

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**AT NANSEMOND RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Thursday, MARCH 9, 2017 ( 4:30 PM)

The meeting of the Suffolk City School Board was called to order by Mr. Enoch C, Copeland, Vice 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 (arrived at 4:37 pm)*  
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*

**4:30 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 Judith Brooks-Buck 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; and
2. The discussion and/or consideration of the Pupil Personnel Report.

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

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 (*Debranski- this vote only*) The motion Carried 6 – 0

**6:00 PM – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING – PRESENTATIONS**

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.
3. Recognition of 2017 Nansemond River High School Honor Graduates.

## **7:00 PM - OPENING OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by the Chairman.
2. Public/Community Input Regarding the 2017-2018 Operating Budget  
The following speakers addressed the School Board to share comments regarding the 2017-2018 Operating Budget:
  - Sidney Neighbors
  - Angelea (sp)
  - Natalie Streat
  - Kristen Sherrick
  - Angelo Stone
  - Judy Laird
  - Keeba Riddick
  - Christina Kline
  - Student
  - Sandra Wright
  - Deanna Greene
  - Mary Chandler
  - Aaron Burgess
  - Jayla Manning
  - Toni Smith
  - Student
  - Jill Donovan
  - Student

## **OPENING OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETNIG**

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 Linda Bouchard 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 following speaker appeared before the School Board at this time.

1. Kevin Alston, retired SPS Chief of Operations – school division needs to better maintain the history of its schools

## **REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Good News: Presentation of Buddy Bench from Suffolk Education Foundation (SEF) – Mr. David Mitnick provided information of the SEF's Buddy Bench project. The first 11 benches have been paid by grants and donations and will be placed at schools where children may sit if they are feeling lonely or sad. The organization will continue to raise sponsors until all schools have a Buddy Bench.

2. New Schools – Construction Update: information regarding the construction status of the new elementary and new middle school was provided.
3. 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 Judith Brooks-Buck 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. Resolutions: 16/17-17; 16/17-28; 16/17-29
5. New Name for The Pruden Center: The College and Career Academy at Pruden
6. Request for Use of Facility – Zion Community Church

Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 1 (Bouchard) The motion Carried 6 – 1

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. School Board’s Approved Financial Plan 2017-2018

Ms. W. Forsman, Executive Director- Finance, advised the General Assembly had removed the recommended bonus and replaced with a 2% raise for SOQ positions. She reviewed the proposed budget increase in local funds over last year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Scheduling of a Special Meeting to approve the School Board’s Financial Plan for 2017-2018  
School Board Member Linda Bouchard moved, and Member Judith Brooks-Buck seconded the motion, to approve the scheduling of a Work Meeting at 4:00 pm on March 15, 2017, at the School Administrative Building, for the purpose of further discussing a Financial Plan for 2017-2018.

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

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

Two of the speakers signed up to address the School Board at this time provided their comments during the 7:00 pm Public Input meeting; the other speaker to did not appear.

### **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 Linda Bouchard 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 Judith Brooks-Buck 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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the March 9, 2017 meeting at 9:16 p.m.

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

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Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*