14 days.
 - Teachers are working with paraprofessional
 - Mrs. Kincheloe a Kindergarten teacher at Florence Bowers Elementary and Mrs. Rebecca Hart a sixth-grade teacher at King’s Fork Middle School shared their experience with Canvas.
 - 126 Special Programs students attending class. There are 127 Special Program students who are attending class virtually. There are 7 Special Programs students that we were not able to reach. Special Program students need a routine and they were excited to return to school.
 - John Littlefield shared information regarding our Technology issues. Mr. Littlefield noted that they are not glitches but challenges. The amount of bandwidth that were used was reported. Mr. Littlefield shared that we have more than enough bandwidth to support teachers when they are in the building.
 - There were 1000 Hotspot devices distributed
 - 12,00 students logged in during the first 2 day of school
 - 12, 351 Chromebooks were distributed prior to first day of school.
 - 13, 060 Chromebooks were distributed as of September 10, 2020.
 - Delays, lags, or interruptions with Canvas with Big Blue Button was discussed. Google Meet and Zoom was reviewed to see if it would be a better solution to address the challenges we are having with a possible solution to adapt, modify adjust.
 - Chromebooks must be updated. Chrome will release and update at least once a month.
 - There are no internet services in the rural areas.
 - Information was given on what SPS can support with local network. Information was also given on areas that SPS cannot support (i.e. cellular connection, home internet connection, personal devices and 3rd part applications)
 - Next Steps
 - Reaching out to inactive students

- Paraprofessional being trained on Canvas & will receive Chrome-books for support
- Professional learning will focus on teachers' needs and support-needs assessment
- System updates and improvements
- Zoey Swindell a student who was recognized shared that she thought teachers should get more money because they are risking their lives
- Calendar of Special Events

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Mayo moved, and Member Jenkins 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: 1 (Byrum). The motion Passed. 6 to 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Additional Custodial Staffing
 - Wendy Forsman shared the clean and health plan spraying and disinfecting all areas
 - Specialized disinfectant sprayers require 3 custodians to operate the machine daily. Staff must dedicate to complete that specialized task
 - Superintendent's Proposed budget was referenced noting that the following was needed
 - Some locations needed to be cleaner (current staffing levels at some locations is 25,00 sq. ft. per employee)
 - Increased number of custodians with both full and part time to bring square footage per employee closer to 18,000 sq. ft.
 - Add 7 full time and 7.8 part time positions
 - Current Recommendation is to add the custodian's position back into the budget
 - The budget transfer that is needed to cover the cost of the additional custodian would come from the following
 - Instructional Software-\$176,000, Professional Development software \$152,000, Malware software-\$150,000 bring the total amount transferred to the Facilities and Maintenance \$474,700
 - These are reoccurring cost and we have two-year worth of funding in the in various accounts.
- Vice Chair Brooks Buck asked Board Members if there were any questions/concerns:
 - Board Member Story addressed the following reference to the 18-point cleaning plan that was shared at the August meeting. She noted that as she was visiting the schools, she didn't see that the plan was put into effect. "How are we going to make sure that the 18-point cleaning plan is happening"? Second

concern was that teachers were told that they could not bring in their own cleaning supplies. The problems are that they have not been given any. Maybe that is a communication problem, or a disconnect. Some schools have the 18-point plan posted but it is from April 23rd. It's just not happening.”

