

**JOINT BOE-BOCC MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

A joint Durham Public Schools Board of Education (BOE) and Board of Durham County Commissioners (BOCC) held its first 2014-15 quarterly meeting on September 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Durham Public Schools Board of Education Board Room, Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC.

Board of Education Members present:

Heidi Carter, Chair; Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair; Natalie Beyer; Leigh Bordley; Mike Lee (arrived at 9:20 a.m.); Sendolo Diaminah; and Matt Sears were present.

Board of County Commissioners Members present:

Reverend Michael Page, Chair; Brenda A. Howerton, Vice Chair; and Commissioners: Ellen W. Reckhow; and Fred Foster, Jr.; and County Manager, Wendell Davis were present. Wendy Jacobs was not in attendance.

BOE Administration present:

Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent; Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic services; Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services; Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Family, Student and Community Services; Dr. Julie Spencer, Assistant Superintendent of Research and Accountability; Scott Denton, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Tom Crabtree, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Alisa McLean, Area Superintendent for High Schools; Emmett Tilley, Interim Area Superintendent for Middle Schools; John McCain, Area Superintendent for Elementary Schools; Chrissy Pearson, Chief Communications Officer; and Dr. Teresa Daye, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, were present.

Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order and presided over a moment of silence to reflect and remember the Hillside High School Senior who was killed in a single car accident over the past weekend.

Opening Remarks

Chair Carter welcomed the Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the BOE and BOCC staffs, and visitors, and asked each person to introduce themselves. She thanked Superintendent L’Homme and stated that the schools got off to a great start. She said that the district continues to grow, there was a 2% increase in enrollment, and that DPS was expecting an influx of immigrant children. She stated that the district must be proactive with academic and social needs of these children. Chair Carter welcomed the new School Board Members who bring new attitudes and individual strengths.

Reverend Page welcomed the new School Board Members and welcomed back Dr. L’Homme to Durham Public Schools. He thanked both Boards for this opportunity and was looking forward to the discussion.

Superintendent’s General Report – Overall Goals and Objectives

Superintendent L'Homme began by stating that there were three "first day of school" days for the district; Year Round Schools, Specialty High Schools and Traditional Schools. He stated that he visited all Year Round and Specialty Schools and nine of the Traditional Schools on the first day. He said that his personal goal was to have visited every school by the end of November.

Dr. L'Homme shared the District Goals for 2014-2015 as follows:

1. Increase Student Achievement
2. Increase Graduation Rate
3. Decrease Suspensions
4. Decrease Drop-out Rate

Dr. L'Homme stated that there was a re-organization at the Central Services level to better achieve these goals. He said there will be three Area Superintendents; John McCain, Dr. Alisa Mclean, and in a couple weeks, Jacqueline Ellis, and each will serve K-12 schools. Dr. L'Homme shared information regarding the Common Core. He said that the General Assembly had not repealed the Common Core but has appointed a review commission who will make recommendations for modifying the Common Core State Standards. Vice Chair Forte-Brown stated that she would provide a list of the Review Commission members to both Boards.

Dr. L'Homme shared that every teacher is a reading teacher and he presented the Graduate Durham initiative. He explained that Graduate Durham is the roadmap for improving instruction and student achievement. He stated that his focus was also on Professional Development; restoring a Teacher Mentoring Program that would provide veteran teacher mentors for new teachers; and implementing a Principal's Mentoring Program that would provide dedicated Principal Coaches for new Principals.

Dr. L'Homme stated that there is a high need for Mental Health Services at the school level for many students. He said that Principals want and need Mental Health Counselors on site. He shared that he has appointed Elizabeth Shearer as the new Executive Director for Student Services, and she will work with truancy, drop-out prevention, PBIS, and student suspensions.

Ms. Reckhow shared the Robert Balfanz article regarding children in poverty don't attend schools regularly. She said the pattern begins in Kindergarten and she would like to see the focus of truancy begin at the Kindergarten level. There was continued discussion regarding the correlation between truancy, crime, and environmental issues, and the need for a community survey to look at the data and to do something about these community issues. It was suggested that a community survey come from Durham County.

DPS Budget and Impact of Current State Legislation **Review of Enrollment Data**

- **Enrollment Trends**

Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services, began the Enrollment Trends presentation. He showed four charts which reflected enrollment trends for the past seven years. He pointed out that enrollment remained flat at the elementary school level, increased 15% at the middle school level, and a 2.1% increase at the high school level. He said that overall, this equals a 3.7% increase in enrollment in the past seven years, indicating a slow and steady growth.

- **DPS Projections/State Budget/Enrollment**

Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Financial Officer, began the DPS Projections, State Budget, and Enrollment presentation. He explained that all budgets are tied to growth data and enrollment. He said that projected enrollment drives the budget and he showed a chart that compares the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's projected average daily membership (ADM) to Durham Public Schools' projected ADM. Mr. Beaulieu stated that this information can be found at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI) website at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/fbs/allotments/state/> . He said that NCDPI had allotted numbers on growth and the projected amount was \$177 million dollars from the state; but the initial allotment was \$181.9 million dollars.

