



Durham Public Schools Board of Education – May 25, 2017

BOE Regular Meeting Highlights from May 24, 2017

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education met at 6:32 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017, and considered an agenda that included the following highlights:

Board Chair Mike Lee extended a warm welcome to everyone present and to all the television viewers. He promised that the meeting would be rich in information that would support and enhance the vision statement of Durham Public Schools. The standing committees of the Board presented information and reports that keep the public informed on what the district is doing to ensure that the vision of success for every child is realized.

Celebrations:

Board Members recognized:

- **Be Our Guest:** Little River K-8 School, Holt Elementary Language Academy, Merric-Moore Elementary, Brogden Middle, and Durham School of the Arts
- **Herald-Sun and Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for April:** Alexandra (Alex) Gray from C.E. Jordan High School
- **Special Recognition:**
 - Keb Sills from Forest View was one of 47 students participated in the National Geographic Bee Competition.
 - R.N. Harris Integrated Arts/Core Knowledge Magnet School
 - Winner of the 2017 America's Best Urban Schools Award.
 - Silver Award at the 2017 America's Best Urban Schools Symposium
 - Academic Excellence based on curricular rigor, instructional effectiveness, relational quality and continuous improvement efforts
 - Marco Mitchell from R.N. Harris won a speech contest.
 - Durham Public Schools 2016-2017 School Social Worker
 - Juston Hill from Hillside High School
 - Durham Public Schools 2016-2017 School Counselor of the Year
 - Matt Harkey from Northern High School
 - State Math Fair winners
 - Deen Shehzad from Sandy Ridge Elementary
 - Grace Driver from Lakewood Montessori Middle School
 - Carlton Ellis from J.D. Clement Early College High School
 - Jazmin Santillan-Castillo from J.D. Clement Early College High School
 - Davonya Cheek from J.D. Clement Early College High School

- First Annual Media Coordinator of the Year Award
 - Tori Gredvig from Lakewood Montessori Middle School
 - Barbara Berry a finalist from Githens Middle School
 - Vanessa Calhoun a finalist from Carrington Middle School
- 2017 DPS Battle of the Books Award
 - George Watts Montessori Elementary School
 - Lakewood Montessori Middle School
 - Northern High School
- Fall and Spring Out of the Box Professional Development Conference Attendees
- Durham Regional Science Olympiad Tournament participants
 - Brenda Hoekstra placed fifth from Durham School of the Arts
 - Jack Swansey placed fifth from Durham School of the Arts
 - Beck Addison placed fourth from Durham School of the Arts
 - Gedam Melkamu placed fourth from Durham School of the Arts
- The Governor’s School of North Carolina is a residential program for intellectually gifted high school students, integrating academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses on each of two campuses
- Durham Principal Leadership Academy Fellows – Jamal Anderson-Ruff, Michael Bloom, Tiffany Boss, Joshua Gibson, Matthew Hickson, Annette Johnston, Don Jones, Rhonda Kaye, Eric Lockard, Otis Maben, Kristin Morocco, Titus Pollard, Marcus Saunders, and Pchette Sellers
- DPS Instructional Assistants of the Year
 - Pamela Hanson from Sandy Ridge Elementary
 - Jeremy Smith from Eastway Elementary
- DPS “A” students who earned straight “A’s on their report cards during the entire high school career
- NCHSAA4A Track and Field State Championship Team
 - Hillside High Girls
- 2017 National Council of Excellence Award
 - Hillside High School Hornet Council Members: John Batey, Jr., Adora Harris, Alexandra Simpson, Jalen McKoy, Reginald Brunson, Jasmine Wood, Elaijah Gibbs-Jones

Agenda:

The agenda was approved by common consent.

General Public Comment:

There were two people signed up for Public Comment.

Reports of the Board:

I. Next Steps in Superintendent Search – Information

NCSBA Search Firm came an shared information on the Superintendent Search Process.

Reports of the Work Sessions:

Operational Services and Policy Work Session

The following policies were approved

- Policy 3220 – Technology in the Educational Program
- Policy 3225 – Technology Responsible Use
- Policy 3226 – Internet Safety
- Policy 3230 – Copyright Compliance

Superintendent's Updates:

Dr. Bert L'Homme shared the following:

Board members, we have had so much to celebrate tonight that I am going to keep my remarks very brief, but I am so very proud of the students, educators and staff we have seen tonight.

Last night was our annual Teacher of the Year banquet, and when Ms. Kirtina Jones reacted to being named the 2018 Durham Public Schools Teacher of the Year, I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. We are so proud of her and the other teachers we recognized last night: our school-based teachers of the year, semifinalists and finalists, our Beginning Teachers of the Year, and our new National Board Certified teachers.

We also celebrated our retirees for the 2016-17 school year last week at Croasdaile Country Club. It was great to congratulate those women and men who chose to end their career with Durham Public Schools. Corporate sponsors made both events possible, so I'd like to thank EmergeOrtho and North Carolina Specialty Hospital for supporting our Teacher of the Year Banquet, and H&R Block for supporting the retirement dinner.

Tonight, we honored our Governor's School nominees. I dearly hope that these will not be the last Governor's School nominees from this or any other North Carolina school district. However, as you know, the state Senate's budget would eliminate the Governor's School in favor of what would appear to be a much more limited program. Governor's School supports academic excellence in art, music, theater, English, math and natural sciences. More of our students need the opportunity to participate. I urge the state House, as they review the Senate budget, to fight for Governor's School.

Finally, board members, I would like to ask that you amend your agenda for the night to hear a report from Dr. Kelvin Bullock. He has been doing some great work as our new executive director for equity affairs, and I would like him to give you an update on equity in our schools and on the community conversations he has begun.

And that, Mr. Chair, completes my report.

Personnel Report Announcement:

The Personnel Reports dated May 24, 2017 were approved.

Next Regular Board Meeting:

The next regular monthly meeting of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education is set to be held Thursday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 307, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27701.

To view all approved DPS Board of Education Meeting Minutes, please visit our website at www.dpsnc.net.