- Dr. Gordon shared with Member Story that he was not sure how she would know if those 18-point cleaning was occurring because the majority of cleaning happens after the staff has left. The reason we shared with staff that they should not bring in their own supplies was because it is not a part of the plan. We are not sure of the effects it would have on the other staff members. Dr. Gordon noted that with current staffing we would face some challenges that is why we had restricted areas and confined teachers to their classrooms. It was also noted that some custodial staff was out due to medical reason.
- Terry Napier addressed the checklist that Member Story referenced in her concerns and shared that was a summer checklist and it has nothing to do with what we are doing today. 18-point plan had big challenges due to we are under staffed. Since April, due to COVID, FMLA and Worker's Compensation the Facilities Dept. have lost over 4000-man hours and counting. We had to adjust the 18-point plan for the virtual period due to this loss. It was adjusted from an 18-point to a 9-point plan. The spray disinfected is going on daily.
- Member Story expressed the concern about books and papers being ruined during the daily spraying. Mr. Napier shared that communication was given to staff that it was important that they put books and paper away because they were not sure of the affects it would have on the paper or books.
- Member Story wanted to know what assurance would be given to teachers that the nine-point plan was completed. Mr. Napier shared that custodians are not reporting to teachers that the head custodian is completing a weekly checklist. Member Story suggested that what she was about to say was not going to be popular but if we have lost that many hours then maybe we should consider hiring from the outside to get the building clean.
- Vice Chair-Brooks interjected stated that she has the gavel and we are going to pause for a moment at this point we are talking about hiring extra people to address the problem. If we could move forward, this will take care of the problem. I think we all are in agreement that we are coming up on a solution. At this point, we all agree that we need the extra help to take care of this problem.
- Board Member Riddick stated that he wanted the narrative to be set properly and that our schools are not filthy. Our schools are not in deplorable conditions, some may need a little tender loving care but that is due to the age of the school. I want to go on record that our schools are not in deplorable conditions that it would be our staff at risk.

Member Riddick moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve the additional staff as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Byrum).
The motion Passed. 6 to 0

- Board Member Story addressed Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck after the motion was approved asking how long it would take to hire the additional staff needed.

Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck shared she could not answer that question. It depended upon what the work forces is like and adding hours to our part-time workers.

- The School Board heard a recommendation to Increase Access to Face-To-Face Instruction for Students with disabilities with Intensive Support Needs
 - Dr. Gordon shared that Mrs. Whitley our Special Education Director will come forth and speak about the need for additional days for Special Program students.
 - Many students with intensive support needs participate in a functional curriculum which includes reading and math and daily functioning skills. These skills are difficult to support in the virtual environment. By having access to the buildings four days a week instead of 2 days give student consistency in those areas. It also gives them the opportunity to participate in therapies and services to push through in the classroom
 - Member Riddick wanted to know the ways that we would ensure that our students and staff will be safe. Mrs. Whitley shared that we are already doing that. Staff, students and parents are doing a good job with making sure that students are wearing their mask and social distancing. We have provided all staff with PPE. Staff is practicing with students and following the protocols that are in place.
 - Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck asked the question are we asking our SPED teachers to come back two additional days per week or are we asking that the therapist who work with students on these additional days. Are we requesting that SPED teachers who work with those students come to school two additional days when the other teachers do not.
 - Mrs. Whitley replied that we are asking the program teachers to come back to support with face-to-face instruction.
 - Member Jenkins asked are we referencing the students we have now or will we be bringing in more students.
 - Mrs. Whitley replied that the parents have decided if they would like virtual or face-to-face instruction. However, if parents reach out saying they would like for students to return because we are coming four days then we would open that up for them.
 - Member Mitnick question how do we know after having the students in school for two days that we need them in school for more days.
 - Mrs. Whitley shared that we know we need to give the students who need the additional support the consistency and it will allow us to have access to those students and to provide the therapies and functional curriculum.
 - Member Mitnick wanted to know if we would be able to supply all of the PPE needs to each classroom teacher, assistant, and therapist that come in to assist those students.
 - Mrs. Whitley replied that not only do we have it but it has already been distributed. It was distributed before school started and if they need more we have it and all they have to do is request it.
 - Member Mitnick shared that he was contacted that there wasn't any PPE in the room for four adults.
 - Mrs. Whitley shared PPE went out to all the schools and that she had received a call before the board meeting stating that the staff had not received the items. The staff did not notify the principal that they did not receive their

equipment. They were not sure if it was in the building and had not been distributed however, it was arranged that the PPE will be delivered to that building first thing in the morning.

- Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck asked the question how do the SPED teachers feel about having to return to school on the days that the other teachers do not.
- Mrs. Whitley shared that the teachers that she spoke to wanted to come back. They understand that they are working with students who have special needs and that's what best for their students. Mrs. Whitley shared she has not received any concerns from teachers who wanted to return. Vice Chair Brooks-Buck shared that they have.
- Member Riddick wanted to make a statement that he is stuck between a rock and a hard place. He understands that there will be some loss of learning, but on the other side some of the very students that we are talking about are at a greater risk. That is why I am stuck because I want to do what is best for all our students. Riddick's thinking is allowing it to stay as it is and speak with some parents and staff regarding this. Would it be optional at the parent discretion if they chose to keep their child home?
- Mrs. Whitley shared that they can work with those parents who would like to keep their students home. Mrs. Whitley shared she has not received any feedback from staff or parents about not wanting to return to school.
- Dr. Gordon added that slide that was presented by the Teaching and Learning department shared that there are 126 SPED students in school and 127 virtual. Therefore, the parents are exercising their right to choose. The board has the flexibility to choose the amount of days that the students can return. One of the biggest challenges are the services that the student is not receiving since COVID hit in March. That six-month gap of learning loss is greater for student with special needs. We are looking for compromise if the Board will not recommend that we will not come back four days. Even though General Ed teachers are required for 2 days they are in the building four days.
- Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck asked the question for those SPED students who are participating virtually, how are they doing it".
- Mrs. Whitley replied that teachers have been able to incorporate them into the lesson with those students who are attending live sessions. It was exciting to see the students who could see their peers and was excited to see one another.
- Member Riddick asked if it was possible if we could table this decision after more data is received and come back for a special meeting only. This will give the opportunity to get more information from staff and allow parents to weight in and get information from the Advisory Committee.
- Member Mayo agreed with Mr. Riddick and would like to receive more information before making a final decision. It's important that all students' needs are being met, but that we are looking at the safety and well-being of all of our staff and students.
- Member Jenkins agreed

Member Riddick moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to table the Increase Access to Face-To Face Instruction for Students with Disabilities to the October meeting.

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

- Board Member Story voted “No” and wanted to go on record that the Board should honor the request of those parents who want to bring the student back four days a week which was the original request in the memo.
- President Trumps Executive order deferring payroll tax for Social Security from September 1 through December 2020
 - On August 8, 2020, President Trump signed a memorandum to allow a portion of the FICA tax that is Non-Medicare to be deferred from September 1st – December 30th and to be paid by from January to April. IRS came back with a ruling that it can only be deferred and must be paid back. It was recommended that this is not the best interest for our employees. It makes SPS a collection of taxes. If the employee leaves before it is paid back it is up to us to collect the remaining balance or we are responsible for paying it if they don’t. It is not the best interest of the employee. The employee will have to pay back double from January – April.
 - Vice Chair Brooks-Buck asked the question about this FICA tax being Social Security tax that is what will be withheld.
 - Mrs. Forsman shared that individual employees cannot opt out as an individual, that the division must opt out.

Member Mitnick moved, and Member Riddick seconded, the motion to approve SPS opt out of deferring payroll tax, as presented.

Upon a roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Byrum).
The motion Passed. 6 to 0

- Ordinance 20/21-1: Amending Chapter 4, Article 6, Section 4-6.1 – entitled “Statement of Policy; Contractual Authority of School Superintendent; Contracts not requiring sealed bids or competitive negotiation” of the policies of the Suffolk City School Board – First Reading (This is an Information Item)
- Ordinance 20/21-2: Amending Chapter 4, Article 6, Section 4-6.1:1 – entitled “Early Appearances Defined; Five Minutes for Presentation; More than Six Speakers Equal Time Allotted” of the polices of the Suffolk City School Board – First Reading (This is an Information Item)
- Ordinance 20/21-3: Amending Chapter 2, Article 8, Section – entitled “Early Appearances Defined; Five Minutes for Presentation; More than Six Speakers Equal Time Allotted” of the polices of the Suffolk City School Board – First Reading – REVISED (This is an Information Item)
- Ordinance 20/21-4: Amending Chapter 2, Article 8, Section 2-8.1 – entitled “Late Appearances Defined: Notice Requirement” of the policies of the Suffolk City School Board – First Reading – REVISED (This is an Information Item)
 - Member Mitnick asked that the Policy Review Committee clarify what the term Suffolk Community Mean. There is some exception to that which will need to be considered (i.e. classroom teachers who live outside the district, or parents who are separated or divorce who have joint custody of the child but

