

1201 S. Briggs Avenue
Suite 210
Durham, NC 27703

919-403-6960
Fax 919-403-6963

www.dpfc.net

December 21, 2009

Board of Education
Durham Public Schools
511 Cleveland Street, PO Box 30002
Durham, NC 27702

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at Durham's Partnership for Children, we want to express our gratitude for the collaborative relationship we have built between the systems of early childhood and the public K-12 education in Durham.

The Partnership's relationship with [REDACTED] has been positive as the groups tackle the challenges of our young children. [REDACTED] has always been a strong supporter of early childhood efforts. [REDACTED] understands so well that early childhood investments provide the needed support to prepare young children for school, and to help them become ready to learn and succeed in school and life. Our joint Transition To Kindergarten Initiative has not just made great progress, it has garnered attention from multiple other counties as well as state leaders in early childhood and public education.

[REDACTED] we understand that you now have embarked on a huge task to fill [REDACTED] critical position as superintendent of Durham Public Schools. As you consider candidates, we encourage you to look for a visionary leader, someone who understands the importance of early childhood education as the foundation for public education and can take the work we have done in Durham County to the next level. We, Durham's Partnership for Children, stand ready to support you!

Again, thank you for your support of the early childhood system and we look forward to our continued partnership!

Sincerely,

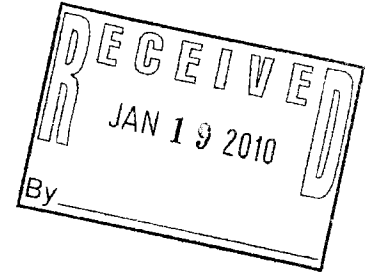
Angie Welsh
Chair, Board of Directors

Marsha Basloe
Executive Director



January 14, 2010

Allison Schafer
NC School Boards Association
PO Box 97877
Raleigh, NC 27624-7877



Dear Ms. Schafer:

In December 2009, on behalf of our Board of Director's, we sent a statement to Durham Public School's School Board of Education. As the search for a new Superintendent for Durham Public Schools continue, we want to make sure you are aware of this letter. Please find a copy enclosed.

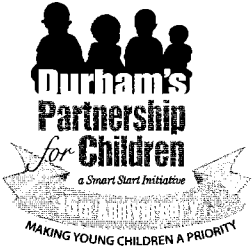
If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience at marsha@dpfc.net or via phone at 919-403-6960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Basloe".

Marsha Basloe, Executive Director

Durham's Partnership for Children



1201 S. Briggs Avenue
Suite 210
Durham, NC 27703

919-403-6960
Fax 919-403-6963

www.dpfc.net



Statement from Superintendent's Business Advisory Council
Regarding Superintendent Search for Durham Public Schools
Submitted by Victor Velazquez, Vice-Chair, Superintendent's Business Advisory Council and
Vice-President of Strategy and Human Resources, American Institute of Certified Public
Accountants
January 20, 2010

As the Durham Public Schools Board of Education searches for its next leader, the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council is eager to share input on our vision for the qualities this individual should possess and then to work closely with the new Superintendent upon his or her taking office. [REDACTED] the Business Advisory Council to better engage the area business community with its schools, and that is exactly what has happened. So much so in fact that we welcome the next Superintendent involving us even more in supporting DPS principals, teachers and students.

Simply put, we want the next Superintendent to take the initiatives [REDACTED] established to the next level in every way. [REDACTED] solicited input, encouraged involvement and fostered innovation. The next Superintendent should reinforce these efforts in the quest to make DPS a shining star across our state and throughout the nation. [REDACTED] significant impact in six specific areas, and we invite the new Superintendent to consider continuing his or her focus around them. They are:

