

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 26, 2011

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 6:32 p.m. in the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, North Carolina.

Board members present: Minnie Forte-Brown, Chair; Heidi Carter, Vice Chair; Natalie Beyer, Leigh Bordley, Nancy Cox; Pastor Fredrick Davis, and Omega Curtis Parker.

Administrators present: Dr. Eric J. Becoats, Superintendent; Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Chief of Staff; Dr. Julie Spencer, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services; and Eunice Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services.

Attorney present: Ken Soo

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Chairman Forte-Brown called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in her opening statement. A moment of silence was observed.

Celebrations

Superintendent Becoats made the following introductions:

- **Poem by Spoken Ink** - Dr. Becoats introduced Spoken Ink, a group of seven Jordan High School students who recently won the Word Rivalry competition sponsored by Sacrificial Poets, a youth poetry organization for students 13-19 years old. The students performed a poem entitled "Durham." In the audience supporting the group was Greg Newlin, principal, Lisa Rubenstein and Daniel Riley, English teachers/advisors. Dr. Becoats thanked the students, saying their performance was "awesome" and he invited them to walk the red carpet.
- **Elementary Battle of the Books Winner** – Mangum Elementary School won this year's competition beating out 11 other schools. Mary Gray Leonard congratulated the students for their hard work and thanked the coaches, administrators and parents for their support. Ms. Leonard presented a plaque to Sandy Poston and Sandy Goodwin who coached the Mangum team. Dr. Becoats recognized parents who were in the audience.
- **Duke University's DPS Students of the Week** - This program spotlights students who distinguish themselves with character and integrity. The following students were featured in *The Herald Sun* in April and May: Glenda Calles, Githens Middle; Selinia McKenzie, Southern High; Manuel Esperanza, Clement Early College High; Simone Wilder, Pearson Middle; and Michael Spears, Rogers-Herr Middle.

Ms. Valerie Andrews, principal of Pearson Middle, highlighted Simone Wilder who was described Simone as a bright, serious-minded student who works very hard. In the audience supporting Simone were her parents and members of the 7th grade team at Pearson Middle.

- **Bus Drivers of the Year** - Before introducing the DPS Bus Drivers for 2011, Scott Denton proudly announced that DPS bus driver, Mike Cunningham, finished 4th in the State Rodeo Competition held in Raleigh today.

Mr. Denton and area transportation managers recognized the following Drivers and Monitors of the Year:

- Southwest Transportation
Driver: Audrey Jefferson, Bus 457 (Hope Valley Elementary and Jordan High)
Monitor: Alberta Trent, Bus 178 (Jordan High, Forest View Elementary)
- Northern Transportation
Driver: Walter Brown, Bus 52 (Carrington Middle, George Watts and Club Blvd. Elementary Schools)
Monitor: Brodie Cozart (Special Needs buses)
- Southeast Transportation
Driver: Cynthia Riddick, Bus 73 (Neal and Lakewood Montessori Middle Schools, George Watts and Club Blvd. Elementary Schools)
Monitor: James Holeman, Bus 84 (Southern High School, Merrick-Moore and Glenn Elementary Schools)

Each driver and monitor was highly complimented and praised for their exemplary work ethic and their dedication to the students they serve every day.

- Chairman Forte-Brown took time to celebrate students, teachers and parents for their diligence in preparing for the middle school EOGs.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Becoats thanked the board for the opportunity to provide the following update:

- Dr. Becoats shared that yesterday he visited Carrington Middle School and saw first-hand the success of a program started by Mr. Jeff Whitt, a 1st year DPS teacher. The program entitled "CATCH" (Caring About the Concepts that Help) is a peer mentoring program where students learn from one another. Dr. Becoats talked to the students and learned that they want to do better, want to learn, and love the fact that this comes from students their own age. Dr. Becoats congratulated Mr. Whitt for the success of his program and acknowledged Principal Holly Emanuel for doing great things at Carrington Middle School. CATCH will be highlighted in the monthly *BullsEye Update*.

- Dr. Becoats informed the Board that DPS Administration continues to observe the actions of legislators in Raleigh. The Senate has prepared a budget that is now under discussion and debate. DPS Administration will watch to see how DPS is specifically impacted.
- Dr. Becoats shared that due to actions of our Board, teaching positions that were initially slated to be eliminated were retained within the district. DPS Administration has reviewed the equity formula for allotting base teachers to schools and as a result, Administration's goal is to ensure that schools maintain, as much as possible, the same number of base teachers they had in 2010-11 for 2011-12 – keeping in mind that a projected decrease in enrollment may mean a decrease in teachers, but where it is not, the goal is to try to maintain the same number of teachers as much as possible at the current school levels.
- On May 31, 2011, a meeting is scheduled with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the DPS budget. Administration's expectation is that the County will fully fund the Board's request as submitted on May 13.
- Lastly, Dr. Becoats shared that high school end-of-course testing starts next week. He encouraged high school parents to support their high schoolers just as they supported their middle schoolers.