live outside of the district. We would be prohibiting them from voicing their concerns.

- Vice-Chair Brooks-Buck noted that there was an amendment to the policy and uploaded to ESB to address his concerns. The definition of Suffolk Community was given.
- Member Story asked if Board Members could be notified when a document/information item was modified.

- Resolution 20/21-8: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia and Phyllis Byrum, Chair, Judith Brooks-Buck, Vice Chair, and Board Members: Karen L. Jenkins, Lorita Mayo, Tyron D. Riddick and David Mitnick, all in Their Official Capacity Ratifying the Notice of Appeal Filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the City of Suffolk and the Authorizing the Law Firm of Sullivan Collins to take all Necessary Steps to Prosecute an Appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia in the Case of Sherri D. Story v. Suffolk City School Board, Et Als.
 - Member Story asked if the Intent to Appeal had already been filed.
 - Mr. Waller stated that what was filed is the Notice of Appeal that is filed at the Circuit Court level. That is done to preserve the right for the Board to actually appeal the case to the Supreme Court. There is a thirty-day time period in which to note the appeal. If the appeal was not noted then the Board would lose out because tomorrow would be beyond the thirty-day time limit in which to preserve the right to appeal. This is a two-step process simply given notice to the actual trial court and then the next step would be submitting a petition for Writ of Review to the Supreme Court of Virginia
 - Member Story asked “When was it decided to do the Notice of Appeal”.
 - Mr. Waller stated the Notice to Appeal was talked about while the case was still going on.
 - Member Story asked about the approximate cost and who pays for this
 - Mr. Waller stated there is no cost to the School Division because it is all covered by the Insurance Policy, nor is there a deductible. All cost is covered by Versa.
 - Member Story asked even the cost of appeals
 - Mr. Waller answered “Yes”
 - Member Story asked if there was any limit to that
 - Mr. Waller stated that “Yes that is a limit, the policy limit is one million dollars.
 - Member Story asked that per whatever
 - Mr. Waller stated “Yes for each occurrence”
 - Member Riddick asked Vice Chair Brooks-Buck for a Point of Privilege. Member Riddick stated he doesn’t feel comfortable as a named defendant to discuss pertinent information to a case involving the person who has taken us to court. I don’t see in any way that it would not be a Conflict of Interest. I would like for my counsel. I cannot speak for any other Board member but for myself to cease any other conversation regarding this case that is representing us or myself
 - Member Mayo called for the question.
 - Deputy Clerk read the Resolution along with the question

Member Riddick moved, and Member Jenkins seconded, the motion to approve Resolution 20/21-8 as presented.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

The Deputy Clerk read the instructions for public speakers

- *Nicole Leebeck – First Week of School – Letter read by Deputy Clerk
- *Gregory Jackson – Virtual Learning Issues
- *Amy Sroka – Special Needs Needing Additional Time
- *Heather Landess – Elementary Schools and Virtual Learning - Letter read by Deputy Clerk
- *Lydia Powell – Virtual Learning – Letter read by Deputy Clerk

BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Comments and reports were made by School Board Members

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Financial Report: June 2020
- Accident Report August 2020 (there were no reported fleet accidents to report for August 2020)
- Financial Report: Capital Projects
- Financial Report August 2020
- Summer School Report - 2020

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions, the Board Chair adjourned the September 10, 2020 School Board Meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Judith Brooks-Buck, *Vice-Board Chair*

Keesha L. Hicks, *Deputy Clerk*