

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 ~ 5:00 P.M.

Suffolk City Council Chamber, 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Attending Virtually:

Phyllis Byrum
Kimberly Slingluff

Administrative Staff Present:

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

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION

➤ Call to Order:

Board Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

➤ 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 Board Member Phyllis Brum to participate in tonight's special public meeting of the School Board through electronic communication means from her residence due to a medical condition that prevents her physical attendance at tonight's meeting.

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to allow Board Member Phyllis Byrum to attend the meeting via Electronic Device as requested.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Absent: 2 (Byrum/Slingluff). The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 0.

➤ Motion for Meeting Attendance Via Electronic Device (Kimberly Slingluff)

Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3, Subsection B.4. to allow Board Member Kimberly Slingluff to participate in tonight's special meeting of the School Board through electronic communication means from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina due to a personal matter in that she is vacationing with her family and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Board Member Riddick moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to allow Board Member Kimberly Slingluff to attend the meeting via Electronic Device as requested.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Absent: 2 (Byrum/Slingluff). The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 0.

- Pledge of Allegiance:
Board Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Mission of Suffolk Public Schools:
Vice Chair Howell read the mission of SPS.
- Moment of Silence:
A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

- School Board's Approved Budget 2024-2025 for Adoption (Info Item)
Mrs. Forsman and Dr. Gordon provided highlights from the previously approved 2024-2025 budget.
- Resolution 23/24-31: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Adopting a Budget for Suffolk Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Totaling \$242,729,721 which includes Local Funding from the City of Suffolk in the Amount of \$75,332,201
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 23/24-31 as requested.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Dr. Brittingham, Slingluff) / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 5 to 2.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham left after the vote at 5:10 p.m. due to a family emergency.

- Discussion of Amendment #1 2024-2025 (Info Only)
Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Forsman provided updated information regarding pending receipt of additional money for the State and City Council will need to appropriate an additional sum estimated of \$5,859,207 as an amendment to the original 2024-2025 budget that was approved by City Council on June 5, 2024. Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Forsman outlined how those additional funds will be spent, which includes a 3% raise (step + 2% Cost of Living Adjustment), additional At Risk SOQ match requirements, removes digital sales tax, additional ELL requirements, SPS to provide 99% of health insurance increase, enhanced security camera software, uniforms/supplies for new Navy Cadet program, three additional teachers (JROTC Navy Cadet, CTE, Theater), additional Special Education Coordinator, and permanent part-time raise and step differential.

ADJOURNMENT

- Adjournment of Meeting:
There being no further business, Board Chair Jenkins adjourned the May 29, 2024 Special School Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Karen Jenkins, *School Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*