Agenda Review and Approval

Recommendation: Action

On a motion by Ms. Carter; seconded by Ms. Bordley; the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

General Public Comment

One person signed up to speak and was allotted 3 minutes:

- Perianne Davis' requested that the Board look into how students are assigned to Durham School of the Arts (DSA). Her concern was that academically and artistically gifted students do not have any advantages to accessing enrollment.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval was March 24, 2011 open session. On a motion by Ms. Bordley; seconded by Ms. Beyer; the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Consent Agenda

Recommendation: Action

Chairman Forte-Brown stated that all Consent Agenda items were thoroughly discussed in committee.

- a. Hillside High School – Cell Tower Lease
- b. Lakewood Montessori Middle School – Construction Change Order - #007
- c. Lakewood Montessori Middle School – Construction Change Order - #008
- d. New Middle 'B' – Voluntary Annexation Petition Program
- e. Club Boulevard Elementary School – Change Order for Renovation
- f. Waste and Recycling Contract

- g. Contract for Invision Services
- h. 2012-2013 Traditional School Calendar Proposal
- i. 2012-2013 Year Round School Calendar Proposal

On a motion by Ms. Carter; seconded by Ms. Bordley; the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

Reports of the Committees

I. Support Services, Omega Curtis Parker, Chair

A. Proposed Board Policy 4117 – *Foreign Exchange Student Policy* - First Reading Recommendation: Action

Public Comment: None

Ms. Parker did not attend the meeting and yielded to Ms. Cox.

Ms. Cox introduced Eunice Sanders to present Support Service items.

Ms. Sanders stated that Proposed Board Policy 4117 – *Foreign Exchange Student Policy* outlines the procedures for assignment of foreign exchange students. The policy allows for DPS student placement only if the exchange organization meets the standards established by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.

Ms. Sanders recognized Donna Hudson, Director of Student Assignment. Ms. Hudson submitted Policy 4117 – *Foreign Exchange Student Policy* to the Board for first reading and subsequent approval.

Chairman Forte-Brown commented that this policy has been thoroughly discussed and questions have been answered.

Ms. Bordley made a motion to take this policy back to committee. The motion was not seconded.

Pastor Davis made a motion to approve Policy 4117 and waive second reading. Ms. Parker seconded the motion. There being no discussion and by a show of hands, the motion failed 3 to 4. Voting no was Ms. Cox, Ms. Bordley, Ms. Carter and Ms. Beyer.

Ms. Carter made a substitute motion to bring the policy back to the Board for second reading at the June board meeting. In response to Attorney Soo's question, Ms. Carter clarified that the motion would include approval of first reading. Ms. Carter's motion, with the inclusion of first reading, was seconded by Ms. Bordley.

Discussion:

Policy issues were raised. Ms. Bordley requested that Mr. Soo provide clarification. Mr. Soo read from Policy 1400 – *Policy Development*, “Policies introduced and recommended to the Board at a meeting shall not be adopted until a subsequent meeting.” He commented that this usually allows time for public input. He added that typically Boards will bring these types of items back on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Carter moved to amend her motion to approve Policy 4117 – *Foreign Exchange Students Policy* on first reading and that it be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Beyer. With no discussion, and by a show of hands, the motion passed 4 to 3. Voting no was Chairman Forte-Brown, Pastor Davis and Ms. Parker.

Pastor Davis asked Mr. Soo if second reading was a state rule. Mr. Soo stated that it is not a state rule, so if it is DPS practice and in writing, it is a DPS rule.

Ms. Cox and Ms. Bordley shared their thoughts concerning second reading and following Board policy. Ms. Carter commented that maybe the Board should discuss revising the policy, since the Board does waive second reading a lot.

I. Support Services, Omega Curtis Parker, Chair
B. Revised Board Policy 4131 – Magnet Schools - First Reading
Recommendation: Discussion and Action

Public Comment: None

Ms. Sanders stated that Policy 4131 – *Magnet Schools* was revised at the Board’s request. The revision allows students who relocate to Durham and were enrolled in an International Baccalaureate (IB) program to receive consideration as a late applicant into an IB program without regard to space availability.

Ms. Hudson submitted Section 4131.2(G) for approval on first reading. Ms. Hudson stated that the revision will remove the wording – “if there is space available in the school and the grade level requested.”

Ms. Parker made a motion to approve Policy 4131 on first reading and waive second reading. The motion died with no second.

In response to Chairman Forte-Brown, Ms. Hudson stated that there was no time sensitivity to approving this policy. Discussion continued about the validity to take policies such as this back to committee for second reading.

Pastor Davis read the proposed revision and asked Ms. Hudson about the person coming into DPS – Would the newcomer take preference over a citizen of Durham?

In answering “yes,” Ms. Hudson explained that an incoming student would already be enrolled in an IB program, and would have a space in DPS. She commented that the IB programs are the same across the country.

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve first reading, take Policy 4131 back to committee for second reading and be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June board meeting. Ms. Beyer seconded the motion.

Chairman Forte-Brown restated the motion and asked for a show of hands on the vote. The motion passed 4 to 3. Voting no was Chairman Forte-Brown, Pastor Davis, and Ms. Parker.

II. Instructional Services, Leigh Bordley, Chair

A. Revised Board Policy 3040 and Revised Policy 5150 Technology Acceptable Use Policy - Second Reading

Recommendation: Action

Public Comment: None

Chairman Forte-Brown recognized Ms. Bordley.

Ms. Bordley yielded to Ms. Carter, who chaired the committee meeting.

Ms. Carter presented an overview of the meeting. She commented that in addition to the items brought forward, other topics discussed included a report on the literacy framework, the Career/Technical Education program, and online course opportunities.

Ms. Carter introduced Dr. Spencer to begin the discussion.

Dr. Spencer stated that Policy 3040/5150 is now one unified policy that will apply to all users of technology in DPS. It was submitted for approval on second reading.

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve Policy 3040 and 5150 on second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bordley.

Ms. Beyer referred to Page 8 of the policy and pointed out discrepancies in the numbering. Dr. Spencer said this was a computer formatting error and would be corrected.

Ms. Carter referred to Page 2 in Section 3040.2/5150.2 #1 where it reads, “Use of school system technological resources for commercial or profit or amusement or entertainment is prohibited.” Ms. Carter was interested in knowing how this statement relates to the use of videos in schools and whether the use of videos for entertainment in DPS is ever disallowed in schools. Dr. Spencer stated that two DPS policies address this, *Selection and Reconsideration of Instructional Resources* and *Use of Videos*. Ms. Carter emphasized that policy regarding this matter should be followed. Ms. Cox pointed out that this may be “tricky” as in the case of the PTA using the

projector and TV monitor on parent night. Ms. Carter suggested adding “during the school day” to the wording.

Mr. Soo commented that the intent of this section is to prevent people from using DPS facilities for nonschool purposes. He stated that keeping people occupied while school business is going on is probably for a school purpose and not for an amusement purpose. He added that you don’t want to say “during school day” because you don’t want people hijacking your network for entertainment purposes or large-scale commercial purposes. Mr. Soo also made the point that “use of school technological resources for commercial or profit” doesn’t make sense. The word commercial should be replaced with commerce.

Other discussion items included the wording on Page 5 Section 3040.7/5150.7 “timely notify;” Page 3 #12 regarding “Views may be expressed...only with prior approval by the Superintendent or Designee;” and Page 4 #14 “Harassment includes....jokes.” There were no changes forthcoming from the discussion.

Chairman Forte-Brown restated the motion and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Spencer thanked Elaine Glass and Mary Gray Leonard for their research and work.

II. Instructional Services, Leigh Bordley, Chair

B. Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program Update

Recommendation: Information

Public Comment: None

Dr. Spencer and Beth Cross, Director of Advanced Academics, submitted the AIG Program 2010-2013 for information. The 3-yr AIG Plan is a requirement of the NC State Board of Education and the NC General Assembly.

Dr. Spencer’s report included:

- The April 1, 2011 headcount shows 6,333 AIG students, 19.7% of the DPS student body.
- System-wide goals include a K-2 nurturing program, communication, acceleration, and professional development.
- AIG in the DPS Strategic Plan provides an array of strategies from providing an evaluation of the program to providing enrichment-type programs for students such as SAT, AP, and other co-curricular activities.
- Dr. Spencer briefly talked about each of the following six standards within the 3-yr plan.
 - 1: Student Identification
 - 2: Differentiated Curriculum & Instruction
 - 3: Personnel and Professional Development
 - 4: Comprehensive Programming within Total School Community
 - 5: Partnerships
 - 6: Program Accountability

- Challenges include pending budget cuts, balance of nurturing/identification of K-2 students, personnel (principals, AIG facilitators) retiring/leaving DPS.

