

MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE JOINT WORK MEETING  
OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD AND  
THE SUFFOLK CITY COUNCIL  
AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 1, 2017 ( 5:00 PM)

The Joint Work Meeting of the Suffolk City School Board and the Suffolk City Council was called to order by the Mayor of the City of Suffolk. The following persons were present:

Suffolk Public Schools:

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*

City of Suffolk:

Mayor City Council: Linda Johnson, *Mayor*  
Leroy Bennett, *Vice Mayor*  
Michael Duman  
Roger Fawcett  
Donald Goldberg  
Timothy Johnson  
Curtis Milteer  
Lue Ward

Also in Attendance: Patrick Roberts, *City Manger*  
Erika Dawley, *Clerk*  
Helivi Holland, *City Attorney*

**5:00 PM – PUBLIC WORK MEETING**

Discussion ensued between School Board Member and the Mayor and City Council Members regarding the following topics:

1. The school division's 2017-2018 Operating Budget: a snapshot of financial information and needs of the school system that affect the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget were

provided. Of particular discussion was employee salary increases, adjustments to the teacher salary scale, the division's ability compete with other local districts to recruit and retain quality teachers, and the school division's sole ownership of The Pruden Center .

2. The school division's Proposed Operations Center: information was provided indicating that replacement of the old Mt. Zion Elementary building with a new metal building would be more cost effective than renovating the existing building. With a new metal building, space can be more efficiently utilized based on the needs/requirements of the various departments that would be moved into one facility. Completion of the project would occur in phases depending on available funding and the particular department(s) to be relocated.
3. Energy Savings Performance Contracting: the energy savings audit of the school division's building has been completed and discussion occurred whether to proceed further under Energy Savings Performance Contracting. City Council had concerns regarding the effect this contract would have on the City's bond rating. The City Manager indicated appropriate action would be to work the School Superintendent to determine the immediate/critical needs to update the school division's infrastructure and possibly work on a yearly basis to address the most critical needs. The City Manager indicated he would have in-depth conversations with the School Superintendent and Trane about the actual requirements/needs of the recommended savings terms and what options may be available.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the March 1, 2017 Joint Work Meeting.

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

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Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*