

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 14, 2023**

Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its work session on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at approximately 5:32 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, Millicent Rogers, and Jessica Carda-Auten. Alexandra Valladares and Jovonia Lewis joined virtually.

Administration Present: Pascal Mubenga (Superintendent), Larry Johnson (Deputy Superintendent of Operations), Tanya Giovanni (Chief of Staff), Paul LeSieur (Chief Financial Officer), Dr. Stacy Stewart (Chief of Schools), 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

3. Agenda Review and Approval

Chair Bettina Umstead moved to approve the agenda as presented. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the agenda passed via roll call vote (7:0).

4. Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated June 15, 2023 and August 10, 2023

Millicent Rogers asked to amend the June 15, 2023 minutes to reflect the vote regarding Sheriff's Department MOU to 4:2, not 6:0. Chair Bettina Umstead moved to approve meeting minutes dated June 15, 2023 as mended. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

Millicent Roger moved to approve the August 10, 2023 BOE Work Session minutes as presented. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

5. General Public Comment

There were four (4) in-person public comment:

Kamilah Lamond

Tamara Lyn
Kattie McGonnell
Kara Lynn Sanders
Mercedes Montoya
Katie McGonnell

6. Consent Items

- a. Contract with Constructview, LLC for Architectural CAD and Fire Evacuation Map Laser Scanning Services for Life Safety
- b. Release of Claims with McKim & Creed, Inc. for New Northern High School Replacement Project
- c. Districtwide Contract for Procurement and Delivery of Large Kitchen Equipment Inventory and Replacement Process with Singer T&L for COMBI Ovens
- d. Districtwide Contract for Procurement and Delivery of Large Kitchen Equipment Inventory and Replacement Process with Singer T&L for Milk Boxes
- e. Districtwide Contract for Procurement and Delivery of Large Kitchen Equipment Inventory and Replacement Process with United Restaurant Equipment Company for Serving Line
- f. Districtwide Contract for Procurement and Delivery of Large Kitchen Equipment Inventory and Replacement Process with Singer T&L for Tilt Skillets

Natalie Beyer moved to approve the consent items as presented. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

7. Board of Education

- a. DPS Foundation Update

Matt Sears (Chief of Partnerships) and Brianna Kennedy (Chief of Programs) and Erika Wilkins (Executive Director) reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ DPSF's Mission
- ✓ DPSF's Executive Team
- ✓ Our Strategies
- ✓ Over the Past Five Years
- ✓ SY2022-2023 Highlights: Provide Funds, Foster Innovation, Champion Equity and Connect Community
- ✓ SY23-24 Priorities
- ✓ Transformation through School-Level Grants
- ✓ Championing DPS and Supporting Enrollment: Strategy, Investments and Actions
- ✓ Aligning Community Partnerships for Student Success

Board of Education
Work Session
September 14, 2023

- ✓ The WHOLE Schools Movement
- ✓ Financials
- ✓ Income Total/Expense Total

Board members' comments and questions included:

- Clarity on the process for DPS schools to apply for grant funding. (Grant cycle is June – September 1)
- Sharing data that reflects the quantity and detailed needs of the various schools. DPSF has the information however it will need to be analyzed before review.
- Observation of lessons learned since implementing the cohort model.
- Tracking grantees from year to year to ensure equity within the full process.
- Update on the progress with applying for grant with Duke that supports expansion opportunities.

b. Central Carolina Teaching Initiative Wake-Durham MOU

Millicent Rogers moved to approve the Central Carolina Teaching Initiative Wake-Durham MOU. Natalie Beyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0)

8. Chief of Staff

a. Purchasing and Construction Thresholds

Tanya Giovanni provided context from the discussion in the previous BOE meeting and reviewed the recommendation that the thresholds be reduced from \$200,000 to \$150,000 for services and materials and from \$500,000 to \$400,000 for construction and capital.

On behalf of administration, she presented these policies for second reading and adoption.

- 6420, 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

It was also recommended to add the following language to Policy 9120:

➤ ***DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS***

The board establishes the following dispute resolution process to resolve issues arising out of construction and repair projects or contracts related to such projects. The dispute resolution process may be used by any party involved in the construction project for those disputes in which the amount in controversy is at least \$15,000.

Prior to initiating litigation concerning a dispute, parties to the dispute must do the following: (1) submit the dispute for review by the superintendent or other designated school official and the project architect, as

appropriate, and (2) participate in mediation, if the matter cannot be resolved by school officials and the architect. The cost of the dispute resolution process will be divided between the parties to the dispute. If the board is a party to the dispute, the board will pay at least one-third of the cost.

Rod Malone provided additional information regarding the process as well as funding source(s).

