

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, April 11, 2024 ~ 5:00 P.M.

Suffolk City Hall, 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Board Members Present:

Karen Jenkins, *Chair*
Heather Howell, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Dawn Marie Brittingham
Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck
Phyllis Byrum
Tyron Riddick¹
Kimberly Slingluff

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent*
Wendell M. Waller, Esq., *School Board Attorney*
Tarshia L. Gardner, *Clerk*
Keesha Johnson, *Deputy Clerk*

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION

➤ Call to Order:

Board Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m.

➤ Recognition of Honor Graduates – King’s Fork High School

Dr. Gordon introduced Mr. Derrick Bryant, School Principal. Mr. Bryant stated that over Seven Million (\$7,000,000) Dollars has been awarded to the students thus far. He introduced his administrators, Assistant Principals Dr. Tonya Spruill and Melissa Zawodny. Mr. Bryant also introduced Mrs. Requizo, Counseling Director, who presented the honor graduates. Mrs. Requizo stated that to date, 930 college acceptance letters have been received by the honor graduates. Each graduate then came to the podium and introduced themselves, their parents, and stated their plans for the future. There was a total of 144 honor graduates from King’s Fork High School (70 were in attendance).

School Board Members congratulated the students, their parents, faculty and staff, and the student’s entire community who helped the students to achieve their honor status. In addition, Board Chair Jenkins recognized Assistant Principal’s as their recognition week was during spring break.

There was a brief pause in the meeting to allow students and parents who wished to exit the meeting the opportunity to do so.

➤ Special Education Plan

Dr. Gordon introduced Mrs. Towanda Shirley, Director of Special Education. Mrs. Shirley explained that the Annual Plan for the proposed budget (as it relates to 6B grants) requires a discussion regarding Federal grant funds that are received and how they will be allocated. The money can only be used to support students with disabilities, funds cannot be used for non-disabled students. The deadline to submit the report to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is May 10, 2024. Mrs. Shirley provided a breakdown of what the grant application looks like and how the funds are allocated. She highlighted the following information:

¹ Mr. Riddick arrived at 6:04 p.m. and participated in the Closed Meeting.

- Guidance provided from VDOE and a Statement of Assurance
- How students are counted and reported (as of December 1, 2023, SPS had 1,907 students.)
- Fund allocation for the Local Jail Education Programs, Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and Proportionate Set-Aside (PSA)
- The Annual Plan consists of two sections: IDEA Part B, Section 611: School-aged children (pays salaries and benefits for some special education teachers, some special education teacher assistants, job coaches and bus assistants (\$3,501,567). IDEA Part B, Section 619: Children ages 3-5 (pays salary and benefits for a special education (preschool) teacher (\$68,713).

Dr. Gordon highlighted that the overall number for special education has increased every year over the past five years; however, this does not include the total number of students with 504 plans. Additionally, he stated that the application and funds discussed is only a portion of the funding that the school division receives.

Board Members asked questions and shared their gratitude for Mrs. Shirley's thorough report and for a job well done.

- Request by Board Member Slingluff for the School Board to Discuss the Evaluation Instrument and the Process of the School Board's Evaluation of the Superintendent, School Board Attorney, and School Board Clerk

Board Chair Jenkins read the following statement:

Evaluating the performance of the school superintendent, school board attorney, and board clerk is governed by state law, guidelines of VDOE, policies of the School Board and language found in the superintendent's employment contract.

In our evaluation of the school superintendent we will be using the Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Administrators, and Superintendents adopted by the VDOE on March 17, 2022 without modifications. Any changes to the superintendent's evaluation instrument must be agreed to by the school superintendent as provided for in his employment contract.

By no later than May 9, 2024 you should have reviewed the Power Point Presentation and Training Handout Materials on VDOE website relative to evaluations of school superintendents. You must also certify in writing that you have completed the review of the materials.

By June 17, 2024 you will be provided with the evaluation instrument. You will also be provided with any documentation evidence compiled by the school superintendent, school board attorney, and school board clerk for use in evaluating their performance.

You will be given ten (10) business days to complete evaluations. Completed evaluations are to be turned in by no later than 3:30 p.m. on July 1, 2024. Evaluations received after this date, will not be considered.

Evaluations of the school superintendent and school board attorney are to be hand-delivered in a sealed envelope to the clerk of the School Board. Evaluations of the clerk

are to be hand-delivered in a sealed envelope to the Chief Finance Officer for Suffolk Public Schools.

