

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 18, 2023

Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at approximately 6:35 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, Millicent Rogers, Alexandra Valladares and Jessica Carda-Auten. Jovonia Lewis joined later in the meeting via Zoom video conference.

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: Melissa Michaud

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

- **North Carolina Science Olympiad**
- **Northern High Culinary Program: NC Junior Chefs participants**
- **2023 Governor’s School Students**
- **Students of the Month**
 - Southern School of Energy and Sustainability
 - Riverside High School
- **DPS Teachers of the Month (for April and May)**
- **DPS Employees of the Month (for April and May)**
- **Instructional Assistant of the Year**
- **School Social Worker of the Year**
- **School Counselor of the Year**
- **Media Coordinator of the Year**
- **Beginning Teacher of the Year**
- **NIAAA Certified Athletic Administrator recognition**
- **SPARK recognition**

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

4. Superintendent Update

Dr. Pascal Mubenga presented his update by congratulating the DPS 2023 Teacher of the Year, Jahara Davis. He looks forward to celebrating student accomplishments during the upcoming graduation ceremonies. He stated that the classified salary study information would be brought to board at the June meeting for consideration. He also thanked the County Manager, Dr. Kimberly Sowell, who fully supported the DPS budget request. Dr. Mubenga is grateful for the work done to fill vacant district positions and looks forward to the upcoming Annual District Leadership Retreat (late June), Board Retreat (late July) and the Employee Convocation (August).

Lastly, he congratulated Dr. Julius Monk on his new position with Guilford County Schools as Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations.

5. Agenda Review and Approval

Natalie Beyer asked to add Resolution Urging the North Carolina General Assembly to Reject Harmful School Voucher Plan as agenda item (9e.) She then moved to approve the agenda as amended. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the amended agenda passed unanimously.

6. Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated April 20, 2023

Millicent Rogers moved to approve the minutes dated April 20, 2023. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. General Public Comment

There were thirteen (13) in-person public comments. Each person signed up was allowed two (2) minutes to speak.

Kristen Southworth
Jenna Crowther
Elizabeth Sims
Margaret C.
Walter C.
Roberto Recendez
Danielle Dulkan
Trisha Shelly
Rann Bar-on
Girija Mahajan
Katherine Goldstein
Charles Wood
Theron Perkins

8. Consent Items

- a. Curriculum Associates: iReady Purchase Agreement
- b. Instructure Purchase Agreement- Mastery Connect and Mastery View Prediction
- c. Interactive Video Conferencing
- d. Construction Project Management Contract with Procore Professional Services
- e. Monthly Change Order Report – April 2023
- f. Contract with Engineered Control Solutions, Inc. for Jordan High School HVAC + Controls Upgrades (ESSER)
- g. Transportation Services Vehicle Purchases with Performance CDJR

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

11. Academic Services

- a. Growing Together – Secondary Proposal

The administration shared the Growing Together Plan for secondary schools that included the following:

- a renewed focus on *Growing Great Schools Together*,
- the secondary application programs and placement, and
- secondary school boundaries. The recommendations are designed to increase equity, access, and diversity within Durham Public Schools for all students.

Dr. Nakia Hardy and members of the Growing Together team reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ At A Glance (Priority 1, 2 and 3)
- ✓ Purpose
- ✓ Growing Together: Connected Goals
- ✓ Benefits of Growing Together Plan
- ✓ Growing Together Timeline
- ✓ Growing Together Comprehensive Plan: Phase One
- ✓ Growing Together Resources Since January 2023
- ✓ Growing Together Implementation Date (IB)
- ✓ Growing Together Implementation Update (Montessori)
- ✓ Growing Together Implementation Update (DLI)
- ✓ BOE Feedback (August 2022 Board Retreat): Middle School
- ✓ BOE Feedback (August 2022 Board Retreat): High School

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- ✓ Secondary Community Engagement
- ✓ Feedback Themes: Secondary Proposal
- ✓ Baseline Data in 2022-23
- ✓ Middle School Data
- ✓ 22-23 Baseline: Enrollment/Capacity by School
- ✓ 22-23 Baseline: Socio-economic Demographics
- ✓ 22-23 Baseline: Enrollment/Capacity by School
- ✓ 22-23 Baseline: Socio-economic Demographics
- ✓ Growing Great Schools Together
- ✓ Structures and Programs for ALL Middle School Students
- ✓ Structures and Programs for ALL High School Students
- ✓ Program Continuity From Elementary to Secondary
- ✓ Summary of Needs
- ✓ Recommended Middle School Application Program Placements
- ✓ Lucas Montessori Vision
- ✓ Recommended High School Application Program Placements
- ✓ Summary of Recommended Program Changes
- ✓ What is not Changing?
- ✓ Growing Together Priorities for Secondary
- ✓ Feeder Patterns by Region w/GT Plan
- ✓ Middle School Boundary Recommendation
- ✓ High School Boundary Recommendation
- ✓ Transportation Considerations
- ✓ Rules of Access
- ✓ Draft Secondary Rules
- ✓ Proposed Program Links (Lottery Priority)
- ✓ Growing Together Impacts & Outcomes
- ✓ Middle School Data
- ✓ 25-26: Enrollment/Capacity by School
- ✓ 25-26: Neighborhood MFI by School
- ✓ 25-26: Lottery Seat Access & Priority
- ✓ 25-26: GT Plan: Enrollment/Capacity
- ✓ 25-26: Neighborhood MFI by School

