

**MINUTES  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL AND MONTHLY MEETING  
JULY 7, 2014**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its organizational meeting and regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 7, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, North Carolina.

**Board Members present:** Heidi Carter, Minnie Forte-Brown, Natalie Beyer, Mike Lee, Matt Sears and Sendolo Diaminah were present. Leigh Bordley was not in attendance.

**Administration present:** Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services; Chrissy Pearson, Chief Communications Officer; Dr. Terri Mazingo, Assistant Superintendent of Research and Accountability; Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family, and Community Services; Dr. Julie Spencer, Area Superintendent of Middle Schools; John McCain, Area Superintendent of Elementary Schools; Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Finance Officer; and Freddie McNeil, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

**Attorney present:** Ken Soo

Dr. Wilson-Norman called the organizational meeting to order and stated a quorum was present. A moment of silence was observed.

**Swearing In of Newly Elected Board Members**

Dr. Wilson-Norman introduced Michael Perry, Director of Durham County Board of Elections. He thanked the Board of Education Members for their service. He presented the Certificates of Election to the newly elected Board Members Michael Lee (District 1), Sendolo Diaminah (District 2), Matthew Sears (District 3), and Natalie Beyer (District 4).

**Oath of Office**

Dr. Wilson-Norman introduced Chief District Court Judge Marcia H. Morey who administered the Oath of Office for Board Members, Michael Lee, Sendolo Diaminah, Matthew Sears and Natalie Beyer.

**Election of Board of Education Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Dr. Wilson-Norman stated the next order of business was to elect a Board Chair. She reminded Board Members that nominations did not require a second. Dr. Wilson-Norman called for nominations for the office of Board Chair.

Natalie Beyer nominated Heidi Carter to serve as chair of the Board of Education.

Dr. Wilson-Norman called for additional nominations; hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Dr. Wilson-Norman called for a motion and a second to accept the nomination of Heidi Carter as Chair of the Board of Education by acclamation. It was moved by Natalie Beyer; second by Minnie Forte-Brown; the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wilson-Norman congratulated Heidi Carter as Chair of the Board of Education and passed the gavel to her.

Chair Carter welcomed the new Board Members and thanked Dr. Wilson-Norman for filling in for Hugh Osteen, Interim Superintendent, who was unable to attend. She thanked the Board Members for their support and stated that Leigh Bordley was not in attendance due to a medical emergency.

Chair Carter called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Board of Education. Mike Lee nominated Minnie Forte-Brown for the office of Vice Chair for the Board of Education. Chair Carter called for additional nominations; hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Chair Carter called for a motion to accept the nomination of Minnie Forte-Brown for Vice Chair by acclamation. It was moved by Natalie Beyer and seconded by Matt Sears. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Carter recognized Minnie Forte-Brown as the 2014 Vice Chair of the Board of Education.

Vice Chair Forte-Brown welcomed the new Board Members to the smartest Board of Education in the nation. She said that School Board leadership requires creating a vision and structure for schools. It means engaging community stakeholders, identifying priorities, and setting standards for student achievement. It requires establishing assessment and accountability measures, demanding student data to drive decision making, and aligning district resources to support priorities. She said that all of this involves setting the right climate for learning, forming collaborative relationships, and always continually improving performance.

Chair Carter made the following statement:

*"I'd like to take a few minutes to thank you all for giving me your support as our Board Chair for this school year. I consider it a highest privilege to serve our school system and our community in this way. And I feel grateful for the opportunity to work alongside each of you and our strong senior leadership team to continuously improve our schools.*

*These may indeed be times of great challenge for public education, but I think we are well-poised to excel in spite of the challenges. We have 3 new Board Members with unique skills and interests that will increase the collective strength of our board. And beginning next Monday, we will have a new Superintendent who is particularly well-suited to lead our school system through these demanding days to our vision of quality public schools for all Durham's children.*

*A few of our top priority challenges we will address are:*

- *State policies, including those that deal with funding, teacher support, high stakes testing, charter schools, and vouchers;*
- *Disparities in literacy, out of school suspensions, graduation rates, preschool attendance, and childhood wellbeing that provides the foundation for school success;*
- *Social and emotional learning needs of students; and*
- *Community ownership for and involvement in our schools.*

*To address these challenges and achieve our vision requires 6 main things:*

1. *Quality teachers;*
2. *Adequate resources;*
3. *Rich, rigorous, well-rounded curriculum;*
4. *Social support services;*
5. *Physically and emotionally safe learning environments that foster positive youth development; and*
6. *Community confidence and trust in the school system and its capacity to provide high quality education for all children.*

*Today, we have just heard 4 of the 7 of us take the Oath of Office, but I know we all re-affirm our steadfast commitment to fight for the resources, policies, programs, and people that will ensure these required elements are in place for us to achieve our vision of quality public schools throughout Durham Public Schools. We accept our collective responsibility and accountability for the success of all Durham's children, and we ask all of Durham's citizens to join us in the work."*

Chair Carter adjourned the organizational meeting and called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Board at 11:21 a.m.