I, along with the Vice-Chair, will aggregate the results of the individual evaluations and provide the aggregated results along with the individual Board Member evaluations to those who were evaluated. Evaluation results will be provided to those who were evaluated no later than seven days before the closed meeting of the School Board when the results are to be discussed.

I am also appointing a committee to develop an evaluation instrument for the purpose of evaluating the performance of members of the School Board. I am appointing Board Members Brittingham, Slingluff and Riddick to serve on this special committee. This Committee will issue a report on the evaluation instrument at the July 11, 2024 meeting of the School Board.

Board Member Slingluff thanked Board Chair Jenkins for the information as that is what she was requesting in order to get understanding/clarification to begin the evaluation season. She also asked if the Superintendent's evaluation would be received electronically or via bound book, and also asked for clarification of the committee set up by Board Chair Jenkins. It was agreed that the evaluation evidence would be provided via book and electronically. Board Chair Jenkins explained that the committee would be tasked with developing an instrument for the Board to complete a self-evaluation. Once the committee shares a date for their meeting, the meeting will be posted for public knowledge and attendance. The committee will be provided with a copy of the self-evaluation tool that was developed and used in previous Board self-evaluations for reference.

MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Waller read the following motion:

A motion is needed to go into a Closed Meeting to discuss the following item and subject pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended:

1. The discussion or consideration of a student disciplinary matter that would involve the disclosure of information contained in the student's scholastic record and more specifically a student appeal from the recommendation imposing a long-term suspension.

Which is authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the motion to go into a closed meeting as read by Mr. Waller.

Upon roll-call vote, the vote was: Aye: 6 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent: 1 (Riddick). The motion passed by vote of 6 to 0.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC MEETING

- Meeting Called to Order:
Board Chair Jenkins reconvened the public meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Waller read the following certification:

A Resolution of Certification of the Closed Meeting of April 11, 2024, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as Amended

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Suffolk convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires a certification by the School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of the City of Suffolk hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this resolution of certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the School Board of the City of Suffolk.

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Certification of Closed Meeting as read by Mr. Waller.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

MEETING RECESS

- Board Chair Jenkins recessed the meeting.

RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

- Meeting Called to Order:
Board Chair Jenkins called to order the regular public meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance:
The following students led all in the Pledge of Allegiance:
 - Daniel Symborski – 9th grade at NRHS
 - Emma Spaulding – 4th grader at FBES
 - Jade Vann – 3rd Grader at KSES
- Moment of Silence:
A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance.
- The Mission of Suffolk Public Schools:
Vice Chair Howell read the mission of SPS.

- Musical Selection – Col. Fred Cherry Middle School Band – Directed by Russell Andrews:
Dr. Gordon introduced Mr. Russell Andrews and the students from Col. Fred Cherry Middle school who performed a melody of music. Board Members were very appreciative of the outstanding performance of the students and band director.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ELEMENTARY REZONING

- There were no speakers regarding elementary rezoning.

ACTION ON CLOSED MEETING ITEM

- Student Appeal #23/24-1:
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Riddick seconded the motion to uphold the decision as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Approval of Agenda:
Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Board Member Slingluff suggested an adjustment to the motion as she was concerned that the verbiage listed in Items #4 (Request by Board Member Slingluff that the School Board receive, on a quarterly basis, status reports regarding school accreditation of Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School and John F. Kennedy Middle School) and #5 (Request by Board Member Slingluff that the School Board receive all questions asked and all scaled response percentages to the Suffolk Public School Climate Survey administered during the 2023-2024 school year) under New Business would limit conversation due to the way the topics are listed.

Attorney Waller shared that as long as the discussion dealt with accreditation and the climate survey, the discussion would not be limited. However, he suggested the motion should be with the understanding that the discussion under Item 4 would extend beyond the two schools listed.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion Passed by vote of 7 to 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON AGENDA TOPICS

- Citizen Comments on Agenda Items:
The Clerk read the statement of decorum for those signed up to address the Board.

Speaker Laura Welton suggested for unused snow days to be used as a gift of appreciation to give teachers a day off. She stated that she and other teachers are feeling overwhelmed and encouraged the Board to approve May 24, 2024 as a day off for faculty and staff.

REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

➤ Good News Report:

Anthonette Dickens, Communications and Community Engagement Officer, highlighted information from the Good News Report.

With April being the Month of the Military Child, Jade Pagan Abreu (Senior at NRHS) was recognized for being named Naval Station Norfolk's 2024 Youth of the Year. Ms. Abreu won the state competition and will represent the state of Virginia in the regional competition in May. She is also the first Virginia Military Youth of the Year from Naval Station Norfolk in over 10 years. Ms. Abreu was presented with a certificate by Dr. Gordon and Board Chair Jenkins. Ms. Melissa Johnson, Military Liaison, was also recognized for her outstanding work with military families in Suffolk Public Schools.

