

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 20, 2023

Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at approximately 6:32 p.m. at the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC 27701.

Board Members Present: Bettina Umstead (Chair), Emily Chávez (Vice Chair), Natalie Beyer, Jovonia Lewis, Millicent Rogers, Alexandra Valladares and Jessica Carda-Auten

Administration Present: Pascal Mubenga (Superintendent), Dr. Nakia Hardy (Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services), Julius Monk (Deputy Superintendent of Operations), Dr. Alvera Lesane (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources), William “Chip” Sudderth III (Chief Communications Officer) and Tanya Giovanni (Chief of Staff).

Attorney Present: Rod Malone

Recorder: Nicole Smith, Board of Education Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

Chair Bettina Umstead called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence.

Spanish Translator Present:

Interpretation services were provided by the DPS Multilingual Resource Center

3. Celebrations

- **Battle of the Books**
- **Students of the Month**
 - Alysia Davis, Hillside
 - Ava Kinghorn, Jordan
- **Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council**
- **SPARK recognitions**

William Sudderth presented a \$250 scholarship to each Student of the Month on behalf of the Ravin Foundation.

4. Superintendent Update

Dr. Pascal Mubenga opened his remarks by commenting on the successful recruitment event and expressed appreciation for the work done by the staff and outreach initiatives to increase recruitment opportunities.

He shared that two of his cabinet members have decided to move on to other opportunities. Dr. Julius Monk, Chief Operations Officer and William “Chip” Sudderth, Chief Communications Officer

have both decided to embark on opportunities outside of the district. Both positions have been posted on the DPS website.

District Leadership and Board Members will be participating in an LGBTQIA+ Training on Friday, April 21, 2023.

Dr. Mubenga is hoping for a strong finish to this school year and looks forward to the upcoming graduation ceremonies to celebrate student excellence.

5. Agenda Review and Approval

Natalie Beyer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the amended agenda passed unanimously.

6. Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated March 23, 2023

Millicent Rogers moved to approve the minutes dated March 23, 2023. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. General Public Comment

There were twenty-three (23) in-person public comments. Each person signed up was allowed two (2) minutes to speak.

Dr. Wanda Boone
Kayla Scales-McKoy
Kenya Myers
Lydia Kirksey
K. Wilson
Katie Martin
Sophia Reich
Aster Schmittel
Annabelle Masinick
Caroline Robert
Dominique B.
Joseph Keever
Kaaren Halden
Andres Rivera-Rosario
Matthew Barahona
Abby Courliss
Isaiah Palmer
Tiyyan Robinson
Iyhana McIver
Raquel Scott
Joshua Rand
Kiera Ross
Lauren Sartain

8. Consent Items

- a. Monthly Change Order Report – March 2023
- b. Summer Programs 2023
- c. CTE 2023 Jordan High School Culinary Equipment Upgrade
- d. Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability Systems for 2023-2024
- e. Policy 9110 – Use and Selection of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, and Construction Managers At Risk

Millicent Rogers moved to approve the items on the consent agenda as presented. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously.

9. Board of Education

- a. Day of Remembrance Resolution

Jovonia Lewis provided context regarding the creation of the resolution. It was a collaborative effort involving the County Commissioners, City Council and Board of Education. After the recommendation of a few minor edits, the board members proceeded to take turns reading the passages.

Vice Chair, Emily Chávez motioned to approve the Day of Remembrance Resolution. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously.

Jovonia Lewis provided details regarding the May 15th Day of Remembrance event.

10. Operations Services

- a. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for June 30, 2022

Paul LeSieur introduced Paul Carson (Anderson, Smith and Wike) who shared the following points after conducting an audit:

- Overall, the books and records were found to be in excellent order.
- The management of district funds management seems to be handled properly and communication distributed in a timely fashion.
- Everyone they worked with displayed transparency and was pleasant to work with.
- Great work was done maximizing state positions based on the allotments.

Board members commented on the following:

- Fund balance and what a healthy amount should be. The district is currently at about \$9.6 million
- Information/Update regarding school food service timeline.

- b. Durham School of the Arts Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Selection

Dr. Julius Monk introduced Fredrick Davis who reviewed a PowerPoint that detailed the following:

- ✓ Durham School of the Arts Site
- ✓ Construction Manager at Risk
- ✓ Durham School of the Arts CM at Risk Selection Process
- ✓ Durham School of the Arts Evaluation Criteria
- ✓ Durham School of the Arts Committee Selection Rankings
- ✓ Recommendation: Monteith Construction/Balfour Beatty Construction in association with Right Build International

Millicent Rogers motioned to approve the recommendation to select Monteith Construction/Balfour Beatty Construction in association with Right Build International. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Academic Services

a. Strategic Plan 2023- Beyond

Dr. Nakia Hardy and RTI consultants (De McKenzie) talked about the partnership with the district and began to review a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ About RTI: Our Team
- ✓ Our Strategic Planning Process
- ✓ Engagement Data
- ✓ Steering Committee
- ✓ What is in a Strategic Plan?
- ✓ DPS Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028 Contents (1 of 2)
- ✓ DPS Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028 Contents (2 of 2)
- ✓ Board Feedback Highlights

Board members commented on the following:

- BOE members would like the feedback from the sessions and the survey data. The desire is to hear more from the community and pursue more engagement.
- Appreciated the subgroup data included in Goal 1B. Suggested to add the word “proportionately”. Possibly breaking it up into two goals to reflect proportionate growth demographically.
- DPS buildings being environmentally conscious.
- Board members offered suggestions regarding how the data can be presented as well as additional metrics that can be added.

12. Closed Session

At approximately 10:07 p.m., Natalie Beyer moved to go into Closed Session for the reasons stated on the agenda. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

13. Reconvened Open Session

The open session reconvened at approximately 11:37 p.m.

14. Human Resources

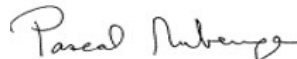
Jovonia Lewis moved to approve the personnel reports dated April 20, 2023. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 p.m.



Bettina Umstead, Chair
Board of Education



Pascal Mubenga, PhD
Superintendent