

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**AT SUFFOLK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**Thursday, January 12, 2017 (4:30 PM)**

**OPENING OF MEETING:** The Organizational Meeting of the Suffolk City School Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Debranski, School Board Chair. Dr. Deran Whitney, Superintendent, presided over the election of Chair of the School Board.

Upon the roll being called, the follow persons were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: David Mitnick  
Enoch Copeland, *Vice Chair*  
Judith Brooks Buck, *Ph.D.*  
Linda Bouchard  
Lorraine Skeeter  
Michael Debranski, *Ed.D., Chair*  
Phyllis Byrum

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Deran R. Whitney, Superintendent  
Cynthia B. Chavis, Clerk  
Wendell M. Waller, School Board Attorney

**I. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK(S)**

1. Election of School Board Chairman for Year 2017

Nominations:

Phyllis Byrum was nominated by Linda Bouchard to serve as Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board. Dr. Michael Debranski was nominated by Judith Brooks-Buck to serve as Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board.

There being no other nominations put forth to serve as Chairman, Member David Mitnick moved, and Member Enoch Copeland seconded the motion, that the nominations for Chair of the Board for the 2017 year be closed.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote to close nominations was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0  
The motion Carried 7 – 0

Election:

The following votes were cast regarding the persons nominated to serve as Chairman:  
Upon the roll call, the following votes were recorded:

Phyllis Byrum as Chair: Aye: 3 (Bouchard, Byrum, Mitnick)  
Nay: 4 (Brooks-Buck, Copeland, Debranski, Skeeter)

Michael Debranski as Chair: Aye: 4 (Brooks-Buck, Copeland, Debranski, Skeeter)  
3 (Bouchard, Byrum, Mitnick)

The motion Carried 4 – 3 for Dr. Debranski shall serve as Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board for 2017.

2. Election of Vice Chair for Year 2017

Enoch Copeland was nominated by Linda Bouchard to serve as Vice Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board for the year 2017.

There being no other nominations put forth to serve as Vice Chair, the nominations for Vice Chair of the Board for the 2017 year were closed. Enoch Copeland shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Suffolk City School Board for the 2017 year.

3. Appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk through June 30, 2017

Member Judith Brooks-Buck moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion to appoint Cynthia B. Chavis to serve as Clerk, and Theresa Balsor to serve as Deputy Clerk of the School Board through June 30, 2017.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED 7 – 0

**II. SETTING OF SALARIES**

1. Setting of School Board Members and Chair Salaries for Year 2017

Member Linda Bouchard moved, and Member Lorraine Skeeter seconded the motion to approve an annual salary of \$10,000 for each school board member and an additional \$1,400 payable to the Chair for performance of duties required by that position.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED 7 - 0

**III. SETTING OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

1. Setting of School Board Meetings for the 2017 Calendar Year

Member Phyllis Byrum moved, and Member Judith Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve regular meetings to be held as follows for the 2017 calendar year: 4:30 pm - Public Work Meeting; 5:30 pm - Dinner/Closed Meeting; 7:00 pm - Public Meeting; to be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the City Council Chambers.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED 7 – 0

.2. Re-scheduling of April 13, 2017 Meeting (due to Spring Break) to April 20, 2017

Member Phyllis Byrum moved, and Member David Mitnick seconded the motion to approve that the April 13, 2017 meeting to be re-scheduled to April 20, 2017.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED 7 – 0

**IV. APPOINTMENTS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Approval of Board Member Appointments for Calendar Year 2017

Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Board Members to Committees as presented.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **CARRIED. 7 - 0** All appointments are for the calendar year 2017 unless otherwise noted.

*1. ACCESS Committee – Chair/Vice Chair - meets 4 times per year (March, May, September, November- 12:00-1:30 p.m. @ location TBA)*

Member– Lorraine Skeeter

*2. City Council Liaison Committee – Chair/Vice Chair - meets as needed*

Member– Michael Debranski and Enoch Copeland

*3. City School Advisory Committee on Collaborative Fiscal Concerns - 2 Members/Alternates*

Members– David Mitnick and Judith Brooks-Buck

Alternate– Lorraine Skeeter

4. Finance Committee - 2 Members / Alternates - meets as needed  
Members– Michael Debranski, Chair; Enoch Copeland, Vice Chair  
Alternates– Linda Bouchard, Judith Brooks-Buck, Phyllis Byrum, David Mitnick, Lorraine Skeeter
5. The Governor's School for the Arts - Member & Alternate - meets 4 times per year (September; January; March; May 11:00 @ SECEP Adm Offices)  
Member- Linda Bouchard; Alternate – Deran Whitney
6. Local Special Education Advisory Committee -Ex-Officio Member / Alternate - meets 6 times per year (September, November, January, March, May, July - 3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm @ KFM )  
Member– David Mitnick; Alternates- Judith Brooks-Buck; Linda Bouchard
7. The Pruden Center Joint Committee for Control - 3 Members / 1 Alternate (3-year terms) - meets 6 times per year (July, September, November, January, March, May- 5:30 p.m. on 2nd or 3rd Tuesdays @ The Pruden Center)  
Member– Enoch Copeland- term expires 12-31-2018  
Member– Lorraine Skeeter – term expires 12-31-2018  
Member–Phyllis Byrum – term expires 12-31-2018  
Alternate– David Mitnick – term expires 12-31-2018
8. Pupil Personnel Committee - Members / Alternate - meets weekly as needed (9:00 a.m. on Thursdays @ SAO)  
Members– Enoch Copeland, Linda Bouchard, Phyllis Byrum  
Alternates – Judith Brooks-Buck, Michael Debranski, David Mitnick, Lorraine Skeeter
9. School Board Policy Sub-Committee - 2 Members / Alternate -meets as needed  
Members– Enoch Copeland, Judith Brooks-Buck; Alternate- Phyllis Byrum
10. SECEP Board Member – meets 4 times per year (September, January, March, May, 1:30 p.m. @SECEP Adm. Offices in Norfolk)  
Member– Judith Brooks-Buck; Alternate – Linda Bouchard
11. Suffolk Education Foundation (SEF) Ex-Officio Member / Alternate - meets 5 times per year (January, March, May, September, November- 3rd Fridays - 8: a.m.@ SAO)  
Member– David Mitnick; Alternate – Michael Debranski
12. Virginia School Board Association ~ Voting Delegate & Alternate @ VSBA Delegate Assembly and Regional Meeting in November 2017 - Chair & Vice Chair  
Member – Michael Debranski; Alternate– Enoch Copeland
13. WHRO Governing Board of Directors - Member & Alternate - meets 4 times per year (September; December; March; June - 2nd or 3rd Tuesdays- 12:00-1:30 p.m. @ WHRO)  
Member– Linda Bouchard; Alternate– Judith Brooks-Buck

## V. SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEES

### 1. Superintendent's Designees

Member Judith Brooks-Buck moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion to appoint Dr. LaToya Harrison, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Suzanne Rice, Assistant Superintendent, as Designees to execute documents and/or to appear at meetings in the absence of the Superintendent as may be required.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the Organizational Meeting of January 12, 2017, at 4:44 p.m.

---

Michael J. Debranski, Ed.D., *Chairman*

---

Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*

