

**Resolution Number 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**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk Public Schools is currently subject to court ordered desegregation that has been in effect since 1971; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk City School Board (“School Board”) would like to have the court order set aside and Suffolk Public Schools declared a unitary system — meaning that the school division has eliminated past vestiges of school segregation to the extent possible under the Green factors; and

**WHEREAS**, by order of the federal district court, entered on March 20, 2017, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division, found that the School Board has achieved unitary status by eliminating vestiges of a prior dual system of racial segregation in the areas of faculty hiring, staff assignments, extracurricular activities, transportation, and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the only area that remains unresolved, before Suffolk Public Schools can achieve unitary status, is student assignments; and

**WHEREAS**, legal counsel for the School Board has been involved in arm length negotiations with the United States Department of Justice in order to address the issue of student assignments; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board and Suffolk Public Schools have acted in good faith to eliminate past vestiges of school desegregation to the greatest extent possible.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the attorney for the School Board is hereby authorized 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 and are hereby released from court ordered desegregation.

**READ AND ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

TESTE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Approved as to both form and content:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendell M. Waller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Wendell M. Waller, *Esquire*  
*School Board Attorney*