

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, August 15, 2024 ~ 5:00 P.M.

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

Board Members Present:

Karen Jenkins, *Chair*
Heather Howell, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham
Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck
Phyllis Byrum
Tyron Riddick¹
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.

➤ Elementary Re-Zoning Discussion

Dr. Gordon, Division Superintendent, asked the Board to go into a closed meeting to discuss communication between Attorney Waller and the Department of Justice regarding Elementary Re-Zoning, Student Expulsion Hearing #24/25-1EH, Student Records Review 24/25-4RR, Employee Appeal #24/25-1, and potential adoption of Resolution 24/25-1.

MOTION TO GO INTO FIRST CLOSED MEETING

➤ Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed to go into a closed meeting to discuss the following items and subjects pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act found at Virginia Code Section 2.23711:

1. The discussion and/or consideration of Student Expulsion Hearing Number 24/25-1EH, which involves a request for a student expulsion, where the discussion in an open meeting would involve disclosure of information contained in the student's scholastic record.
2. Record Review 24/25-4RR regarding the assignment of a student to Turlington Woods School, where the discussion in an open meeting would involve disclosure of information contained in the student's scholastic record.
3. Employee Appeal 2425-1 regarding a recommendation to dismiss a Safety Monitor employed by Suffolk Public Schools.
4. Consultation with legal counsel regarding actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or

¹ Board Member Riddick arrived to the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

litigating posture of the School Board and more specifically as it relates to United States of America v. School Board of the City of Suffolk.

5. The discussion and/or consideration of the names of prospective appointees to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees.

Which is authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, found at Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1)(A)(2) and (A)(7)

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the motion to go into the closed meeting as read by Mr. Waller.

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

Board Chair Jenkins reminded Boards Members that only SPS issued Chromebooks were allowed in the closed meeting. All other devices were to be outside of the closed meeting area.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC MEETING

- Meeting Called to Order:
Board Chair Jenkins reconvened the public meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Waller read the following certification:
A Resolution of Certification of the Closed Meeting of August 15, 2024, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia

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 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.

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Certification of the Closed Meeting as read by Mr. Waller.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 1 (Dr. Brittingham) / Absent: 1 (Riddick). The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 0 to 1.

MEETING RECESS

- Board Chair Jenkins recessed the meeting at 7:10 p.m. for a 30-minute recess.

RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

- Meeting Called to Order:
Board Chair Jenkins called to order the regular public meeting at 7:42 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance:
Board Member Slingsuff led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Moment of Silence:
A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance.
- The Mission of Suffolk Public Schools:
Vice Chair Howell read the mission of SPS.

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

- Student Expulsion Hearing Number 24/25-1 EH
Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed that the evidence is sufficient for expulsion but the finding is being withheld as it relates to Student Expulsion Hearing #24/25-1EH.

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the motion as read by Attorney Waller.

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

- Student Records Review Number 2024/25-4 RR
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to uphold the decision by the Student Services Review Committee.

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

- Employee Appeal Number 24/25-1
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to uphold the decision regarding Employee Appeal #24/25-1.

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

- Adoption of Resolution 24/25-7 – A Resolution authorizing the Attorney for the School Board to File a Petition with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Norfolk Division Asking that the Court Declare that the School Board and Suffolk Public Schools have Achieved Unitary Status

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 24/25-7.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 1 (Dr. Brooks-Buck) / Absent 1 (Riddick). The motion Passed by vote of 5 to 0 to 1.²

REQUEST FROM BOARD MEMBER TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- K. Slingluff – Request for Discussion Regarding the Transgender Policy
Board Member Slingluff requested discussion of the Transgender Policy to ensure compliance in light of new Title IX regulations that have been enjoined by the court, the model policy mandated by Governor Youngkin.

Attorney Waller and the Board discussed Title IX, the School Board's current transgender policy, Governor Youngkin's model policy, and returning the School Board's Transgender Policy to the Policy Review Committee for review/changes.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to send the transgender policy back to the Policy Review Committee for changes to be made to be compliant with the Governor's model policy.

After additional discussion, Board Member Dr. Brittingham rescinded her motion.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to add a discussion about the transgender policy to New Business on the agenda.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

- Citizen Comments on Agenda Items:
No citizens registered to speak on Agenda Topics.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Approval of Agenda:
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

² Board Member Riddick arrived at 7:50 p.m.

REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Good News Report:
Anthonette Dickens, Communications and Community Engagement Officer, shared information from the Good News Report.
- Calendar of Special Events:
Dr. Gordon highlighted information from the calendar of special events.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of the Consent Agenda:
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Board Member Slingluff requested to amend the motion with the removal of Bills and Payroll to New Business.

Vice Chair Howell amended her motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Bills and Payroll to New Business. Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

Dr. Gordon welcomed Ms. Nanette Solomon-Gaines, new Coordinator of Special Education, to the SPS family.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Ordinance 2024/25-2: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 2-2.7 entitled “School Board Standing Committees; Foundations; Special Committees” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading
Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-2: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 2-2.7 entitled “School Board Standing Committees; Foundations; Special Committees” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board.

Some Board Members did not agree with the policy. Members felt that suggested changes to board policies that do not have the support of the Policy Review Committee should not be allowed to die in Committee, but should be brought before the full board for consideration. The Board discussed amending the policy to ensure that policies drafted by Board Members are critiqued by the Policy Review Committee and will be presented to the full board for consideration.

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

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to send Ordinance 2024/25-2: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 2-2.7 entitled “School Board Standing Committees; Foundations; Special Committees” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board back to the Policy Review Committee for amendments.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 2024/25-3: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2-3.2 entitled “Regular Meetings; Special Meetings; Quorum” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-3: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2-3.2 entitled “Regular Meetings; Special Meetings; Quorum” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading.

Some Board Members did not agree with the policy. It was explained that the policy could be weaponized for future use, did not allow citizens enough time to prepare for meetings, and prevented Board Members the opportunity to govern. Discussion ensued regarding policy clarification, the Chair and Members adding information to the agenda, the opportunity for citizens to speak on agenda items, polling the Board to ascertain positions, having two board meetings per month, possibly removing the 14-day advance notice policy, and the seven-day agenda posting done by SPS versus the three days posting required by law.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 4 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff, Howell) / Abstain: 0. The motion Failed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Ordinance 2024/25-6: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 5-2.6 entitled “Emergency closings; notification thereof; parental involvement” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-6: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 5-2.6 entitled “Emergency closings; notification thereof; parental involvement” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption.

Attorney Waller provided clarification of the policy.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 2024/25-8: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Article 6, Section 5-6.2 entitled “Educational technology; definitions; establishment of foundation permitted; purchases of educational technology” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-8: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Article 6, Section 5-6.2 entitled “Educational technology; definitions; establishment of foundation permitted; purchases of educational technology” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading.

Some Board Members questioned the need for the policy, expressed their disagreement with the management and oversight of school foundations, and felt that the ordinance was being mandated by the school division, is a potential conflict of interest and not in the best interest of the students and educators in Suffolk Public Schools. Discussion and clarification of the policy ensued between the Board and Attorney Waller.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-10: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Article 27, Section 8-27.2 entitled “Parental assistance with instruction” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-10.

An error was noted in the document regarding reference to legal authority, however, it did not affect the substance of the policy and will be corrected.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 2024/25-11: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Article 40, Section 8-40.1 entitled “Policy stated; neutrality required” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-11.

A Board Member did not agree with the policy and questioned origination of the policy. Conversation ensued between the Board, Attorney Waller and Dr. Gordon regarding curriculum courses, electives, and the approval of courses.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 3 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff) / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Ordinance 2024/25-13: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 14, Section 9-14.2 entitled “Possession of a controlled substance, etc., mandatory expulsion; prevention and intervention required” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-13: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 14, Section 9-14.2 entitled “Possession of a controlled substance, etc., mandatory expulsion; prevention and intervention required” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 2024/25-14: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article 18, Section 10-18.1 entitled “Cooperation encouraged” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-14: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article 18, Section 10-18.1 entitled “Cooperation encouraged” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - Second Reading.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Administrative Services Report (Information Item Only-No Action Required)

Dr. Rodney Brown, Chief of Administrative Services, presented information from a six-year comparison of the division's discipline data. The report covered school years 2017-18 through 2023-24 and included a breakdown of referral totals by year, and comparisons by month and year. Student disciplinary data by school, location, school levels, and referrals by school groups were highlighted and explained. Data regarding the top 10 incidents, preventions and interventions were also shared. It was noted that most incidents at the elementary level occurred in classrooms and hallways, while middle and high school incidents occurred in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, restrooms, and on the bus. According to the data, high schools ranked 34%, middle schools 38% and elementary schools ranked 28% in referrals by school level. Discussion followed regarding some of the school's safety initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year including exits/entry procedures, building security measures, and Critical Incident Response (CIR). Dialogue ensued between the Board and the administrative team as they provided answers to Board Member's questions.