School Board Members and Dr. Gordon were presented with certificates due to SPS receiving the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation's "Best Communities for Music Education" for the second year in a row.

➤ Calendar of Special Events:

Dr. Gordon thanked Ms. Welton for addressing the Board regarding teachers having May 24th off and her concern that not all schools were able to begin spring break early like the School Administrative Offices staff. He clarified that in order to be equitable toward all faculty and staff, an email was sent to SPS employees indicating that schools that were unable to dismiss early on Friday, March 29th will be dismissed at 2 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, April 12th.

Dr. Gordon updated the total amount of scholarship money received thus far by the 144 KFHS honor graduates from Seven Million (\$7,000,000) Dollars to Twelve Million Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Two (\$12,615,792) Dollars. This new total includes athletic scholarships.

Dr. Gordon thanked Dr. Neighbours for her diligent work which helped Suffolk Public Schools receive the NAMM honor for the second time in a row. He then highlighted the events listed on the calendar of special events.

CONSENT AGENDA

➤ Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Slingluff seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

➤ Ordinance 23/24-70: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 2-2.6:1 entitled "School Board norms; protocols; violations" of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-70.

Board Member Riddick and Vice Chair Howell expressed concern regarding the additions to the policy as the changes are being forced on Board Members and the policy is unnecessary. Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck clarified that Mr. Riddick asked that the Policy Review Committee take a look at several policies (including Ordinance 23/24-70) and the changes/additions were included in the amended policy.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 4 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff, Howell) / Abstain: 0. The motion failed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Ordinance 23/24-71: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 2-2.7 entitled “School Board Standing Committees; Foundations; Special Committees” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-71.

Board Member Riddick felt that the policy was an attempt to suppress Board Members and their right to do business; and Board Member Slingluff stated that the policy did not follow an equitable process. Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck expressed her concern with their statement and asked for clarity regarding policies no longer being processed through the Policy Review Committee.

Attorney Waller provided clarity as to the roles of Board Members and those of the Policy Review Committee. He explained that the Policy Review Committee was not usurping the authority of the Board. He highlighted a concern with the Board trying to craft policies during school board meetings and the potential legal ramifications that could result if policies are not properly vetted. He also stated that the Board still has the authority to direct the Policy Review Committee to develop a policy that will suit the wishes of the Board.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 4 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff, Howell) / Abstain: 0. The motion failed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Ordinance 23/24-72: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2-3.2 entitled “Business of the School Board; meetings open to the public; agenda packets; placing items on the agenda; photographing and recording of meetings allowed; special meetings; quorum; minutes” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-72.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham expressed her concern with the policy. She felt that the ordinance would be a potential FOIA violation. Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck disagreed highlighting her trust in SPS’ legal counsel, Attorney Waller.

Board Member Riddick expressed that he will not support the policy as the current checks and balances are not sufficient for him as they are not based on a vote of the seven members of the board. Vice Chair Howell also expressed her disapproval of the policy indicating that it is restrictive and prevents time-sensitive information from being brought before the Board for immediate consideration.

Attorney Waller indicated that the policy has nothing to do with checks and balances but involves allowing the public the opportunity to comment on matters coming before the Board versus adding items to the agenda, during the meeting, and not allowing members of the public an opportunity to comment before a vote is taken. He added that the Board should be concerned about Board Members asking to add items to the agenda which impacts school academics, or directly impacts students, but not allowing parents an opportunity to voice their agreement or opposition to any such item that is added before there is a vote by the School Board. He offered an example of the parameters the Board could consider if they were to pursue adding items to the agenda during the current meeting. However, he stated that it would not be appropriate for the Board to add items to the agenda and not afford parents or other interested citizens an opportunity to speak before there is a vote taken by the School Board. This flies in the face of transparency.

Additional conversation ensued between Board Members.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 3 / Nay: 4 (Dr. Brittingham, Riddick, Slingluff, Howell) / Abstain: 0. The motion failed by vote of 4 to 3.

- Ordinance 23/24-73: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Article 20, Section 7-20.3 entitled “Search of registry of founded child abuse complaints; when applicant has resided in another state; when applicant denied employment; providing false information” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-73.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 23/24-74: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Article 24, Section 7-24.1 entitled “Assignment and Reassignment of Personnel; school year reassignments; teachers may request change in assignment” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-74.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 23/24-75: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 11, Section 9-11.3 entitled “Prohibited Conduct; ineligibility for interscholastic competition; Intervention required when student involved in drug or violent incident” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Byrum moved and Vice Chair Howell seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23/24-75.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Ordinance 23/24-76: An Ordinance Replacing Chapter 10, Article 11, Section 10-11.2 entitled “Groups Permitted to Use School Facilities; Requirements for use by religious organization; Exception to 100 day limit; Superintendent to Make Report; Superintendent to develop regulations for its implementation” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance 23/24-76.

Board Member Slingluff and Dr. Brittingham were concerned that the policy would possibly limit organizations, in a discriminatory way, the ability to use the facilities. Dr. Gordon explained that the current policy for facility use (fees and regulations) were out of date and needed to be updated to reflect upgrades to the schools, grounds, staff, and priority of use.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Local Plan and Budget for Career and Technical Education (CTE) - 2024-2025

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve the Local Plan and Budget for Career and Technical Education (CTE) as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Special Education Annual Plan

Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Special Education Annual Plan as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Resolution 23/24-29: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Amending the 2023-2024 School Calendar for Suffolk Public Schools that was Previously Approved by the School Board at its Public Meeting Held on January 12, 2023 to Include May 24, 2024 as a Non-Work Day for School Employees and a Non-Instructional Day for Students Enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools

Board Member Dr. Brittingham moved and Vice-Chair Howell seconded the motion to approve Resolution 23/24-29.

Board Members expressed their agreement to the request but also questioned if additional days could be given and/or if other times were more conducive versus the one requested. Dr. Gordon provided clarification and additional information.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Request by Board Member Slingluff that the School Board receive, on a quarterly basis, status reports regarding school accreditation of Mack Benn Jr. Elementary School and John F. Kennedy Middle School.

Board Member Slingluff explained that her request is in harmony with the goals of Suffolk Public Schools and provides transparency. She suggested that for the sake of transparency, the Board needed to be more informed about the happenings within Suffolk Public Schools. She indicated that it was explained to her when meeting with Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Instruction, that the Board should be receiving quarterly reports highlighting the following: school excellence and deficiencies in Reading and Mathematics performance, chronic absenteeism, English/Reading and Mathematics participation, English learner progress, as well as the Federal Graduation Index, as applicable. Additionally, she stated that these quarterly reports would give the Board a pulse on SPS' standings and will enable Board Members to fully engage in conversations with their constituents. Board Member Slingluff indicated that Dr. Coons told her that they should be receiving March, June, September and December quarterly reports to address those areas.

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion for the Board to direct the Superintendent to provide reports in December, March, and June of each school year updating the School Board regarding mandated assessments, attendance, and school staffing, as well as a progress update for ATSI and TSI schools.

Dr. Buck explained that reports received during various times of the year will not show success or failure. Dr. Gordon explained that the reports that Dr. Coons addressed during their conversation were designed for schools that are subject to "Improvement Plans" or a "Memorandum of Understanding" or some type of academic plan. He further explained that certain assessments are provided by different entities (i.e. College Board), and SPS has no control as to when that information is made available to schools. He also indicated that growth reports come from and are mandated by the State, therefore it would be difficult to provide specific information to the Board as those reports will not be final at the times requested. He also provided clarification regarding the criteria from the United States Department Education and the Federal indicators are different from SOL accreditation pieces. He stated that information was not intentionally being withheld, but the information just was not available.

Additional conversation ensued between Dr. Gordon and Board Members. Dr. Gordon agreed to provide the Board with a monthly attendance report, and the total number of available positions in the schools in August, and a breakdown of staffing per semester (including teacher assistants and long-term substitutes).

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion for the Board to Direct the Superintendent to provide reports in August and December for school staffing, aggregated by schools, and to also provide monthly attendance reports, aggregated by schools.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 7 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 7 to 0.

- Request by Board Member Slingluff that the School Board receive all questions asked and all scaled response percentages to the Suffolk Public School Climate Survey administered during the 2023-2024 school year.

Board Member Slingluff requested a detailed climate report (survey questions, options, standard survey, results collected) to get a pulse on the division. She felt that this information would be valuable to the Board. She also suggested outsourcing future surveys as staff who contacted her stated that they were reluctant to answer the survey honestly for fear of retaliation.

Dr. Gordon provided information regarding the surveys and how the questions relates to School Board goals and how they correlate to each. He also stated that during the climate presentations, the highs and lows, good and bad, are always given and the poorly ranked areas becomes the focus for the next year. Dr. Gordon agreed to share the questions and the percentages of how people responded to the questions with the Board.²

Additional conversation/clarification ensued between Dr. Gordon and Board Member Slingluff which caused her to revise her motion several times. The conversation concluded with Board Member Slingluff making the following motion:

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion for the Superintendent to provide the School Board with all versions of the Suffolk Public School's Climate Survey administered during March 2024, to include questions with all possible responses presented along with all survey results.

Dr. Gordon clarified that her motion was not exactly what he agreed to provide to the Board. After additional clarification between Dr. Gordon and Board Member Slingluff, she amended her motion to read:

Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion for the Superintendent to provide the School Board with all versions of the Suffolk Public School's Climate Survey administered during March 2024, to include questions with all possible responses presented along with all scaled percentages for each question of the three surveys.

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck felt that due to the confidentiality concerns discussed, to give survey data to seven different people would be counterintuitive if this is a concern that people have.

Additional conversation/clarification ensued between Board Members and Dr. Gordon.

The initial motion made by Board Member Slingluff was withdrawn, and Board Member Slingluff moved and Vice-Chair Howell seconded the motion for the Superintendent to provide the School Board with all versions of the Suffolk Public School climate survey administered during March 2024, to include questions with all possible responses presented, along with all scaled percentages for all questions in all three surveys.

Dr. Gordon suggested the removal of the words "all possible responses presented."

² In that there was no vote taken on the earlier motion, the earlier motion made by Board Member Slingluff with a second by Board Member Dr. Brittingham was deemed withdrawn.

The motion was once again withdrawn and a new motion inserted in its place. Board Member Slingluff moved and Board Member Dr. Brittingham seconded the motion for the Superintendent to provide the School Board with all versions of the Suffolk Public School climate survey administered during March 2024, to include all questions, along with all percentages, on the Likert scale, for all questions in all three surveys.

Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Dr. Brooks-Buck, Byrum) / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 5 to 2.

- Ordinance 23/24-77 through Ordinance 23/24-79
Ordinance 23/24-77 through Ordinance 23/24-79 were information items only. No action was required at this meeting.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

- Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items:
No speakers signed up to address the Board.

BUSINESS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- Comments and Reports by School Board Members:
 - Congratulated KFHS honor graduates and their scholarship accomplishments.
 - Congratulated and enjoyed CFCMS' band performance. Kudos to Dr. Neighbours and all music educators.
 - Grateful for the Board discussions and collaboration at the meeting.
 - Thanked constituents.
 - Suggested the Board to consider uniforms for elementary students.
 - Thanked everyone who attended the meeting and the staff for their presentations.
 - Thanked Dr. Gordon for collaboration, teamwork and civil dialog with the Board.
 - Attended an event at KSES, toured LHS and SWES with Dr. Coons, and enjoyed the Food Festival. Congratulated the administrators for these different events.
 - Participated in WHRO/ACCESS meetings, received School Board training through the School Board Academy provided by Family Policy Alliance Foundation, and met with parents from HES to establish a PTA at the school.
 - Announced Town Hall Meeting (April 30th, at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #6 on King's Fork Road).
 - Congratulated teachers listed in the Good New Report Spotlight section, and thanked a teacher for sharing inspiring messages via necklace for students.
 - Attended a SECEP meeting and congratulated a vocalist who performed at the Governor's School meeting. Attended and enjoyed the Fun Run.
 - Board Member Byrum announced her retirement from the Board and that she would not be seeking re-election after having been actively involved in Suffolk Public Schools for 46 years.
 - Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck announced her retirement from the Board and that she would not be seeking re-election after having been involved in public education for 53 years.
 - Thanked Dr. Brooks-Buck and Mrs. Byrum for their many years of service and unmatched wisdom they have shared with others.
 - Attended various fun sporting events.

- Looking forward to the Purple Ribbon celebration at FBES, the Policy Review Committee meeting, VSBA Tidewater Regional Network Forum, and the rezoning meeting at NPES.
- Thanked all for attending the Joint School Board and City Council meeting.
- Special shout-out to students leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Accident Report – March 2024
- Capital Projects Financial Statement
- Due to Spring Break, the Payment of Bills and Payroll March 2024 (Consent Agenda) and Financial Report March 2024 (Information Item) were unavailable. The reports will be included on the May 9, 2024 agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

➤ Adjournment of Meeting:

There being no further business, Board Chair Jenkins adjourned the April 11, 2024 School Board Meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Karen Jenkins, *School Board Chair*

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*