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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**School Board Approves Weekly Asynchronous Learning Days**

NORFOLK, VA – In its meeting on October 7, 2020, the Norfolk School Board approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to create an asynchronous student learning day every Wednesday beginning on October 14, 2020.

“We have been listening to our families and our teachers, many of whom are sharing that students need a break from their online screen time,” said Superintendent Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong. “At the outset of this school year, we pledged to continually review and revise online learning schedules as needed to improve the virtual learning experience for our students, which I believe this will do.”

An asynchronous student learning day means that students will have time to complete independent assignments at their own pace. This day will give teachers the opportunity for additional time to fully support student learning. The workday will include the opportunity to plan, grade, participate in professional development, come to school to set up their classrooms, and communicate with students and parents. Teachers will be able to continue to telework as well as set aside time to report to their buildings to work in their classrooms.

The asynchronous Wednesdays will still count as school days, and student attendance will be taken based on the assignments teachers require students to complete. Secondary students will still follow the A/B schedule as posted on the academic calendar; therefore, each week will have either an A or a B asynchronous day for students on Wednesdays.

The School Board will continue to discuss students’ return to in-person learning at its next meeting on October 21.

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Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) is on a mission to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning, and become successful contributors to a global society. We believe Norfolk Public Schools is the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community with highly qualified teachers and staff dedicated to providing diverse teaching and learning opportunities for all students.