➤ SPS Instructional Overview (Information Item Only-No Action Required)

Dr. Okema Branch, Chief Academic Officer, and the Teaching and Learning team presented information to the Board regarding the 2024 Summer Series Program, focuses in Special Education, and information regarding core areas of instruction (English, Mathematics, History, and Science). They also shared information regarding professional learning, explained the academic and intervention support framework, and additional instructional programming which will provide targeted instructional support for student success. These supports will be available through SPS Saturday Academy, before and after school tutoring, and University Instructors (UI) instructional assistants (select buildings and support areas.) A total of 1,170 students participated in the 2024 Summer Series program, and 227 students participated in summer enrichment camps over the summer. Enrichment camps included STEM Extravaganza (114 students), Gifted and Talented (QUEST) Summer Academy (43 students), and Music Technology Camp (70 students). The Special Education Department will focus on High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms and High Leverage Practices for Students with Extensive Needs, which will allow staff to collaborate, participate in data-driven planning, receive instruction in behavior and academics, and provide opportunity to intensify and intervene in instruction as necessary. Each core area of instruction provided information on their focus for the 2024-2025 school year and plans with various supports for staff. All were focused on working together to support each other while providing rigorous and targeted programming that's monitored, addresses weaknesses, and will sometimes be adjusted to ensure student success. Conversation ensued between the Board and the administrative team as questions were answered.

➤ Budget Development Calendar 2025-2026

Dr. Gordon highlighted dates on the budget calendar, explained the process for receiving information regarding budget feedback from faculty, staff, community, and Board Members. Some Board Members requested more involvement in developing the budget, insight in how it works, management of the school board portion of the budget, how money is being spent and requested specific details regarding the Board's budget in order to become actively engaged in the process. They also discussed beginning this engagement sooner than October. Concerns were also expressed regarding the Board trying to create the budget.

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Budget Development Calendar for 2025-2026.

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.

Due to the late hour, Board Member Slingluff suggested allowing citizens to address the Board before finishing new business and Attorney Waller provided clarification regarding the practice.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to move the Citizens Comments on Non-Agenda Items to number four under New Business.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

➤ Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

The Clerk read the statement of decorum for the speaker who signed up to address the Board.

Dwane Sherrick (American & VA Flags Flying at Suffolk Schools and Dress Code) Mr. Sherrick expressed his concern with the uniform of certain band students. He felt that they were too revealing and does not adhere to Suffolk Public Schools' dress code. He also commented about the Commonwealth and United States flags not flying and/or the flags flying improperly at schools.

John Smith (My Son Joshua Smith and His Disability) Mr. Smith highlighted the special needs of his son. Mr. Smith was upset that his zone waiver for Joshua to continue attending NRHS was denied. Mr. Smith recently moved to the Holland area but felt that NRHS was a better fit for his son as he was thriving at that school.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

➤ 2025-2026 to 2034-2035 Capital Improvement Plan Preparation for Submittal to the City of Suffolk (Information Item Only-No Action Required)

Dr. Gordon provided information regarding the Capital Improvement Plan in preparation for submittal to the City and for discussion at the Joint City Council/School Board Meeting. He and the Board discussed various options, including keeping the CIP order the same as based on the Board's recommendation from the previous year. However, he suggested shifting the money slated for phase two of the Operations Center to phase two with a new school administrative offices building due to the division having outgrown the current facility. Discussion ensued regarding priorities listed, specific order of items in the CIP, and the payee for repairs at the current School Administrative Offices building.

➤ Payment of Bills and Payroll (June 2024)

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Payment of Bills and Payroll (June 2024).

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.

➤ Citizen Advisory Committee Board Appointees

Board Members expressed concerns regarding appointees being denied reappointment to the Citizen Advisory Committees if the individuals did not reapply for consideration.

Conversation ensued between Board Members and Attorney Waller regarding the policy for appointing citizens to each committee. Board Members did not agree with the process for applications/letters of recommendations from citizens as explained by Attorney Waller and were not comfortable finalizing appointees to committees. Some members felt that there were gray areas in the policy which convoluted the process. The Board discussed possibly tabling the item to get additional clarification of policy.

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve the appointment of persons that individual Board Members had recommended to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees, pending address verification.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 4 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff, Howell) / Abstain: 0. The motion Failed by vote of 4 to 3.

➤ Food and Nutritional Services Procurement Plan Document

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Vice-Chair Howell seconded the motion to approve the Food and Nutrition Services Procurement Plan Document.

