

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 ~ 6:00 P.M.

Colonel Fred Cherry Middle School, 7401 Burbage Drive, Suffolk, VA 23435

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

Board Members Present:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Chair*
Phyllis Byrum, *Vice Chair*
Heather Howell
Karen Jenkins
Lorita Mayo

Board Members Absent:

Tyron Riddick

Attendance Via Electronic Device: (upon Board approval):

Sherri Story

Administrative Staff Present:

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

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION

➤ **Call to Order:**

The School Board Meeting/Work Session was called to order by Chair, Dr. Brooks-Buck. Dr. Brooks-Buck welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those in attendance to wear a mask while inside the building and to remain socially distanced. She stated that if you do not follow this rule, you will be escorted from the meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE STUDENT APPEAL:

Vice-Chair Byrum moved, and Member Mayo seconded the motion to table Student Appeal #21/22-2 until the March meeting.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Absent: 2. The motion Passed. 5 to 0

MOTION FOR MEETING ATTENDANCE VIA ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

Vice-Chair Byrum moved pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2, subsection (A)(1)(b), to allow Board Member Sherri D. Story to participate in tonight's open meeting of the School Board through electronic communication means from downtown Richmond at 9th and Banks Streets because her work for the Family Foundation Prevents her physical attendance at tonight's meeting, and Member Mayo seconded the motion to allow Member Sherri Story to attend the meeting from a remote location.

Upon a roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 1 (Dr. Brooks-Buck) / Absent: 2. The motion Passed. 4 to 1

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Forsman presented the proposed budget to the Board. The Budget included the following highlights:

- Information was based on Governor Northam's Budget (the new Governor is expected to make changes)
- 5% salary increase from the state (State Fund increase \$7,873,248)
- Teacher salaries range increase to (\$49,316 to \$82,610)
- Teacher Raises: 7.46% to 8.26% = Step + 6.46% COLA
- Support Staff of Phase I: 5.0% to 5.50% = Step + 4.5% COLA
- Bus Drivers: 5.84% raise = Step + 4.84%, and adding another step on scale at year 23 of experience, starting salary \$15.30/hour
- Reclassification of several positions
- Support Scale implementation of Phase II = raise equal to at least 5%
- Implementation of Phase III to complete Support scale
- Implementation of New Professional Scale
- Implementation of New Administrative Scale
- Proposed Positions added – 28
- Operating Cost Increases

Members thanked Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Forsman for the detailed budget and for the opportunity to ask questions and have input. They were also excited to see the teacher support and professional support in the budget.

Member Story experienced technical difficulties throughout the presentation. No questions were received from Board Member Story.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business or questions, Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair Byrum moved, and Member Jenkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Board Chair Dr. Brooks-Buck adjourned the February 23, 2022, Special School Board Meeting at 6:47 p.m.


Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, Board Chair


Tarshia L. Gardner, Board Clerk