- Leadership: Top-quality leaders in every school are what we must have to continue to improve. [REDACTED] that the best schools have seasoned and effective leaders. The business community supported this tenet by recognizing school leaders for excellence.
- Innovation: Small high schools, the state's second public Montessori middle school, a career center and more are among the innovations [REDACTED]. The next leader has our support to put in place new ideas, programs and policies that will make Durham not only a leader in business innovation but also first in academic innovation.
- Accountability: The Business Advisory Council rewards school leaders for progress on school Scorecards, the comprehensive reports on which each school is measured. These scorecards hold school leadership teams accountable for reaching goals in a number of important areas. The new Superintendent should be pleased to have such an accountability system already firmly in place, and we urge him or her to discover ways to embolden it.
- Student Achievement: Academically, DPS has shown some improvement. The Business Advisory Council, however, supports changes deemed necessary by the next Superintendent to ensure that DPS students are scoring at the highest levels and are competitive with their peers.
- Career/College Prep: Every student must spend his or her high school years preparing for the next level of learning, whether college or work. [REDACTED] most concerned that the Career and Technical Education programs in DPS high schools prepare students for jobs and [REDACTED] engaged the business community to make this happen. We ask the new Superintendent to take a comprehensive look at the workforce preparedness programs and ensure that these are sound programs that are true models of the workplace students will enter. Students who will attend college also need to be prepared with the most challenging and academically rigorous courses. The Business Advisory Council supports rigorous honors and Advanced Placement courses at

all high schools and strategies to encourage students to focus on high-level preparation for college.

Communications: [REDACTED] rolled out the welcome mat for businesses, parents and community agencies, the new Superintendent must be open and willing to engage the community on many levels. People in Durham care about their schools and want to help improve them. That is a bonus to any new person who is coming in to this area, and we welcome the opportunity to find new and better ways to be engaged.

It's a great thing to live, work and play in Durham. Our community is so attractive in so many ways. We know that the next Superintendent will find this to be a wonderful place to do amazing things. The business leaders of Durham stand ready to help this person make the Durham schools second to none.

One day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.

TEACHFORAMERICA

January 20, 2010

Ms. Allison Schafer
NC School Boards Association
PO Box 97877
Raleigh, NC 27624-7877

Dear Ms. Schafer:

Teach For America – Eastern North Carolina has been privileged to partner with Durham Public Schools for the past ten years, bringing passionate and effective teachers and leaders to the system’s highest-need schools. I appreciate this opportunity to share our perspective on the leadership qualities necessary for the next superintendent of Durham Public Schools.

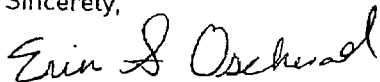
Significant transformations in school systems throughout this country are driven by leaders who consistently put children and their educational success above all other concerns. In Durham, this means that our new superintendent must make closing the achievement gap that persists between children in schools serving low-income areas of Durham, and schools serving wealthier areas, the number one priority. This achievement gap has serious implications for the future of our children, our city, and our state. It cripples our workforce and our ability to attract new investments, debilitates our overall economy, and saps the cultural power of our vibrant city.

But there is good news – schools across America have demonstrated that the achievement gap is a solvable problem, and this community is well-positioned to eradicate it. We need a leader who will galvanize Durham’s abundant talent and pride, and commit to ensuring that within the next five years, every single student in Durham will have access to an excellent education.

The new superintendent must possess a clear and compelling plan for achieving the vision of systematically raising student achievement for all of Durham’s students. This leader must work relentlessly towards that mission and inspire others – principals, teachers, parents, students, and community members – to do the same. He or she must be adept at identifying the issues contributing to the achievement gap in Durham and demand that we scale up viable solutions.

None of this will be easy. Even scaling strategies with proven results – such as putting the best teachers and school leaders in front of the students who are furthest behind and holding every child and adult in the district accountable to achieving ambitious and measurable results – will prove challenging. Only a bold leader with a proven track record of success and a great deal of tenacity, integrity, and an absolute intolerance for mediocrity can ensure that all of our students have the opportunities they deserve. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to finding this leader for Durham Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Erin Swanson Oswald
Executive Director
Teach For America – Eastern North Carolina



AN AMERICORPS PROGRAM

324 Blackwell Street, Bay 11, Suite 1160 • Durham, NC 27701 • P 919 597-7200 F 919 597-7272 • www.teachforamerica.org