

**MINUTES  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECEMBER 16, 2014**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held a special meeting on December 16, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting is for Board Members to discuss priorities within the Superintendent's 4 Goals and Graduate Durham.

**Board Members present:**

Heidi Carter, Chair; Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair; Natalie Beyer; Mike Lee; Sendolo Diaminah; Leigh Bordley; and Matt Sears were present.

**Administrators present:**

Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent; Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services; Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services; and Chip Sudderth, Public Information Officer, were present.

**Others:**

Dr. Melody Clodfelter, MCO Leadership Associates

**Call to Order**

Chair Carter called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was observed.

**Agenda Review**

By unanimous Board consent, the agenda was approved as written.

**Priorities within the Superintendent's 4 Goals and Graduate Durham**

Chair Carter introduced Dr. Melody Clodfelter from MCO Leadership Associates as the facilitator of the Board discussion. Dr. Clodfelter began her presentation by sharing the desired outcome to provide the Board of Education Members, individually and collectively, the opportunity to give input on and discuss priorities for achieving the district's four main goals and Graduate Durham so as to guide the administration's work and the Board's decision making. She explained the ground rules to include: be open and honest to the process; function at a policy and management directive level; to ensure that all Board Members are heard and input is received without judgment; and to dream big and think within the scope of the district's current work. She reviewed the process of gathering individual Board Member's input relative to elements of the four main district goals and Graduate Durham, identifying themes, discussing themes, gathering input to prioritize themes, and to discuss the priorities.

Dr. Clodfelter explained the affinity diagram, a tool to organize ideas into natural groupings. She asked Board Members to write down critical elements that would be present in an ideal school and school system for each of the main school district's goals and Graduate Durham. She reminded Board Members of the main school district goals as follows:

1. Increase student achievement
2. Decrease dropout rate
3. Decrease suspension rate
4. Increase graduation rate

After Board Members posted their ideas, they worked together to rearrange the ideas according to natural relationships and created a header for each category. Dr. Clodfelter led a discussion regarding overlapping themes for each goal and Graduate Durham, as well as overlapping themes across goals. Board Members shared additional thinking about each theme.

**Next Steps**

Dr. Clodfelter will submit a hard copy format of the ideas presented by the Board and will provide it electronically to the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the Deputy Superintendents. Dr. L’Homme and the administrative staff will look at alignment between the Board’s input and current plans of work to determine where priorities are already being addressed; priorities that are not included in current plans of work; and to develop recommendations that will be reported to the Board at a time to be determined.

Board Members discussed revising the mission and vision statements for the district to include student, staff, and community involvement. The consensus was to have the core values agreed upon by the end of June 2015.

Dr. Clodfelter thanked the Board for a rich and informative conversation. Chair Carter thanked Dr. Clodfelter for her hard work and efforts in the planning of this discussion.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:04 p.m.

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Heidi Carter, Chair  
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

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Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent  
Durham Public Schools