Dr. Spencer thanked Diana Lisle, a member of the steering committee, and Dorlicia Roundtree Young from Githens Middle School.

Ms. Cross emphasized that Diana and Dorlicia represent a group of AIG facilitators and teachers who work very hard every day in the name of our gifted learners. Ms. Cross shared that they also aggressively search to appropriately identify K-8 students in order to serve them.

Ms. Cross also pointed out that USTARS (Using Science Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students – Promoting Learning for Underrepresented Students) is a wonderful model that brings hands-on science activities to the classroom, differentiated curriculum and instruction, professional development for teachers, and science kits that go home to promote family participation. She is excited to bring the program to all DPS schools.

Ms. Carter shared that she is very proud of the Advanced Academics department.

In response to Pastor Davis' request, Ms. Cross explained the process by which parents, and especially parents of elementary school students, can find out how their children may be placed in AIG in DPS.

Ms. Bordley requested that Ms. Cross share information about the AIG challenge regarding transitioning of principals and staff. Ms. Cross explained that this has to do with communication and training. When a principal leaves DPS, he/she takes valuable training and knowledge with them. The challenge is to retrain and redevelop. Ms. Cross emphasized that communication and training are continuous.

Ms. Beyer requested that Ms. Cross share information about PAGE. Ms. Cross shared that PAGE stands for Partners for the Advancement of Gifted Education. The program provides enrichment and serves as a communication tool for AIG students and parents.

II. Instructional Services, Leigh Bordley, Chair

C. AdvancED Update

Recommendation: Information

Public Comment: None

Dr. Spencer submitted this to the Board for information.

Dr. Spencer stated that AdvancED is a parent organization for several smaller accrediting organizations that provides accreditation, research, and professional services to public and private schools and school districts around the world. DPS is currently a candidate for district accreditation. This is the first district accreditation for DPS. District accreditation is a system-

wide endeavor that builds and supports the system's ability to provide leadership for systematic continuous improvement.

The Cornerstones of Accreditation are to (1) meet standards for organizational effectiveness, (2) engage in continuous improvement, and (3) demonstrate quality assurance.

DPS expectations are: to meet the AdvancED standards, to show continuous improvement, to be prepared for the Quality Assurance Review (QAR), and to be prepared to respond to the recommendation of the QAR team.

Dr Spencer stated that staff is currently working on the Standard Assessment Report (SAR), a self-assessment of how DPS is progressing. This report will be submitted prior to an external review visit. The Quality Assurance team is scheduled to visit DPS September 18-21, 2011. The team will meet the district staff and stakeholders, visit a representative sample of schools, conduct interviews, provide feedback, present findings, and make an accreditation recommendation.

Chairman Forte-Brown thanked Dr. Spencer for her presentation.

Closed Session Motion

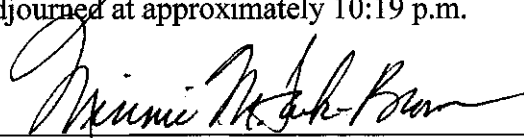
Chairman Forte-Brown called for a motion to convene in closed session to consider confidential personnel matters under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319, to consider confidential student information protected under NCGS 115C-402 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC 1232g and to consult with an attorney pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3).

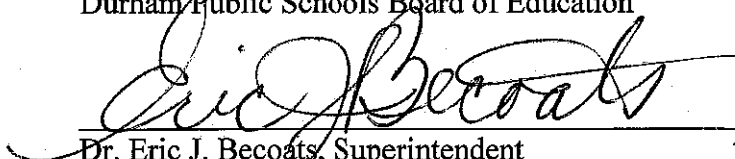
Ms. Bordley made a motion to convene in closed session for the purposes stated. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cox and passed unanimously. The Board convened in closed session at approximately 8:02 p.m.

Open Session

The Board returned to open session at approximately 10:18 p.m. Superintendent Becoats recommended approval of the Personnel Reports and Substitute Teacher List dated May 26, 2011. On a motion by Ms. Carter, seconded by Ms. Bordley, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:19 p.m.


Minnie M. Forte Brown, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education


Dr. Eric J. Becoats, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools