

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**AT NANSEMOND RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Thursday, January 12, 2017 ( 4:45 PM)

The meeting of the Suffolk City School Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Debranski, Chairman. The following persons were present:

Board Members:                   Linda W. Bouchard  
  Judith Brooks-Buck, Ph.D.  
  Phyllis C. Byrum  
  Enoch C. Copeland, *Vice Chair*  
  Michael J. Debranski, *Ed.D., Chair*  
  David P. Mitnick  
  Lorraine B. Skeeter

Also in Attendance:               Deran R. Whitney, Ed.D., *Superintendent*  
  Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*  
  Wendell M. Waller, *School Board Attorney*

**5:30 PM – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by Mr. Copeland, Vice Chairman.

**MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING**

School Board Member Phyllis Byrum moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion, to go into a Closed Meeting to discuss the following items and subjects pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended:

1. The discussion and/or consideration of the Personnel Report and Related Information;
2. The discussion and/or consideration of the Pupil Personnel Report;
3. The discussion and/or consideration of Student Appeal 16/17-3; and
4. The discussion and/or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where the discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of the public body and more specifically an easement to use existing roads, and to open, construct, repair, maintain and use a new vehicular roadway, on, over, and through a portion of the property known as Pioneer Elementary School.

All of which is authorized by Section 2.2-3711 (1) (2) and (3) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

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

**7:00 PM - OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by the Chairman.
2. The School Board and attending public were led in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **CERTIFICATION OF A CLOSED MEETING**

School Board Member Phyllis Byrum moved, and Member Judith Brooks-Buck seconded the motion, to approve the Resolution of Certificate of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

## **PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no speakers to come before the School Board at this time.

## **REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Good News: Jump Start Math Program and Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week  
Comments were shared regarding the Jump Start Math Program and the fun experiences while learning at the same time.
2. Energy Performance Contract – an update was provided by Mr. Napier and Trane representatives regarding the current status of the proposal.
3. Health Benefits Advisory Committee Recommendations – information regarding health benefits and recommendations from the committee were shared with the Board.
4. Calendar of Special Events: A listing of upcoming events was provided for the Board's information.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

There being no discussion requested, Board Member Phyllis Byrum moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Payment of Bills
2. School Board Meeting Minutes
3. Field Trips
4. Use of Facility – Community Church
5. Resolution: 16/17-21
6. VSBA Policy Maintenance Services Agreement

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Ordinance 16/17-27

The school board members discussed whether each felt the language changes/additions were necessary regarding this Policy Ordinance.

School Board Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Judith Brooks-Buck seconded the motion, to deny the revised Ordinance 16/17-27 as presented.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 (Copeland, Debranski, Brooks-Buck, Skeeter) Nay: 3 (Byrum, Bouchard, Mitnick) The motion Carried 4 – 3

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Changes to 2016-2017 School Calendar – Proposed Make-up Schedule, Semester Extension, and Revised Exam Schedule  
Recommended changes to the school calendar due to missed days that occurred during inclement weather were presented to the Board.

School Board Member Judith Brooks-Buck moved, and Member Lorraine Skeeter seconded the motion, to approve the changes to the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented.

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

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

1. Sidney Neighbors, Education Association of Suffolk – requested a salary increase for all staff

#### **BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

During this time on the agenda, School Board Members may provide updated reports regarding committees to which they may be assigned, or provide comments on school-related events.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items in this category are provided only for the Board's review and information. No action was required by the Board.

#### **ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEMS**

1. Personnel Report

Board Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Phyllis Byrum seconded the motion, to approve the Personnel Report as presented.

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

2. Pupil Personnel Report

Board Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Lorraine Skeeter seconded the motion, to approve the Pupil Personnel Report as presented.

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

3. Student Appeal 16/17-3

Board Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion, to table Student Appeal 16/17-3 until the next meeting.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Vice Chairman adjourned the January 12, 2017 meeting at 9:18 p.m.

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

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Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*