



*One Vision. One Durham.*

## *Durham Public Schools Board of Education – August 29, 2014*

### **BOE Regular Meeting Highlights from August 28**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2014, and considered an agenda that included the following highlights:

**Board Chair Heidi Carter** extended a warm welcome to everyone present and to all the television viewers. She promised that the meeting would be rich in information that would support and enhance the vision statement of Durham Public Schools. The standing committees of the Board presented information and reports that keep the public informed on what the district is doing to ensure that the vision of success for every child is realized.

### *Celebrations:*

**Chief Communications Officer, Chrissy Pearson**, recognized the following:

***Duke University's DPS Student of the Month*** – This program spotlights students who distinguish themselves with character and integrity.

**Mattiyah Jones, The School for Creative Studies – August Student of the Month.** Principal Renee Price introduced Mattiyah Jones who has been named the Duke University Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for August. The School for Creative Studies sophomore holds a 2.67 weighted GPA and is a member of the Choir Club, the Spoken Word Club, the Student Advisory Council, Students Against Violence Everywhere, and Tithe One On -an organization based on showing random acts of kindness. Mattiyah is also involved in the P.R.O.U.D (Personal Responsibility to Overcome with Understanding and Determination) Program of Durham, a program that seeks to offer enrichment activities and life-skills training for at-risk youth. She notes that she loves pushing herself and seeing what she can achieve. For fun, Mattiyah likes to write songs, write poetry, and paint. Her favorite subject is math and she hopes to someday work with special education students or study neurogenetics at Howard University or UNC-Chapel Hill. Mattiyah says she credits her mom for being an inspiration and always putting her children first no matter what. Mattiyah received a certificate and she was invited to walk the red carpet.

## **SOAR –**

Ms. Jackie Love, the DPS Homeless Liaison, shared comments about the SOAR program. The acronym SOAR means Students are Obtaining Skills, Achieving Academic Success, and Realizing their Potential. SOAR is a 7-week academic and enrichment program for homeless and at-risk students. SOAR was created to support our homeless students academically during the summer in hopes of decreasing their summer loss. This is the third year that we have operated the SOAR program. This year we enrolled more than 100 students, although the daily enrollment fluctuated. The highlight of the program was the SOAR store. Students received money (SOAR Bucks) as a reward for exhibiting good behaviors. The students shopped weekly with donations from the community. Additionally, the students received tutoring in the morning from certified DPS teachers and participated in a variety of academic and enrichment activities in the afternoon. They received weekend backpacks filled with food from PORCH Durham and Calvary Baptist Church.

Ms. Love said on behalf of the SOAR program and DPS Student Services, she would like to acknowledge the DPS team who helped to make this program a success and the community partners who made generous contributions. They were all invited to walk the red carpet.

### **Board of Education:**

Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair

### **Durham Public School's Staff:**

LaManda Pryor (Principal – W.G. Pearson)

Tammorah Mathis (Dean of Students – W.G. Pearson)

Jackie Battle Love (Homeless Liaison)

Tracey Super-Edwards (Coordinator of Extended Learning)

Teresa Dafford (Elementary Specialist)

Lisa Wilson (Elementary Specialist)

Bridget James (Manager)

Sherina Farmer (Asst. Manager)

### **Community Partners:**

Calvary Baptist Church (GUM Drop Ministry)

PORCH – Durham (Backpack Buddies Program)

Theresa Jones (Donations)

Calleen Herbert (Donations)

### **Teacher Spotlight -**

Ms. Pearson introduced Juliana Mendelsohn, a 5th Grade teacher at Mangum. After hearing about the delayed school opening in Ferguson, Missouri, Ms. Mendelsohn became concerned about students who receive free and reduced lunches going without. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching, she decided to create an online fundraising campaign which has caught national attention. To date she has raised over \$154k for the children of Ferguson. We are truly proud to call her one of our own. Ms. Mendelsohn was presented with a certificate and invited to walk the red carpet.

### **New Principals and Transfers –**

Dr. L'Homme acknowledged all the new Principals. He said that during the summer, nine principals took on new assignments in our schools, either as new principals or veterans moving to a new challenge. All of us in Central Services are committed to supporting them in their new roles, just as they are committed to serving their school communities, supporting their teachers and staff, and encouraging greatness within their students. He welcomed the following new principals:

**Burton Elementary School- Dr. Kimberly Ferrell**  
**Club Boulevard Elementary School- Christian Hairston**  
**Jordan High School- David Malechek**  
**Lowe's Grove Middle School- Dr. Tekeisha Mitchell**  
**Mangum Elementary School- Karen Kellett**  
**Sandy Ridge Elementary School – Keri Pitchford**  
**Southern School of Energy and Sustainability - Jerome Leathers**  
**Soutwest Elementary School- Nicholas Rotosky**  
Each Principal was congratulated and invited to walk the red carpet.

*Community Partners*

**Carayons2Calculators -**

Ms. Pearson introduced the Community Partner, Crayons2Calculators, who aims to serve the educational and creative needs of students in the Durham Public School system by providing free school supplies to classroom teachers. Supplies help teachers be more effective and efficient in their quest to educate the next generation. Crayons2Calculators aims to serve the educational and creative needs of students in the Durham Public School system by providing free school supplies to classroom teachers. Supplies help teachers be more effective and efficient in their quest to educate the next generation. They operate a free warehouse store in Durham where teachers can "shop" for supplies. Teachers from the highest poverty schools are invited to come into the warehouse once a month to pick out approximately \$50-\$75 worth of supplies as part of our Monthly Shopping Program. Teachers from other schools are invited once per year to a Giveaway Event when they can choose about \$100-\$150 of supplies they need for their classes. The 2013-2014 Fill That Bus supply drive was a record setting year. Ms. Pearson recognized Julie Marshall, Executive Director of Crayons2Caluculators, and thanked her for being an outstanding partner with DPS. Ms. Marshal introduced Joyce McKinney from Rotary, which started the Fill The Bus Campaign. She also thanked DPS staff, Marlon Watson, Delbert Foust, Steve Whitehead, and Tyra Dixon for their hard work to make this happen. Ms. Marshal and Ms. McKinney were invited to walk the red carpet.

*Special Recognition: Resolution to Honor Ann Little Majestic*

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution to Honor Ann Little Majestic:

**DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION  
OF RESPECT FOR THE MEMORY OF ANN LITTLE MAJESTIC**

**WE**, the members of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education, wish to express our deepest respect, gratitude, admiration, and affection for our School Board Attorney, Ann Little Majestic.

**WHEREAS**, Ann was a powerhouse leader in education law with a brilliant legal mind that brought clarity to the complexities of the field nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, Ann worked tirelessly for the principles of fairness, justice, and access to excellent educational opportunities for all students;

**WHEREAS**, Ann was one of the most fierce advocates for public schools, in general and for Durham Public Schools in her own community, sending her children to our schools and constantly believing in their potential;

**WHEREAS**, Ann consistently provided us with the most solid legal counsel and approached her representation of our district with unmatched and lasting care;

**WHEREAS**, Ann gave us so much more than professional advice by sharing her personal insights with us about improving Durham Public Schools and helping us work effectively together as a Board and to all be better Board Members;

**WHEREAS**, Ann brought a majestic presence with her into any room, where we had the privilege to learn and grow in the tall and graceful shadow she cast;

**WHEREAS**, the loss of Ann has left a hush of sadness in the hearts of her DPS family;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education commit to honor and remember Ann by relentlessly fighting for the resources, policies, programs, and people we need to ensure superior public schools for all of Durham's children; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education expresses its profound sorrow upon the death of our attorney, counselor, and friend, Ann Little Majestic.

This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

## *Consent Agenda:*

**Board Members** voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

- a. **2014 – 2015 Signature Learning Resources, Inc. Contract**
- b. **Applications to Lottery Funds for Capital Projects**
- c. **Holton Facility Agreement Amendment #3**
- d. **Head Start Lease at Eastway Elementary School**
- e. **Budget Resolution Amendment #3 (2013 – 2014)**
- f. **Contract for Professional Services between Durham County Department of Social Services and Durham Public Schools Contract**

## *Reports of the Board:*

**Federal and State Liaisons for Advocacy Appointments –**

Chair Carter announced the following appointments:

- Natalie Beyer and Matt Sears will share the roll of Federal and State Liaisons for Advocacy, and Sendolo Diaminah will be a contributing partner.

## *Reports of the Committees:*

### **I. Instructional Services Committee**

#### **a. Graduate Durham**

The administration presented an overview of Graduate Durham, the work plan for the Academic Services division. The key strategies of this initiative are to ensure that all students are college, career, and life-ready. Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services, shared the four focus areas:

Focus Area I: Curriculum, Leadership, Assessment, Support, and Sustainability (C.L.A.S.S.)

Focus Area II: Prevention, Intervention, and Engagement

Focus Area III: Talent Development

Focus Area IV: Design for Accelerated Progress

Dr. Wilson-Norman stated the job of the administration and staff of DPS is to provide the necessary tools to Graduate Durham. All departments, principals, teachers, and parents will partner together for all students and will Graduate Durham!

## **II. Administrative Services Committee**

### **a. Teach for America (TFA) Contract**

The Teach for America will recruit, select for participation and present to Durham Public Schools for employment teachers from a broad range of academic majors and career fields. They will use reasonable efforts to recruit teachers from diverse backgrounds. This is a 3 year contract starting with the 2014-2015 school year and ending with the 2016-2017 school year. Durham Public Schools will pay Teach for America the cost of \$3000.00 per year, per teacher hired.

Following comments from public speakers and thorough Board discussion, Matt Sears moved to direct the administration to honor our obligations with TFA and pay the administration fee for the 5 core members at \$3000 per member for a 2 year period, but not to engage in further contracts at this time. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed 6 to 1 (Vice Chair Forte-Brown opposed).

### **b. Annual Security Contracts**

The Security Department submitted the following annual contracts for review and approval:

- Durham County Sherriff's Office (DCSO) School Resource Officers (SRO)
- Durham County Sherriff's Office (DCSO) Security Liaison
- North Carolina Detective Agency (NCDA) Burglar Alarm Response

There are no material changes in the contract partners or the partnership agreements. The Board of Education approved the contracts 6-1 (Sendolo Diaminah opposed).

All policies can be viewed on our website at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net).

## *Superintendent's Updates:*

Superintendent L'Homme shared the following updates:

- The opening of traditional schools was a success! He thanked the Principals and teachers for a job well done!
  - Dr. L'Homme visited the bus lot and six schools; totaling 18 schools since his arrival.
  - Nearly 30,000 students started this week; bringing our total to almost 34,000 students.
  - Almost no teaching vacancies because of the hard work of Human Resources along with our principals and staff.
- Last week we presented preliminary test scores to the Board: scores are holding steady.
  - Final, school-by-school results will come out in October.
  - Bright spot: Graduation rate has increased yet again, to 81.3 percent!
  - Proficiency gains in some grades and subjects, but declines in other areas.
  - Looking carefully at the data to reinforce what's working and address what's not.
- Dr. L'Homme thanked our partners and other community agencies for supporting our students over the summer and on the way back to school. Whether supporting summer reading through Book Harvest or

providing school supplies through Crayons2Calculators; through fitness activities and camps; at libraries, churches, and Freedom Schools — you make a difference for

### *Personnel Report Announcement:*

Superintendent L’Homme recommended approval of the August 28, 2014, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports dated August 28, 2014; seconded by Matt Sears, the motion passed unanimously.

### *Next Regular Board Meeting:*

**The next regular monthly meeting of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education is set to be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 307, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27701.**

To view all approved DPS Board of Education Meeting Minutes, please visit our website at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net).