

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 13, 2024

Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its work session on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at approximately 5:36 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, Jessica Carda-Auten, Alexandra Valladares and Jovonia Lewis.

Administration Present: Catty Moore (Interim Superintendent), Dr. Nicholas King (Deputy Superintendent), Dr. Todd Lofrese (Chief Operating Officer), Dr. Tanya Giovanni (Chief of Staff), Cierra Ojijo (Interim Chief Financial Officer), Dr. Alvera Lesane (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources), Sheena Cooper (Senior Executive Director of Public Affairs) and Dr. Deborah Pitman (Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services).

Attorney Present: Rod Malone

Recorder: Nicole Smith, Board of Education Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

Jessica Carda-Auten 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

Agenda Review and Approval

Jovonia Lewis asked to move consent item *2a. Contract with Lanier Construction Company, Inc. for Installation of Crosswalk and Sidewalk Addition at Lyons Farm Elementary School* to 4b. for discussion. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0). Jovonia Lewis motioned to approve the amended agenda. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated May 9, 2024

Natalie Beyer moved to approve meeting minutes dated May 9, 2024, as presented. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

General Public Comment

There were three (3) people signed up for public comments.

Mary Elizabeth Hanchey
John Hodges-Copple
Leigh Bordley

2. Consent Items

- a. Change Order for New DSA for GMP-C – Concrete Foundations and Aggregate Piers
- b. Historical Marker Easement at Hillside High School with City of Durham Public Schools
- c. BIB Subscriber Agreement
- d. Web Hosting, Design, and Mass Notification System Contract

Natalie Beyer motioned to approve the items on the consent agenda. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

3. Chief of Staff

- a. Policy 2302 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings (Revision – First Reading)

Dr. Tanya Giovanni shared the revision of the existing policy and highlighted some of the changes. Administration requested that the Board waive its policy 2420, Adoption of Policies and waive second reading.

The recommended policy amendment authorizes virtual meetings at times other than a declared state of emergency and to allow parties to consent to virtual hearings.

Board members asked clarification regarding work sessions being included in the reference to regular board meetings. The language will be edited to reference work sessions separately from regular board meetings. Joint BOCC/BOE meetings are not included.

Additional BOE comments were:

- Changing language from *calendar year* to *academic year* (July – June) as it pertains to number of absences from meetings.
- Streaming meetings – is it still a legal obligation? During the state of emergency, general statute required streaming.
- Codified provision of translation/interpretation services during wholly remote meetings (open session).
- Remote meeting management

Chair Bettina Umstead motioned to add Policy 2301 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings on the agenda at the next BOE meeting (June 27) for second reading. Jovonia Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

Alexandra Valladares motioned to waive board policy 2302 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings to allow for hosting fully remote student transfer appeals. Vice Chair Emily Chávez seconded and the motion carried unanimously (7:0). Parent consent will be needed in order to host appeal hearings virtually.

Next Steps:

- Dr. Tanya Giovanni providing clarification on interpretation services during wholly remote meetings at the next BOE meeting (second reading)

b. Policy 7501 – Governing Principles for Salary Administration (First Reading)

Dr. Tanya Giovanni advised that this policy was presented at a previous board meeting for information only. She stated the salary administration policies working group continues to work on a second policy, 7502, Salary Administration and Employee Compensation, as well as responsive and aligned regulations and procedures.

Board members commented and asked questions regarding the following:

- When will this information be available in the DPS Employee Handbook?
- Discussion about waiving second reading and approving with the minor typographical edits.
- Engaging stakeholders, district and county staff

Administration and board members talked more about defining funds (i.e. extra duty, stipends, etc.) and governed separately.

Alexandra Valladares motioned to waive second reading with the modifications and typographical edits. Vice Chair Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

Natalie Beyer motioned to approve Policy 7501 with the modifications and typographical edit. Alexandra Valladares seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

Next steps:

- Dr. Tanya Giovanni to bring back the edits for policy 7502.
- Policy 7501 to be uploaded into BoardDocs (Nicole Smith)
- Future discussion regarding cadence for reviewing DPS policies and implementation

c. MOU Between DPS and Durham County Sheriff

Dr. Tanya Giovanni presented the MOU, Amendment #5, and supplemental detailed document for information. She advised DPS staff reviewed the safety taskforce recommendations and engaged in conversations on these with the Sheriff. There were no substantive changes recommended or made.

Board members commented and asked questions regarding the following:

- Natalie Beyer expressed frustration with the timing of not including the important work done by the Safety and Wellness Task Force. She also expressed appreciation for some of the highlighted language.
- The importance of recognizing the values and rights of the DPS students and families.
- Clarity around the supplemental information and how it should be interpreted.
- Providing information about the Heart Program and the work done in the schools. Specific details may not be available because of the confidential nature.
- Data collection and reporting
- Clear communication paths for students

Next steps:

- BOE collecting a list of information they prefer and share with Dr. Nicholas King

4. Academic Services

a. Early College Naming Update

Dr. Julie Pack provided an update and discussed the process for renaming Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College due to the expansion of the school to an early college focused on health science pathways. The expansion is supported through a collaboration between Durham Public Schools, Duke Health, and Durham Technical Community College and funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Name Options:

- Health Sciences Early College
- The Early College of Health Sciences at Durham Tech
- Health Careers Early College
- Early College for Health and Science
- Durham Early College for Medical Sciences
- Durham Early College of Health Science

Board members commented on the school branding process and next steps.

b. Contract with Lanier Construction Company, Inc. for Installation of Crosswalk and Sidewalk Addition at Lyons Farm Elementary School

Dr. Todd Lofrese and Fredrick Davis explained that Lyons Farm Elementary School requires the construction of a crosswalk and sidewalk addition at Scott King Road. The project scope includes updates to the right of way, asphalt walking path, and outdoor learning classroom.

DPS solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide all materials, labor, and equipment required to complete the crosswalk and sidewalk addition. A Request for Proposal was issued on March 11, 2024 and bids opened May 9, 2024, at 3pm. There were two (2) proposals submitted and Lanier Construction Company, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The total estimated request is in the amount of \$590,000.00 to support the current construction costs and contingency. All work is projected to be completed during the fall of 2024.

As an additional note, MWBE participation is 100%.

Board members had questions regarding the timeline other locations that need the off-site amenities to ensure safe routes to schools.

Natalie Beyer motioned to approve the Contract with Lanier Construction Company, Inc. for Installation of Crosswalk and Sidewalk Addition at Lyons Farm Elementary School. Millicent Rogers seconded, and the motion carried 6:0.

5. Closed Session

At approximately 9:08 p.m., Millicent Rogers motioned to go into closed session for the reasons stated on the agenda. Alexandra Valladares seconded and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

6. Reconvened Open Session

The open session reconvened at approximately 10:45 p.m.

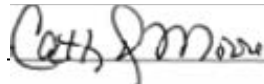
Natalie Beyer moved to approve the personnel reports dated June 13, 2024. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (7:0).

7. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:47 p.m.



Bettina Umstead, Chair
Board of Education



Catty Q. Moore
Interim Superintendent