

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 15, 2023

Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at approximately 5:33 p.m. at the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC 27701.

Board Members Present: Bettina Umstead (Chair), Natalie Beyer, Millicent Rogers, Alexandra Valladares and Jessica Carda-Auten. Jovonia Lewis joined virtually.

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

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

- North Carolina PTA Distinguished Service Awarded to Durham Public Schools
- 2023 CTE Teacher of the Year – Mr. Seth Stallings, Riverside High School

4. Superintendent Update

Dr. Pascal Mubenga began his update by well wishes to William Sudderth and Dr. Nakia Hardy as they transition from DPS to their new endeavors.

He also reflected on celebrating the Class of 2023 at the graduation ceremonies and shared that approximately a total of \$70 million was awarded to our graduating seniors. Hillside High School earned about \$22 million in scholarships alone.

Dr. Mubenga thanked the County Commissioners and County Manager for voting to fully fund the budget request from DPS.

He closed his remarks by highlighting accomplishments from various schools and staff as well as providing information about the upcoming convocation event that will celebrate the start of a new academic year for staff.

5. Agenda Review and Approval

Natalie Beyer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jovonia Lewis seconded, and the agenda passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

6. Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated May 18, 2023

Millicent Rogers moved to approve the minutes May 18, 2023. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

7. General Public Comment

There were six (6) in-person public comments. Each person signed up was allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Elizabeth Sims
Chris Todd
Eli Seed
LeVon Barnes
Addison Duda
Amy Robinson

8. Consent Items

- a. School Nutrition Services New Bid Awards and Renewals
- b. Purchase of Absolute Software Licenses for the Identification and Location of Missing Students
- c. Brogden Middle School Chiller Replacement Contract with Jeff Hargett Mechanical (ESSER)
- d. Districtwide Water Fountain Replacement Supply Contract with PACH 2 Group (ESSER)
- e. Monthly Change Order Report (May 2023)
- f. Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Program / Project Management Services
- g. Right of Way Dedication at Northern High School (Replacement) to Denfield Drive
- h. Budget Amendment #2 FY 2022-23
- i. Continuing Budget Resolution FY 2023-24

Natalie Beyer moved to approve the items on the consent agenda as presented. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

9. Board of Education

- a. Pride Month Resolution

Each board member took turns reading the passages in the resolution. Natalie Beyer moved to approve the Pride Month Resolution as presented. Jessica Carda-Auten seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

b. Resolution to Prioritize Public Schools in 2023-25

Each board member took turns reading the passages in the resolution. Natalie Beyer moved to approve the Resolution to Prioritize Public Schools in 2023-25 as presented. Alexandra Valladares seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

10. Chief of Staff

a. Purchasing and Construction Thresholds

Tanya Giovanni presents for annual review, pursuant to board policy, the thresholds requiring board approval. The current thresholds are \$200,000 and \$500,000. Administration is asking to change the threshold amount so work could be done quicker. Research was conducting regarding the thresholds in area districts.

The policies impacted are:

- 6240, Contracts with the Board
- 6430, Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 6450, Purchase of Services
- 9030, Facility Construction & Change Orders
- 9110, Use and Selection of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, and Construction Managers at Risk
- 9120, Bidding for Construction Work

Administration shall present this policy for review by the board every year at a meeting in June. In addition, the policy will be reviewed within 90 days any time there is a personnel change in the superintendent and/or the CFO.

Board members commented on reviewing the threshold amounts and timing. Attorney Rod Malone offered feedback on the chart presented that lists the projects/contracts that were approved by Dr. Mubenga for the last year and add a column that indicates whether it was approved by Dr. Mubenga or the BOE.

11. Operations Services

a. Glenn Elementary School Renovations GMP

Dr. Todd Lofrese introduced Kimberly William, Project Manager who reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Glenn Elementary School Addition and Renovations
- ✓ Glenn Elementary School GMP-Construction Proposal
- ✓ Glenn Elementary School Addition and Renovations
- ✓ Rising Construction Costs
- ✓ NC and SC Metro Construction Employment
- ✓ ASG Outlook Survey: Net % who expect 2023 value of projects to be higher/lower than 2022
- ✓ Cost squeeze on contractors can last two years or more

- ✓ Price Increases
- ✓ Wide variation in construction input cost trends
- ✓ Inflation Estimated Cost Impact
- ✓ Ukraine War Impacts
- ✓ Glenn Elementary School Addition and Renovations
- ✓ Glenn Elementary School GMP-Construction Proposal – Recommendation

Board members commented on the following:

- Confirmed that work will begin in December 2023 if the BOE approves this item tonight
- Concerns regarding the thirty months of construction and the increasing prices

Jovonia Lewis moved to approve the Glenn Elementary School Renovations GMP as presented. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0).

b. School Resource Officer Contract for School Year 2023-2024

Dr. Pascal Mubenga shared that this contract is presented every year in June. He also mentioned there were no revisions as of right now and administration is waiting on any recommendations submitted by the DPS Community Safety and Wellness Task Force before adjustments are made. The current contract for the 2022-2023 school year for School Resource Officer Services will expire on June 30, 2023.

Dr. Todd Lofrese advised the DPS administration recommends approving the contract with the Durham County Sheriff's Office for the 2023-2024 school year. The agreement and locations are identical to the current year. Eva Howard (Director of Safety and Security) shared additional details regarding the SRO Program.

Jovonia Lewis, BOE Liaison for the DPS Community Safety and Wellness Task Force, provided an update on the work done.

- The first phase of work over the past 18 months involves creating recommendations for the SRO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Developed a summary of data driven observations that support the recommendations
- Created 16 listening sessions (over 13 hours across 5 stakeholder groups)
- Consulted with several organizations
- The next phase of work will involve decoding and analyzing the data from the listening sessions and documentation. First reading was presented and feedback was received for second reading.
- Task force will develop a plan for sharing these recommendations across the community.

Eva Howard shared that the Sheriff's Department has an academy class that will be finishing soon and DPS will receive additional SROs to fulfill the MOU in place.

Board members continued to provide feedback on the MOU and express their appreciation for the collaborative work done thus far.

Jovonia Lewis moved to approve the School Resource Office Contract for School Year 2023-24. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (6:0)

12. Academic Services

a. Growing Together – Secondary

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

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ Purpose: Secondary Plan Recommendations
- ✓ Benefits of Growing Together Plan
- ✓ 22-23 Baseline: Socio-economic Demographics
- ✓ Rules for Design & Use of Weighted Lottery
- ✓ Montessori Regional Access Considerations
- ✓ 25-26: Lottery Seat Access Recommendation

Board members commented on the following:

- Weighted Lottery Seats and the effects on the McKinney Vento Program.
- Creating equitable opportunities for the most vulnerable students.
- Reducing concentrations of privilege and poverty.
- Ways the district can help get students reading for the transition when going to middle and high school for the first time.
- Consider what a modified year-round high school could look like.
- The possibility of losing additional funding that has been generated for schools based on the programing. How will the schools be supported (funding)?
- Appreciation for the extensive work done to develop this plan.

Natalie Beyer made a motion to approve the Growing Together – Secondary Plan. Jessica Carda-Auten seconded and the motion passed 4:2 (Millicent Rogers and Alexandra Valladares)

13. Closed Session

At approximately 9:16 p.m., Natalie Beyer moved to go into Closed Session for the reasons stated on the agenda. Jessica Carda-Auten seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Reconvened Open Session

The open session reconvened at approximately 10:24 p.m.

14. Human Resources

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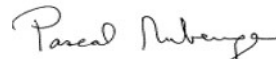
Natalie Beyer moved to approve the personnel reports dated June 15, 2023. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:27 p.m.



Bettina Umstead, Chair
Board of Education



Pascal Mubenga, PhD
Superintendent