

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**AT KING'S FORK HIGH SCHOOL**  
Thursday, May 11, 2017 (4:30 PM)

The meeting of the Suffolk City School Board was called to order by Dr. Michael J. 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*

**4:30 PM – OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by the 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;
2. The discussion and/or consideration of the Pupil Personnel Report; and
3. The discussion and/or consideration of Student Appeal 16/17-5

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

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

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

**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 King's Fork High School Honor Graduates.

## **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 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 appearing before the School Board at this time.

## **REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. New School Construction – updates of the construction status of the new elementary school and new middle school were provided.
2. Community Service Hours – staff provided information regarding the number of students who have completed the community service hours requirement. Steps taken to make student aware of this requirement and examples of how to obtain the hours was provided.
3. Calendar of Special Events: Dr. Whitney commented on several upcoming events on the listing provided to Board Members.

## **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. Resolution 16/17-30

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. School Board's Approved Financial Plan 2017-2018  
Dr. Whitney advised that, based on feedback received from teacher group meetings, he would recommend changing the teacher salary scale to reflect the same percentage increase between steps throughout the scale. Additional information regarding this change would be presented at the time the School Board will consider adoption of its final budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

## **NEW BUISNESS**

1. There was no new business for the Board to consider at this time.

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

The following speakers appeared before the School Board to address concerns regarding salaries and other funding presented in the 2017-2018 Financial Plan.

1. Angelo Stone, bus driver association
2. Natalie Rotzler, teacher
3. Sherry Story, teacher
4. Sandra Wright, bus driver
5. Deanna Greene, bus driver

## **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.

Ms. Byrum – congratulated the King’s Fork High School graduates and commended them on their community service.

Mr. Mitnick – thanked the speakers and advised that he had listened closely to their concerns; he advised he was available to speak with any employee but could not guarantee to have the answers to fully address their concerns.

Dr. Brooks-Buck – stated she was very proud of the graduating students and their accomplishments; she advised that as a board member her emphasis is on school policy, with the day-to-day operations handled by appropriate staff; she advised that every year the board has to re-evaluate how best to spend the funds received from the city, state, and federal government;

Ms. Bouchard – stated she felt the accusations against her were unwarranted as she does look into concerns brought to her attention; she indicated that the board, when determining assignment of funds, must also consider state and federal requirements, such as a federal mandate to transport homeless students, which can cost the school division \$100,000.

Dr. Whitney advised he has an open door policy and is willing to meet with anyone to review and answer questions regarding the budget or allocation of funds for materials/supplies. He stated that information regarding available science materials/supplies would be provided to address the concerns brought forward by a speaker. He also indicated that employees deserve a salary increase whenever possible as everyone is working hard and all are working together. He encouraged anyone with a past salary question to contact the finance department to determine exactly what their past salaries may have been.

## **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 Judith Brooks-Buck 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 Linda Bouchard 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 16/17-5

Board Member Enoch Copeland moved, and Member Linda Bouchard seconded the motion, to deny the request of Student Appeal 16/17-5.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the May 11, 2017 meeting.

---

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

---

Cynthia B. Chavis, *Clerk*