- **Charter School/Enrollment/Budget Impact**

Mr. Beaulieu shared a chart indicating the reduction to the State budget for increased Charter School growth. He stated that there was a \$1.6 million dollar reduction for Charter growth due to a 625 student increase from last year.

Mr. Beaulieu presented charts indicating the County appropriation funding from 2008-09 through 2014-15. Lastly, he shared information regarding per pupil funding for 2008-09 through 2014-15 with and without the ¼ cent sales tax level funding. There was continued discussion and Mr. Beaulieu thoroughly answered all questions.

- **Capacity**

Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services, began the Capacity presentation. He shared student capacity charts including mobile units at the elementary, middle, specialty, and high schools. He stated that DPS is presently at 98% capacity with 55 mobile units. He said that magnet schools are a challenge for capacity planning but a great choice for students and families. Board Members discussed Little River and Mangum Elementary Schools and how they have been affected by the Voyager Academy.

Discussion ensued regarding charter schools versus public schools and the consensus was that there needed to be a marketing strategy to tell the community about the great things happening in DPS.

2013-2014 State Testing Results

Dr. Julie Spencer, Assistant Superintendent of Research and Accountability, began the 2013-2014 State Testing Results presentation. She presented the NC Ready Accountability Model Indicators and explained that there are two standards for reporting data:

1. Grade Level Proficiency (Level 3, 4, and 5)
 - Used for School Performance Grades
 - Added after 2012-2013 data release (March, 2014)
 - Included in all accountability reporting (except AMO Targets)

2. College and Career Readiness (Level 4 and 5)

- Used for Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) targets
- CCR was used in initial 2012-2013 data release
- Included in all accountability reporting

Dr. Spencer presented a summary of the results for year 2013-14 to include the following:

- 34.8% of students were College and Career Ready (Achievement Levels 4-5)
- 44.1% were Grade Level Proficient (Achievement Levels 3-5)
- 73.6% (39 of 53) of DPS schools *Met* or *Exceeded* Expected Growth
- The district met 55.2% (116 out of 210) of its AMO Targets.

Dr. Spencer shared some highlights from year 2013-14 and said that 69.6% of DPS students were proficient on ACT WorkKeys exams compared to 59.4% in 2012-13. She said this represents a 10.2 percentage point increase. Dr. Spencer stated that ACT WorkKeys is a measure for College and Career Readiness and employers use this as a measure. Superintendent L'Homme stated that every student in DPS can go to college.

Dr. Spencer shared the State and DPS grade level proficiency comparison for 2013-14, and the career and college readiness comparisons from 2012-13 to 2013-14. She explained that the Education Value-Added Assessment System or EVAAS was a school-wide growth indicator. She said that 73.6% of DPS schools met or exceeded growth and 83% increased or stayed the same as last year. Dr. L'Homme stated that the goal was for every DPS school to exceed growth every year. Lastly, Dr. Spencer presented the 2013-14 Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) reports which indicated the percentage of AMO targets met. There was continued discussion and Dr. Spencer thoroughly answered all questions.

County Support for Latino Families

Superintendent L'Homme shared the following information:

- From May 2014 – August 13, 2014, the ESL Resource Center enrolled 109 high school students compared to a total of 179 high school students in 2013-14. It is hard to predict how many more students will enroll, but another 200 students are likely by December 2014.
- ESL Resource Center was registering 2 to 3 students per hour but this has decreased to 1 to 2 per day.
- Approximately 75% of high school students are unaccompanied minors.

He shared total enrollment numbers in DPS and which schools have been impacted the most: Creekside, Forest View, Holt, Brogden, Githens, Riverside, and Jordan. He said that Githens, Jordan, and Riverside are experiencing the greatest impact. Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family, and Community Services, shared that the ESL Director, Sashi Rayasam, and Dr. Teresa Daye, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, are working with staff and exploring strategies to increase awareness and strengthen services within DPS. Dr. L'Homme stated that this is a huge undertaking and he needs everyone's help to embrace these students. Chair Carter shared the need for bi-lingual social workers in DPS as there are currently none. Reverend Page recommended a joint retreat to address this community issue and to include representatives from the Health Department and DSS.

Chair Carter shared that the DPS Board of Education is preparing to ask legislators for the power to decide when the county adds a new charter school, and that this would be an item on this year's Legislative Agenda. In addition, she asked County Commissioners to join the school district in asking lawmakers to give school districts the authority to grant charters.

Durham County Manager, Mr. Wendell Davis, thanked both Boards for a good and fruitful conversation. He suggested the creation of a MOU with respect to future conversations regarding funding versus arguing over dollars and cents.

Board Chair Carter stated that the district is pleased to have this opportunity for the Boards to meet together and thanked everyone for coming.

Having no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. The next quarterly meeting of the Boards is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2014 at the Board of County Commissioners' Chambers, 200 East Main Street, Durham, NC.

Heidi Carter, Chairperson
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools