

# SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Monday, March 25, 2024 ~ 6:00 P.M.

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

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## **Board Members Present:**

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

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## **OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING/WORK SESSION**

- > Call to Order:  
Board Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- > Pledge of Allegiance:  
Board Chair Jenkins led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- > Moment of Silence:  
A moment of silence was observed by all in attendance.
- > Mission Statement of SPS:  
Board Chair Jenkins recited the Mission of Suffolk Public Schools.

## **SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION**

- > Budget Work Session / Discussion:  
Dr. Gordon provided a summary of the budget. Board Chair Jenkins thanked Board Members for submitting their budget feedback.

Board Chair Jenkins adjusted the order of items being considered due to Board Member Riddick needing to leave the meeting early for another engagement.

Board Member Byrum and Dr. Brooks-Buck supported the budget. Board Member Slingluff shared her concerns regarding not being able to access the Board's line item budget to determine where money is being spent. Board Member Riddick requested to see a cost comparison for additional support for the legal department.

Board Member Dr. Brittingham shared her concerns about the lack of funding and staffing for Special Education. Additional dialogue ensued between Dr. Gordon, Mrs. Forsman, and Board Members as answers/clarifications were provided for all questions asked. Board Chair Jenkins thanked the Human Resources Department staff for working diligently to fill vacant positions throughout the division.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 23/24-28: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk Approving the Budget for Suffolk Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Totaling \$242,729,721 Which Includes Local Funding from the City of Suffolk in the Amount of \$75,332,201

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve the Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk Approving the Budget for Suffolk Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Totaling \$242,729,721 Which Includes Local Funding from the City of Suffolk in the Amount of \$75,332,201.

Upon electronic vote, the vote was: Aye: 5 / Nay: 2 (Dr. Brittingham / Slingluff) / Abstain: 0. The motion passed by vote of 5 to 2.

- Resolution 23/24-25: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Honoring Belk Suffolk Department Store and Requesting That it be Named to the 2024 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve Resolution 23/24-25 as presented.

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

- VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award Nomination Application

Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck moved and Board Member Byrum seconded the motion to approve the VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award Nomination Application.

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

Board Member Riddick left the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

- Resolution 23/24-26: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Honoring Starr Motors and Requesting that it be Named to the 2024 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll

Vice Chair Howell moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve Resolution 23/24-26 as presented.

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

- Resolution 23/24-27: A Resolution of the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia Honoring United Way and Requesting That it be Named to the 2024 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll

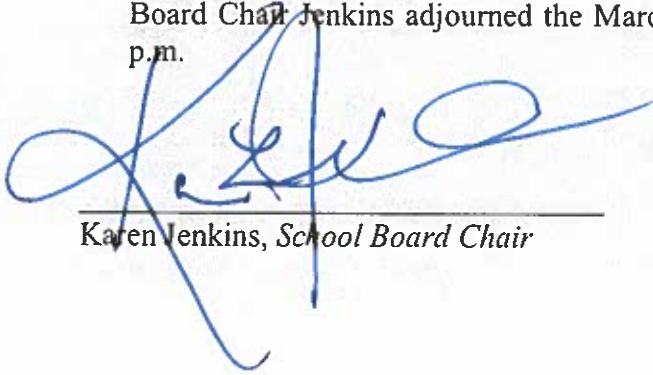
Board Member Byrum moved and Board Member Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion to approve Resolution 23/24-27 as presented.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

➤ Adjournment of Meeting:

Board Chair Jenkins adjourned the March 25, 2024 Special School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen Jenkins, *School Board Chair*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tarshia L. Gardner', written in a cursive style above a horizontal line.

Tarshia L. Gardner, *Board Clerk*

2

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, appearing as a scribble.