

MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 4, 2015

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held a special meeting on May 4, 2015 at 6:08 p.m. in the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting is to consider public input on the FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget and to consider confidential personnel matters under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319, and to consult with the board attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in NCGS 318.11(a)(3).

Board Members present:

Heidi Carter, Chair; Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair; Mike Lee; Natalie Beyer, 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; Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Financial Officer and Tom Crabtree, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Attorney present: Ken Soo

Call to Order

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

Agenda Review

The agenda was approved by common consent.

Public Comment

Ten people signed up to speak:

Mr. Clifton Holly – Mr. Holly stated that he was a DPS custodian and asked the Board not to forget about the classified employees. He stated that they work hard and not to leave them out of the 2015-2016 budget.

Ms. Carolyn Page – Ms. Page is a school bus driver with DPS and asked the Board to please put the classified employees in the budget. She stated that she had to down size her living arrangements twice and is now living with her daughter due to low salary.

Ms. Page McCullough - Ms. McCullough stated that she is the Co-chair for the People's Alliance Education Team. She stated that DPS has a 65% Free & Reduced population and an 88% people of color population and that DPS is faced with lots of challenges. She stated that she has 3 things she feels DPS needs to do:

1. High Quality Pre-School
2. Smaller Class Sizes
3. Experience Subject Experts

Ms. Abijah Gattis – Ms. Grattis is a student at Durham School of the Arts High School, she asked the Board for more funding in Social Studies due to the states new requirement of having to have 4 years of history to graduate. This cut the AP Psychology teacher in having to limit the number of AP Psychology classes to teach in order to add the required history classes. There is now a waiting list of 100 students for this class.

Ms. Dana Palmer – Ms. Palmer is also a student at Durham School of the Arts High School and is asking for funding for the history program so she too can take AP Psychology.

Ms. Angela Justice – Ms. Justice stated that she is from the DPS Transportation Department and a member of the Teamsters. She stated that she has been with DPS since 1989 and has not seen a raise in 6 years. She stated she is married and even with her husband's income it is still struggle. She asked the Board not to forget them in the budget.

Ms. Stephanie Daye – Ms. Daye stated that she has been a bus driver with DPS for 26 years as well as the Teamsters Union Stewart. Ms. Daye stated that she earns \$1600.00 a month, has 4 children and a second job on the weekends. She stated that the stagnated wages have caused hardship and it seems that the classified support seem to get left behind. She said she would like to see a 3% pay increase.

Ms. Emma O'Loughlin – Ms. O'Loughlin stated that she was a student at Durham School of the Arts High School and asked to Board to please fund extra teachers for Social Studies.

Mr. Michel Tharp – Mr. Tharp stated that he is an ex-teacher with DPS, a volunteer at Y.E. Smith Elementary and served on Budget Advisory Committee. He praised Dr. L'Homme, Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. LeSieur for all their hard work in putting together a very tight and well thought out budget. Mr. Tharp stated that he had two (2) areas he would like to address:

1. He wants to be sure that reduction in student count does not impact school services and that the self-contained students need to be included in the student count for all services that the school must provide them.
2. He is concerned about taking 33 teachers out of the classrooms will definitely impact the ability to serve all of the students. To help reduce the impact he is asking to phase the removal of self-contained students from the allotment formula over a 2 or 3 year period.

Ms. Crystal Dreisbach – Ms. Dreisbach stated that currently she is a stay at home Mom and is representing lots of people with very young children who most of will attend public school. She wanted to say that she will have her ear to the ground and pay close attention to policies of Durham Public Schools as time grows nearer for her children to attend.

After Public Comment Dr. L'Homme and Mr. Beaulieu present a power point on the FY 2015-2016 Budget.

Mr. Beaulieu handed out a chart that the Board had previously asked for showing the salary increases starting in the 2010/11 fiscal year for Durham City classified employees, Durham County classified employees and Durham Public Schools classified employees. Because of this chart, the Board asked that Mr. Beaulieu come back to the Special Called BOE Meeting on May 11, 2015 with four (4) options showing:

1. No change in the allotment formula
2. Adding a 2% increase for classified employees
3. Adding a 3% increase for classified employees

4. Adding a 2% increase for classified employees and leaving the 33 teacher positions in.

Matt Sears made a motion to task administration to come back to the Board with the different options a week from today. Sendolo Diaminah seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session Motion

On a motion by Natalie Beyer, seconded by Mike Lee, the board convened in closed session to consider confidential personnel matters under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319, and to consult with the board attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in NCGS 318.11(a)(3) at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The board reconvened in open session at approximately 8:17 p.m.

Superintendent L’Homme recommended the approval of the Personnel Report dated May 4, 2015.

Natalie Beyer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation of the Personnel Report dated May 4, 2015. Minnie Forte-Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools