



*One Vision. One Durham.*

*Durham Public Schools Board of Education – September 26, 2014*

**BOE Regular Meeting Highlights from September 25**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 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.

*Be Our Guest:*

Leigh Bordley shared comments and invited the Board Members and Superintendent L’Homme to join her on the red carpet to pay tribute to the parents/guardians of students at Creekside Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, Carrington Middle Schools, and City of Medicine Academy.

*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.

**Dariana Vargas – September Student of the Month.**

Principal Nolan introduced Dariana Vargas who has been named the Duke University Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for September. Dr. Nolan shared that Dariana is a senior that holds a 3.95 GPA and is President of the Latino Ambassadors, a civic organization that she and best friend Michelle Gonzalez co-founded three years ago on the campus of Southern High School; a member of the National Honor Society; a volunteer coordinator and math tutor at R.N. Harris Elementary, and a member of the Emily K Center. In her spare time, Dariana can be found volunteering at Qué Pasa; Durham’s yearly Latino Festival; Fayed Law Firm;

and at the Ronald McDonald House. Dariana says she enjoys devoting her time to volunteering because it's "encouraging and inspiring to learn about people and it's rewarding". After graduation, Dariana hopes to attend Wake Forest University or Agnes Scott College in Georgia and major in business management with a focus on international business. Dariana was congratulated and invited to walk the red carpet.

### *Community Partners*

#### **Durham Civitan Club**

Chief Communications Officer, Chrissy Pearson, introduced Lori Lumpkin, Board Member for the Durham Civitan Club. The Durham Civitan Club is a volunteer service club that is dedicated to helping people in their communities. The organization aims "to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities." The organization includes 40,000 members in almost 1,000 clubs around the world. On a local level, individual Civitan clubs undertake various service projects which benefit their local communities. The Durham Club is integrally involved in a number of projects that benefit our local community such as working concessions stands at Duke football and basketball games, making sandwiches for the Special Olympics, providing basic necessities to the women and children at the Rescue Mission Shelter, hosting a golf tournament each year and providing a picnic complete with entertainment for the individuals served at the Murdoch Developmental Center. The money that is raised by the club goes directly toward research on developmental disabilities. This year the Durham club saw a need to sponsor Exceptional Children in Durham Public Schools and assembled about sixty backpacks complete with school supplies for students at Holt Elementary and The School for Creative Studies. They are already planning for next year's assembly line. Superintendent L'Homme presented Ms. Lumpkin with a certificate and invited her to walk the red carpet.

#### **Eastway Elementary School's Y.E.S. Club**

Ms. Pearson introduced Marcelle Thomas, the DPS School Improvement Specialist. Ms. Thomas shared comments and stated that Y.E.S. is a program of student advocacy, which rewards fifth grade students who have demonstrated good behavior, academic excellence, and leadership skills. As a culminating activity, the Y.E.S. Club spent four days learning and sightseeing in Washington, DC. She invited the following businesses to join her:

- Beth Lucas, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, donated \$500 and 4 rooms for 3 nights.
- Luke Czubay, Mark Jacobson Toyota, donated \$1000.
- Nancy Hester, CASE Assessments, donated \$500.
- Rishado Robinson, Glenn School Road Walmart, donated \$500.
- Dave Gephart, Gephart Marketing, donated backpacks and water bottles for every student.

It was through the generous support and donations of these businesses that enabled our students to experience this wonderful educational trip. Each representative received a certificate and a special gift from Eastway Elementary School and was invited to walk the red carpet.

### *Consent Agenda:*

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

- a. Calendar Approval – Traditional Schools 2015-2016**
- b. Calendar Approval – Year Round Schools 2015-2016**
- c. Blackboard Connect Contract**

## *Reports of the Committees:*

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

#### **a. Mentoring and Coaching Programs**

Committee Chair, Minnie Forte-Brown, introduced Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academics, who began the presentation. Dr. Wilson-Norman shared a summary of the Beginning Teacher Mentoring Induction Program. She shared the desired outcomes to include increasing the number of teacher mentors from 6 to 26, to reduce the teacher mentor ratio from 1:103 to 1:26, and to reduce the teacher turnover rate. Dr. Wilson-Norman stated that this program was a collaborative effort between Academic Services, Human Resources, Professional Development, and Finance.

She shared the program overview as follows:

- A three-year program;
- Assign a trained mentor to beginning teachers;
- Train and retain highly effective teachers;
- Provide extra and targeted support to increase teacher effectiveness and retention; and
- Ensure teachers understand and are fully prepared to positively impact teaching and learning and increase student achievement.

Dr. Wilson-Norman shared the key players and their commitment to this program: the district, the teacher mentor, and the teacher mentee. She said the current six full-time release mentors and 20 retired teachers would serve as teacher mentors, and she shared the criteria required to become a teacher mentor. She shared that the Beginning Teacher Mentor Induction Program would cost the district \$430,000 for 2014-15. She shared the timeline and said that this program should be up and running by October 15, 2014. She shared the evaluation process from the beginning to ensure funding needs permanently. Board discussion ensued and Dr. Wilson-Norman answered all questions and concerns.