Natalie Beyer moved to approve policies: 6420 - 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 and 9120 - Bidding for Construction Work as presented and waive second reading. Jovonia Lewis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

9. Chief of Schools

a. District Title I Plan 2023-2024

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

- ✓ Priority 1 – Foster Academic Excellence
- ✓ Priority 4 – Cultivate Meaningful and Authentic Community Engagement
- ✓ Overview of Title I
- ✓ Title I Priorities
- ✓ Continuous School Improvement Planning
- ✓ Title I, Part A School Allocations
- ✓ Title I Schools 2023-2024
- ✓ Title I Planning Allotment 2023-24
- ✓ Title I Allocations by School in Rank Order
- ✓ Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: Community Provision Eligibility (CEP)
- ✓ CEP Implications for Title I
- ✓ Sampling of Title I Funding Allocations
- ✓ CEPT Implications for Title I
- ✓ Title I & Non-Title I CEP Schools
- ✓ CEP District Site Data Comparison

Board members commented on the following:

- Appreciation for the family engagement endeavors hosted by the district.
- Requested an update from the McKinney Vento program for our displaced students.
- Dr. Danner explained private school involvement process regarding Title I funds.
- The impact on the Growing Together Initiative will not be determined until the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Child Nutrition

- Board members asked for information regarding the dollar amount need to increase support for CEP schools. Dr. Pascal Mubenga will work with administration to produce this information. The local funds have been earmarked so anything extra will have to go through the process

Chair Bettina Umstead moved to approve the District's Title I Plan 2023-2024 as presented. Alexandra Valladares seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

10. Academic Services

a. Day 1 Proclamation Update

Dr. Debbie Pitman introduced Dr. Iwinosa Idahor (Equity, Student Engagement and Opportunity Coordinator) reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Alignment to Strategic Plan and Core Beliefs
- ✓ #Day 1 Works by...

Board members commented on the following:

- Administration continuing to build on this pledge throughout the school year and expanding on the resources to support our students.
- Additional incentives that accompany this resolution. Dr. Pitman explained SEL (Social Emotional Learning) supports that are being implemented.
- Board members expressed their appreciation for this work and the resources in place and look forward to continuing to develop supports that help keep students safe.

b. Update on Growing Together: Elementary Student Assignment Implementation

Dr. Debbie Pitman and members of the leadership team reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the following:

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ Strategic Plan Priorities
- ✓ Community Communication
- ✓ Internal Supports – Timeline Overview
- ✓ Internal Supports
- ✓ School Implementation Toolkit

Board members commented on the following:

- Identifying community partners the district is working with to disseminate this information. Sheena Cooper stated that the DPS implementation team and DPS Foundation are collaborating with community organizations (churches, etc.) to share this information. Efforts will also include Spanish-speaking families as well.

- BOE presented the idea of designating student ambassadors to help with communicating important information/dates via social media outlets.
- Principals seem to be excited about the implementation and eager to work with their families.
- Fully explaining the enrollment steps for the application process schools.
- Communication timelines should be very specific and standardized across the district. There will be regional meetings and welcome events.

c. 2022-2023 ESSA Accountability Results

Dr. Debbie Pitman reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the following:

- ✓ School Performance Grades – Achievement vs. Growth
- ✓ School Performance Grade
- ✓ School Performance Grades – Taken from the ESSA Accountability Model
- ✓ Difference Between Achievement and Growth
- ✓ School Performance Grades (District)
- ✓ Overall Grade Level Proficiency
- ✓ Reading Proficiency Results 2022-23
- ✓ Math Proficiency Results 2022-23
- ✓ Science Proficiency Results 2022-23
- ✓ End-of-Course Proficiency Results 2022-23
- ✓ English Learner (EL) Progress
- ✓ High School College and Career Readiness (CCRA) Indicator Comparison
- ✓ Composite Level Subgroup Comparison
- ✓ Race/Ethnicity Subgroup Cohort Graduation Rate
- ✓ Other Subgroup Cohort Graduation Rate
- ✓ EVAAS Growth Statuses
- ✓ DPS State Rankings – Peer Districts - % of Schools Meeting + Exceeded Growth
- ✓ Percentage of Low-Performing Schools – DPS Compared to Other Districts
- ✓ Low-Performing Schools
- ✓ Low-Performing Schools for 2022-23
- ✓ Celebrations for 2022-23
- ✓ DPS Rankings – Academic Growth
- ✓ Schools Moving from “D” to “C”
- ✓ Schools Moving from “C” to “B”
- ✓ Factors Contributing to Our Success

Board members commented on the following:

- The results are reflective of hard work and great leadership
- Continuing to be creative, thoughtful and driven as it pertains to supporting the EL students.
- Disaggregated data is available on DPS website for the community to review.
- Developing ways to continue to make learning environments more engaging and inclusive to different cultural relevance.
- Reminding educators of reasons (not pertaining to the data) why it is important to stay committed to helping children be successful.

10. Summary of Follow-up Items

Tanya Giovanni provided the summary of follow up items.

11. Closed Session

At approximately 9:05 p.m., Chair Bettina Umstead moved to go into Closed Session for the reasons stated on the agenda. Alexandra Valladares seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

11. Reconvened Open Session

The open session reconvened at approximately 10:11 p.m.

12. Human Resources

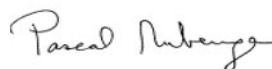
Natalie Beyer moved to approve the personnel reports dated September 14, 2023 as presented. Vice Chair, Emily Chávez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote (7:0).

13. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:14 p.m.



Bettina Umstead, Chair
Board of Education



Pascal Mubenga, PhD
Superintendent