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- ✓ Implications for Students
- ✓ Implications for Transportation
- ✓ Implications and Community Benefits of Growing Together Plan
- ✓ Summary Secondary Plan Recommendations

Board members had questions/concerns regarding the following:

- Transitions and Feeder Schools: Will there be “orientation or information sessions” regarding the different programs offered in the schools. Administration provided information regarding how families will be introduced to wellness and the programming. A timeline will be developed so families will know and understand while they are thinking through the process. Dr. Nakia Hardy also provided additional information.
- Training and technique implementation availability and details for teachers transitioning into the Montessori learning model.
- Transportation for students that chose CTE Pathways or other alternative programs. Mathew Palmer confirmed transportation would be provided.
- The plan to continue this engagement throughout the year for those families that may not have been involved at the start of the school year.
- Equitable attention given to more sports (i.e. soccer)
- Providing more information regarding why School for Creative Studies was chosen for the middle school expansion. Mathew Palmer and Dr. Julie Pack provided additional context around why the decision was made.
- Reviewing the change in boundaries and the reorganization of diversity in the schools to ensure the shifts are not recreating tracking along the lines of race and class. Avoiding segregation within the schools.
- How administration plans to track making sure we are staying aligned with the goals around equity and access
- Exploring permanent, additional program links that can be layered onto existing programming that will benefit the academic growth of black and brown students.
- Exploring a modified year-round calendar and how it could be beneficial for retention also allowing for exams scheduling more in line with a college calendar. This model may appeal to those families seeking a year-round option with a comprehensive high school feel.
- The board members expressed appreciation for all of the work and research done developing this plan and look forward to administration continuing to press forward reaching equity and access goals.

Chair Bettina Umstead called for a five-minute break then resumed the meeting once the break was over.

b. Strategic Plan 2023 & Beyond

Dr. Nakia Hardy introduced Kyle Canuette and Dr. Demond McKenzie from RTI Center for Education Services. They reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Objective
- ✓ Our Plan
- ✓ Synopsis of Edits from April Board Meeting

Board members had questions/concerns/suggested edits regarding the following:

- Would like the inclusion of more explicit language in regards to equity goals that have broad definitions.
- Being more specific about naming EC Educators defining the term “others”.
- In Priority 1: Seeing a more explicit strategy that is focused on culturally relevant/responsive education.
- Chair Bettina Umstead reminded everyone that the Strategic Plan is developed at a higher purview and getting into details that are more explicit may not be necessary.
- Board members continued to make edit suggestions.

Millicent Rogers motioned to approve the Strategic Plan 2023 & Beyond with edits. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

c. Gaggle

Dr. Nakia Hardy introduced Joy Malone, Eva Howard and Tomeka Ward Satterfield who reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ At A Glance
- ✓ Keeping DPS Safe and Secure
- ✓ Review: What is Gaggle?
- ✓ Gaggle Insight: What are we seeing?
- ✓ Gaggle Insight: 2021-22 School Year
- ✓ Review: DPS Funding For Gaggle
- ✓ Review: DPS Gaggle Implementation Time
- ✓ DPS Gaggle Data

Board members expressed concerns regarding the following:

- The number of Gaggle alerts that were investigated then found to be a non-emergency or crisis.
- How are we maintaining a level of privacy for students and families?
- Is administration teaching students, at an age appropriate level, about Gaggle and what they can and cannot do on district devices?
- Board members continued to present their concerns about continuing the use of Gaggle concentrating heavily on privacy. Also suggested amplifying the usage of some of our other tip lines.
- Administration will add this item on the agenda for the June BOE Meeting. This will allow enough time to review the contract termination process and a timeline for additional actions involved. (45 day notice to vendor)

Natalie Beyer motioned to authorize administration to terminate the Gaggle contract with the effective date of June 2023 in accordance with the contract terms. Alexandra Valladares seconded and the motion passed 6:1 (Jovonia Lewis) via roll call vote.

d. Community Education Afterschool Program Update 2023-24

Dr. Stacy Stewart introduced Dr. Dietrich Danner who reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Current Program Overview
- ✓ Registration Update
- ✓ Prioritized Afterschool Hiring
- ✓ Elementary Afterschool Staffing Update
- ✓ Middle School Afterschool Staffing Update
- ✓ Afterschool Staff Recruitment Efforts
- ✓ Next Steps

Board members commented on the following:

- The demand is higher than the number of staff available
- Recruitment demographics. Who are we targeting to fill these positions?
- There will always be an ongoing waitlist. How is the communication going out to families earlier so they can start planning ahead of time? Dr. Danner explained the waitlist number process after a family submits their application.

e. Resolution Urging the North Carolina General Assembly to Reject Harmful School Voucher Plan

Natalie Beyer provided a brief overview of the context of the resolution. The board opted not to read the passages.

Millicent Rogers motioned to approve the Resolution as presented. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

12. Closed Session

At approximately 12:21 a.m., Alexandra Valladares moved to go into Closed Session for the reasons stated on the agenda. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

13. Reconvened Open Session

The open session reconvened at approximately 1:04 a.m.

14. Human Resources

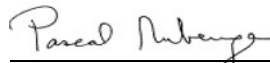
Natalie Beyer moved to approve the personnel reports dated May 18, 2023. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:05 a.m.



Bettina Umstead, Chair
Board of Education



Pascal Mubenga, PhD
Superintendent