

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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SUFFOLK, VA (October 2, 2009) A fifty-nine year old Suffolk man was arrested yesterday on Grand Jury indictments for aggravated sexual battery and indecent liberties with a child. Paul Andrew Bess is alleged to have sexually assaulted a seven year old child in June.

Bess, of the 100 block of N. Main Street, is an employee of Suffolk Public Schools. The alleged assault occurred at Nansemond Parkway Elementary, where Bess was a teacher's assistant.

Bess turned himself in to police yesterday. He is currently being held in Western Tidewater Regional Jail with no bond.

With regards to Bess' employment status, Bethanne Bradshaw, Public Information Officer for Suffolk Public Schools advised, "In light of the allegations and arrest, Bess has been removed from all school responsibilities and placed on administrative leave. At the time Bess was hired in August 2006, a successful background check was completed. He has since had exemplary evaluations."

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