

Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Resolution Commemorating the Integration
of Brogden Middle School

WHEREAS public schools in Durham were segregated through the 1950s, even after the historic ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*;

WHEREAS in 1959 the Durham City School Board overturned its objection to allowing Joycelyn McKissick and Elaine Richardson to attend Durham High School, ultimately allowing eight black students to attend previously all-white schools including Lucy Jones and Anita Brame at Brogden Junior High School;

WHEREAS in the 1964-65 school year, 16 black students including Janice Mack Guess were among the second wave of black students to integrate Brogden;

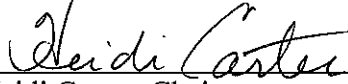
WHEREAS the children who integrated Brogden and other Durham schools faced bullying, harassment, threats and violence—proving that injustice cannot be erased in an instant, but requires a commitment to what President John F. Kennedy called “the long twilight struggle, year in and year out, ‘rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation’”;

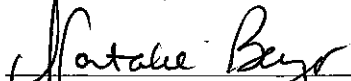
WHEREAS on Friday, March 20, 2015, the Brogden Middle School community will gather to celebrate and honor the men and women, with us or now departed, who were ordinary children that persevered through extraordinary times, and Janice Mack Guess will speak from the experiences she shared in her book, *Little Colored Girls Want to Wear Pearls Too*; and


WHEREAS the Durham Public Schools Board of Education remembers the lessons of those difficult days more than 50 years ago and recognizes that they apply just as vividly today, as we continue to strive toward schools that are integrated by race and by class, so that public education persists as the foundation of a fair and equitable society; therefore


BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education salutes, in honor and memory, the children who integrated Durham’s schools and the families and citizens who struggled for justice, and joins the Brogden Middle School community in celebrating and learning from their story.

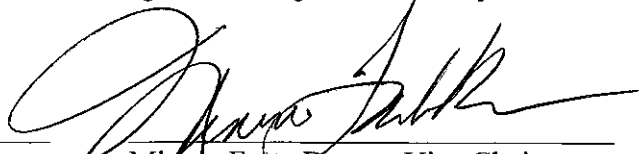
This the 16th day of March, 2015.

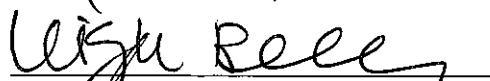

Heidi Carter, Chair

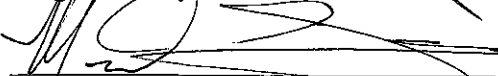

Natalie Beyer



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Matt Sears


Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair


Leigh Bordley


Mike Lee


Bert L'Homme, Ph.D., Superintendent