Chair Carter welcomed everyone to the regular Board Meeting.

### **Agenda Review and Approval**

The agenda was approved by common consent.

### **Public Comment**

Two people signed up to speak and had three minutes.

1. *Ms. Crystal Dreisbach* – Ms. Dreisbach congratulated the newly elected Board Members and stated that she was the Chair of the Don't Waste Durham initiative and that this was a group of Durham citizens focused on reducing consumer waste and encouraging proper waste disposal in our community. She said they represent a wide variety of sectors and backgrounds (small business, non-profit, local government, faith community, academia, artists, concerned citizens, etc.) She gave an open invitation for conversation and collaboration to improve waste reductions in Durham Public Schools. She said there

were monthly public meetings and more information could be found at [dontwastedurham.org](http://dontwastedurham.org).

Chair Carter applauded Ms. Dreisbach for her efforts and let her know that the Board had just approved a Director of Sustainability.

2. *Ms. Donna Frederick* – Ms. Frederick stated that she worked at the Playhouse Toy Store on Ninth Street in Durham and that she had concerns about Lowe’s Grove Middle School and their test scores. She requested that the Board take a look at the issues at Lowe’s Grove Middle School.

Chair Carter assured Ms. Frederick that the Board and the administration would address her concerns at Lowe’s Grove Middle School.

### **Standing Committee Appointments**

Chair Carter stated that the Board Chair and Vice Chair make the following standing committee appointment recommendations by balancing experience, race, gender, and interest:

Administrative Services Committee:	Natalie Beyer, Chair Mike Lee, Vice Chair Leigh Bordley, Member Matt Sears, Member
Instructional Services Committee:	Minnie Forte-Brown, Chair Matt Sears, Vice Chair Natalie Beyer, Member Sendolo Diaminah, Member
Support Services Committee:	Leigh Bordley, Chair Sendolo Diaminah, Vice Chair Minnie Forte-Brown, Member Mike Lee, Member

Chair Carter stated that the Board Chair is an ex officio member of all three committees and each committee will have five members. She stated that it takes four Board Members to form a quorum and the purpose of the committees is for the Board to ask questions and to forward items to the Full Board for votes.

**Adoption of the 2014-2015 Schedule of Board of Education Meetings**

The following schedules were presented:

**DRAFT 1**

<b>Instructional Services Committee</b>	<b>Support Services Committee</b>	<b>Administrative Services Committee</b>	<b>Board Materials Due</b>	<b>Board Agenda Review</b>	<b>Packet to Board/Post on DPS Website</b>	<b>Board Meeting*</b>
						July 7 Organizational Meeting (11:00 A.M.)
August 4	August 5	August 7	August 11	August 14	August 18	August 28
September 8	September 9	September 11	September 15	September 18	September 22	September 25
October 6	October 7	October 9	October 13	October 16	October 20	October 23
November 3	November 4	November 6	November 10	November 13	November 17	November 20
December 1	December 2	December 4	December 8	December 11	December 15	December 18
January 5	January 6	January 8	January 12	January 15	January 16	January 22
February 2	February 3	February 12	February 16	February 19	February 23	February 26
March 2	March 3	March 12	March 16	March 19	March 23	March 26
April 6	April 7	April 9	April 13	April 16	April 20	April 23
May 4	May 5	May 7	May 11	May 14	May 18	May 28
June 1	June 2	June 4	June 15	June 18	June 22	June 25

Draft 1 Meeting Times are as follows:

- Monthly Meeting – 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted
- Standing Committees – 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted

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DRAFT 2:

Board Work Session Materials Due	Board Committee Work Session	Board Materials Due	Board Agenda Review	Packet to Board/Post on DPS Website	Board Meeting*
					July 7 Organizational Meeting (11:00 A.M.)
July 30	August 7	August 11	August 14	August 18	August 28
September 3	September 11	September 15	September 18	September 22	September 25
October 1	October 9	October 13	October 16	October 20	October 23
October 29	November 6	November 10	November 13	November 17	November 20
November 21	December 4	December 8	December 11	December 15	December 18
December 19	January 8	January 12	January 15	January 16	January 22
February 4	February 12	February 16	February 19	February 23	February 26
March 4	March 12	March 16	March 19	March 23	March 26
April 1	April 9	April 13	April 16	April 20	April 23
April 29	May 7	May 11	May 14	May 18	May 28
May 27	June 4	June 15	June 18	June 22	June 25

Draft 2 Meeting Times are as follows:

Monthly Meeting – 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted  
 Board Work Sessions – 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted

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Following Board discussion regarding the two schedules, Chair Carter asked for a motion to approve one of the proposed 2014-2015 Draft schedules of the Board of Education Meetings.

Natalie Beyer made a motion to accept the Draft 1 schedule with the standing committee meetings as presented. Sendolo Diaminah seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Beyer made a motion to adjourn. Mike Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:36 a.m.



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Heidi Carter, Board Chair  
Durham Public Schools Board of Education



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Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman,  
Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services  
Durham Public Schools