Discussion was held due to a Board Member asking for clarification as to why this item is up for a vote this year as it was not an item last year.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

➤ Ordinance 2024/25-15, Ordinance 2024/25-16, and Ordinance 2024/25-17 (Information Items Only-No Action Required)

➤ Ordinance 2024/25-18: An Ordinance Adding Chapter 1, Article 8, Section 1-8.8 entitled “Literacy Plan” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-18.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

Board Chair Jenkins recessed the meeting for five minutes at 12:07 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 12:14 a.m.³

➤ Ordinance 2024/25-20 through Ordinance 2024/25-25 (First Read / Information Items Only-No Action Required)

➤ Ordinance 2024/25-26: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Article 6, Section 4-6.2 entitled “Appointment of Purchasing Manager and duties of the school superintendent; spot purchases by employees; department purchases; full and open competition required” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-26 to secure a purchasing manager for the start of the school year.

Discussion regarding adopting policy on the first read was discussed.

³ Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck left the meeting at 12:07 a.m.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 3 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Dr. Brooks-Buck). The motion Tied by vote of 3 to 3.

- Ordinance 2024/25-27 through Ordinance 2024/25-30, and Ordinance 2024/25-32 through Ordinance 2024/25-36 (Information Items Only-No Action Required)

- Ordinance 2024/25-37: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.1 "Search and seizure generally; unauthorized item subject to seizure defined; refusal grounds for disciplinary action" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-37.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-38: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.4 entitled "Reasonable suspicion requirements; same sex requirement" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-38.

Discussion ensued regarding parental notification when searching students, possible safeguards when students refuse to be searched, student's rights. Additional conversation was had regarding amending the language in the policy regarding parental contact prior to searching a student.

Vice Chair Howell amended her motion. She moved to send Ordinance 2024/25-38 back to the Policy Review Committee to consider additions that would identify how students are notified of their rights and that parent contact may be attempted during the search. Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 2 (Byrum, Jenkins) / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Dr. Brooks-Buck). The motion Passed by vote of 4 to 2.

- Ordinance 2024/25-39: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.5 entitled "Locker searches; students responsible for contents" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-39.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-40: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.5:1 entitled "Computer Searches; responsibility for contents; Superintendent to develop regulations" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2024/25-40.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-41: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.6 entitled “Automobile searches” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 24/25-41.

A typo was discovered in the ordinance which will be corrected.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-42: An Ordinance Adding Chapter 9, Article 15, Section 9-15.11 entitled “Consent for search” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 24/25-42.

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-43: An Ordinance Adding Chapter 9, Article 20, Section 9-20.11:3 entitled “Administering naloxone or other opioid antagonist” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board - First Reading and Adoption
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 24/25-43

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

- Ordinance 2024/25-44 through Ordinance 2024/25-47 (Information Items Only-No Action Required)
- Discussion Regarding the Transgender Policy (Information Item Only-No Action Required)
Board Member Slingluff reiterated her concern with Title IX not being upheld and the restrictions that were associated with it and the division possibly being out of compliance with the model policy by Governor Youngkin.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to send the transgender policy back to the Policy Review Committee and reviewed in comparison to the model policy.

Discussion ensued regarding Federal level changes, injunctions, and Title IX policies and how potential changes could require changes to Suffolk Public Schools’ policy/regulations. The Board suggested revisiting the transgender policy discussion once the Federal conversation is resolved.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham rescinded her motion pending additional information/resolution of the Federal cases.

BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS

➤ Comments and Reports by School Board Members:

Board Members were thankful for the presentations, reports, public speakers and for the staff's dedication to educating our students, and for the student internships. They highlighted various events like the STEM Extravaganza, National Night Out, the 3rd Annual Back To School Bash (Sept. 7th), upcoming small business/roundtable events, and the opportunity to talk with various civic leagues. Board Members congratulated the 22 summer school graduates, and the music students for their successes, constituents for their support. They also welcomed new and returning teachers to Suffolk Public Schools, and encouraged parents to sign up to volunteer in the schools. A member expressed her concerns regarding Dr. Gordon's interview with WAVY News and her misunderstanding that she believed we were going to ask kids if they have weapons at home.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Accident Report – July 2024
- Capital Projects Financial Statement
- Financial Report July 31, 2024
- Long Term Substitutes

ADJOURNMENT

➤ Adjournment of Meeting:

There being no further business, Board Chair Jenkins adjourned the August 15, 2024 School Board Meeting at 1:01 a.m.

Karen Jenkins, *School Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*