

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Thursday, August 24, 2023 ~ 5:00 P.M.
Booker T. Washington Elementary School, 204 Walnut Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Board Members Present:

Tyron Riddick, *Chair*
Heather Howell, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham
Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck
Phyllis Byrum
Karen Jenkins
Kimberly Slingluff¹

Administrative Staff Present:

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

OPENING OF MEETING

➤ Call to Order:

Board Chair Riddick called the special meeting to order at 5:05².

MOTION TO GO INTO A 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 Virginia Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

1. The discussion and consideration of Employee Appeal Number 23/24-1 as it relates to the job performance of a specific employee of the public body; and
2. The discussion and consideration of Student Appeal Number 23/24-1 as it relates to student reassignment to Turlington Woods School.

All of which is authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and (2) of the Virginia Freedom of Information act.

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

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

¹ Board Member Slingluff arrived at the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

² The meeting was delayed to allow a Board Member time to arrive.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC MEETING

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Waller read the following certification:

A Resolution of Certification of the Closed Meeting of August 24, 2023, 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.

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

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

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

- Employee Appeal #23/24-1:
Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion that the Superintendent's request to dismiss Employee Appeal Number 23/24-1 be granted for the following reasons:
 - The notice of appeal was not timely filed within five days of receipt of the superintendent's decision as required by school Board Policy Section 1-6.5(A).
 - The employee contacted a staff member who participated as a witness in this proceeding which is deemed an act of retaliation in violation of School Board Policy Section 1-5.9:1 (B).

Upon roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 3 (Brittingham, Howell, Slingluff) / Absent: 0. The motion passed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Student Appeal #23/24-1:
Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion that Student Appeal Number 23/24-1 be denied and the decision of the Student Services Review Committee be affirmed.

Upon roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 4 / Nay: 3 (Brittingham, Howell, Slingluff) / Absent: 0. The motion passed by vote of 4 to 3.

ADJOURNMENT

- Adjournment of Meeting:
Board Chair Riddick adjourned the August 24, 2023 Special School Board Meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Tyron Riddick, *Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*