Next, Dr. Wilson-Norman shared a summary of the Principal Coaching Program. She shared the desired outcomes to include reducing the principal turnover rate, to train and retain effective school leaders, and to provide extra support to increase principal effectiveness.

She shared an overview of the program as follows:

- A two-year program;
- Serve school leaders who are new to the principalship, new to DPS, or need additional support to ensure success in the principalship;
- Train and retain effective school leaders; and
- Provide extra support to increase principal effectiveness.

Dr. Wilson-Norman shared the key players and their commitment to this program: the district, the Principal Coach, and the Principal Coachee. She said that retired Principals and District Leaders would serve as Principal Coaches, and she shared the criteria required to become a Principal Coach. She shared that the Principal Coaching Program would cost, for up to 10 Coaches, \$236,000 for 2014-15 and Title II funds would be utilized to support the program. She shared the evaluation process from the beginning, with the Research and Accountability Department, to ensure future funding. Board discussion ensued and Dr. Wilson-Norman answered all questions and concerns.

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:

- This is the end of the first quarter for Year Round Schools and Traditional School students were receiving their progress reports this week.
- October is National Principals Month
  - Please remember to thank our principals for being the indispensable leaders of our school communities.
- Congratulations to twelve of our schools that won National Healthy School Awards from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. We made up almost half of all of the winners across North Carolina.
  - Silver Awards
    - ✓ Brogden Middle
    - ✓ Sandy Ridge Elementary
  - Bronze Awards
    - ✓ Durham School of the Arts
    - ✓ Easley Elementary
    - ✓ Forest View Elementary
    - ✓ Glenn Elementary
    - ✓ Hillside New Tech High
    - ✓ Lakeview School
    - ✓ Oak Grove Elementary
    - ✓ Parkwood Elementary
    - ✓ Spring Valley Elementary
    - ✓ The School for Creative Studies
- Congratulations to Jim Keaten and School Nutrition Services for winning a \$50,000 grant from United Way of the Greater Triangle to further support our Universal Free Breakfast program.
  - Five schools with limited equipment will be able to offer breakfast in the classroom, second-chance breakfasts, grab-and-go meals and food kiosks.
  - This continues our expansion of this important program from a 22-school pilot last year to a full-school rollout this year.
  - Mr. Keaten participated in a competitive, entrepreneurial pitch session with Triangle CEOs and community leaders. Out of 40 applicants to four finalists; we won!
- Thanks to National Pawn's, Bob Moulton, for donating more than 100 instruments and \$2,000 for instrument repair to our Arts Education Program at Neal Middle School earlier this week.
  - This is the fourth consecutive year he has done this for DPS; he is a DPS graduate of Neal!
- Congratulations to Wendell Tabb, who will be honored next month by the NCCU Department of Theatre and Dance with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.
- This week an E-Newsletter, This is DPS, was sent out to promote our public schools. To get on the e-mail list, go to the website, [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net) and click on link to be added.
- Last night, the Superintendent's Art Reception was held and students received certificates for contributing art for the rooms, offices and hallways of the Fuller Building. Special thanks to all the students who contributed their works of art. All artwork will be returned to the students at the end of the

year. Another reception is scheduled for the Staff Development Center for the students who contributed artwork at that location.

Superintendent L'Homme made the following statement:

*I want to take some time as we start our meeting to talk about the allegations that we've seen in the media of an assault allegedly involving students at W.G. Pearson Elementary. There is so much more to this story than has been publicly reported—but we cannot say more. When we are dealing with such alleged situations involving any student--but especially young children--there is so much that we simply cannot talk about because we can't violate student privacy laws or compromise a police investigation. What I can tell you is that the principal acted immediately upon learning of the allegations to begin an internal investigation and determine whether there was an active threat to the students at W.G. Pearson, and it was her determination that there was not. It's our understanding that law enforcement was immediately notified of the allegations. Counseling support has been offered to the child making the allegations. The safety of every child in Durham Public Schools is our highest concern and we are actively cooperating with the Durham Police Department.*

### ***Special Board Announcement:***

**Board Chair, Heidi Carter,** has been nominated for The Raleigh Dingman Award. This award is the highest honor bestowed on a North Carolina School Board Member each year and is named in honor of Raleigh Dingman, NCSBA's first full-time Executive Secretary. Since 2003, recipients of this honor have served as an ex-officio member of the NC State Board of Education and the NCSBA Board of Directors. **Congratulations Chair Carter!**

### ***Personnel Report Announcement:***

Superintendent L'Homme recommended approval of the September 25, 2014, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports dated September 25, 2014; seconded by Vice Chair Forte-Brown, 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, October 23, 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).