

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
SUFFOLK CITY COUNCIL AND SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARD
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (4:00 PM)**

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

The following persons were present from Suffolk City Council:

Michael Duman, *Mayor*
Leroy Bennett, *Vice Mayor*
Roger Fawcett, *Councilman*
Donald Goldberg, *Councilman*
Timothy Johnson, *Councilman*
Lue Ward, *Councilman*
LeOtis Williams, *Councilman*

The following persons were present from Suffolk Public Schools:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Chair*
Phyllis Byrum, *Vice Chair*
Karen Jenkins
Lorita Mayo
Tyron Riddick
Sherri Story

Also Present:

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

4:00 P.M. – WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called by Mayor Duman. Mr. Duman introduced Board Chair Brooks Buck and she introduced each Board Member, Attorney Waller, Superintendent Gordon, and Board Clerk Gardner.

Mayor Duman introduced each councilman and his team.

CIP Update from Suffolk Public Schools

Superintendent Gordon related information to all regarding the CIP for Suffolk Public Schools then invited Mr. Al Moor who highlighted information from the CIP and the current proposed capital budget. Mr. Moor stated that he has worked closely with Suffolk Public Schools and their staff, RRMM and Cooperative Strategies for the report being presented.

Mr. Moor indicated that this report is a data driven report with future needs of the city and schools. Mr. Moor appreciated the efforts from Dr. Gordon and his team. Mr. Moor then introduced Duane Harver, President/CEO of RRMM who presented the Facilities Master Plan to the Board and City Council. He highlighted the following:

- All in one classroom for learning and collaborating, flexible furniture for personalized classrooms for learning and a specialty center,

- Branding, facility condition, replacement value (not to be confused with new building mentioned later in the report), building systems and components.
- FCI (Facility Condition Index) high propriety cost over current school replacement cost just gives a measurement tool to prioritize schools.
- Kilby Shores borderline poor category, the roof is currently the main concern.
- Money associated with these projects.

David Sturks, with Cooperative Strategies, spoke about the demographics.

- Looked at 10 years of enrollment history and trends over time and how it relates to birth and the overall science and art, and looked at building housing permits.
- Cohort survival methodology looks at survival trends and changes .
- Birth data should be at stable phase over time; the birth date is a direct input into the system and the population data is not a direct input.
- Housing data peaked over time before the recession and did not regain.
- Recommend making a firm plan looking at data 10 year solid but best practices every five years.
- Majority of increase projected to be at FBES and NRHS, and there is a flat decline or bump everywhere else.
- Growth is concentrated in the north and there is a decline of growth in south Suffolk.

Mr. Harver highlighted the following:

- Key factors that drive school construction: cost - dollar per square foot averages and square foot per student.
- Make the square foot per school more granular.

David Sturks stated that they do not work outside of the constraints based on the data and that this is not the first time doing this type of plan, it has been hashed out many times.

The meeting at this time was opened for questions, concerns and comments by Councilmen and School Board Members.

Dr. Gordon, Councilmen, and Board Members thanked RRMM for the detailed work with this report. Dr. Gordon indicated that will serve as our Strategic Plan moving forward.

Dr. Brooks-Buck thanked City Council for the meeting and that SPS is looking forward to working together with the City moving forward. She thanked RRMM for their presentation and for identifying the concerns expressed by the Board with various schools in our district.

Mayor Duman thanked RRMM for their presentation stating it was well anticipated. He said it addressed many issues however, he is excited with the proposal and options presented. He doesn't think that anyone can question or not agree that for our city to reach the next level of achievement, our schools must be recognized as of the best in the area.

In closing, Dr. Gordon indicated that our goal is to eliminate mobile units throughout the district and that with each year we delay, millions of dollars are added to the cost. He asked council to consider having a range of money allocated to schools every year. He stated that the facility study is very timely and was impressed with Mr. Moor and his staff for their collaboration. There was a lot of work done to get us to this place.

Mr. Moor thanked Dr. Gordon and his staff, RRMM and Cooperative Strategies and stated he is looking forward to working closely together.

There being no further business, Mayor Duman adjourned the Joint meeting of the School Board and City Council.

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, *Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*