

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 26, 2015**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting March 26, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, North Carolina.

Board Members present:

Heidi Carter, Chair; Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair; Natalie Beyer; Matt Sears; Mike Lee; Leigh Bordley; and Sendolo Diaminah (arrived 6:43) were present.

Administration present:

Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent; Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services; Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services; Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family, and Community Services; Tom Crabtree, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Chrissy Pearson, Chief Communications Officer; and Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Finance Officer, were present.

Others present: Ken Soo, Attorney and June Snyder, recorder

Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order and presided over a moment of silence.

Be Our Guest

Matt Sears shared comments during the meal with Be Our Guests families. He invited the Board Members and Superintendent L’Homme to join him on the red carpet to pay tribute to the parents/guardians of students at Forest View Elementary, Glenn Elementary, Lakeview School, Mangum Elementary and Riverside High School.

Celebrations

Board Members recognized students and parents.

Chief Communications Officer, Chrissy Pearson, recognized the following:

Duke University’s DPS Student of the Month – This program spotlights students who distinguish themselves with character and integrity.

Bakari Smith – February Student of the Month.

Assistant Principal Jason Jowers from Hillside High School introduced Bakari and shared comments. Bakari holds a 5.0 weighted GPA and is never at a loss for activities to keep him busy. He is serving as First Vice President of the Kappa Leadership Development League, a member of the National Honor Society, the student government association, the academic team and the poetry club. Bakari plans on attending UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall where he wants to put his love of science to work and become a biomedical engineer. “I love helping others. That’s always been a focus of mine. And I want to work in a field that combines technology, science, and help others at the same time.” The poem If by Rudyard Kipling has been an inspiration to

Bakari. The values conveyed in the poem are values he strives to live by each day. Bakari said that he believes “the poem defines a man and how a man should be” and that he tries to model himself after those qualities. Bakari was presented with a certificate and asked to walk the red carpet.

Kailey Morgan – March Student of the Month

Principal David Hawks from Durham School of the Arts introduced Kailey and shared comments. Kailey is a senior and holds a 4.9 GPA. She is a busy young lady who is a member of the Cross Country Team, the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, Vice-President of the Student Council, and DSA’s theatre group. When she’s not studying or participating in school activities, Kailey enjoys spending time with family and friends and reading. Her favorite book is Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. She loves the way it’s written and how the characters and plots converge throughout the book. Kailey has not yet decided if she will attend UNC or the University of Texas in Austin in the fall, but would like to major in English, film or journalism. Kailey credits her parents for being her biggest inspiration and says “they encourage me the most and congratulate me no matter what I do.” She also has a twin sister that attends DSA and says having her sibling there helps keep her grounded. Kailey was presented with a certificate and asked to walk the red carpet.

Aahron Benthall – Backpack Buddies

Chrissy Pearson introduced a special young man with a big heart, Aahron Benthall. Aahron is a first grader at Pearsontown Elementary School and he dedicated a classroom service project to the parents of students participating in Backpack Buddies. Backpack Buddies is a program that provides children a healthy weekend meal during the school year. With Christmas money and support from family members, Aahron collected 25 bags of toiletries, cleaning products and toilet tissue. Social Service benefits do not cover many cleaning and personal items for recipients, so these items must be purchased separately. Aahron wanted to help parents by supplying some of these items for them. All items were donated to the Backpack Buddies parents at CC Spaulding Elementary. Aahron was presented with a certificate and asked to walk the red carpet.

Bettie Closs – Duke Regional Spelling Bee Champ

Beth Cross, Director of Advanced Academics introduced Bettie Closs, the winner of the Duke Regional Spelling Bee. Ms. Cross stated that Bettie can now claim the title as the two-time Duke Regional Spelling Bee champ. The Lucas Middle School student beat out students from Durham and Orange County public, charter, private and home schools over the weekend, taking first place in Round 13. Bettie will now go on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Bettie along with one of her parents will – once more! – receive an all-expenses paid trip to the national spelling bee which is held at the end of May. Bettie was asked to walk the red carpet.

National Board Certified Teachers

Ms. Jennifer Nifong presented the Durham Public Schools 2014-2015 NBCT honorees. These honorees were celebrated with a dinner on March 18th. Ms. Nifong stated that tonight we

congratulate the 21 Durham Public School teachers who received their National Board Certification and an additional 11 teachers who renewed their National Board Certification. NBCT is an advanced teaching credential achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do. The teachers were asked to walk the red carpet.

Superintendent's Updates

Superintendent L'Homme shared the following updates:

Today I had a great day; I visited 3 of our great schools, Lakewood, Morehead and Parkwood. This afternoon I went to the funeral of Mr. Willie Bradshaw. Many of you know of his work. I have known him for almost 20 years. He was the first African American administrator in Durham City Schools. I know that he fought to integrate the athletic team before the laws passed. I know that when the school systems merged he was the 1st Athletic Director for the School System. One of the things I heard over and over from former athletes and friends is that he was always dedicated to making sure that the students he coached is to reach higher and gave them the confidence to do that. Listening to his athletes speak was extraordinary. When you look out and look for those hero's in your life, Willie Bradshaw is one of those hero's. This morning when I was at Parkwood they celebrated Black History. I know its March and they were still celebrating. Black History is something we should do every day not just for one month. I read the story of Jane Pittman to the students of Parkwood, and then when I went to Willie Bradshaw's funeral I realized we had a real life hero right in our mist. He worked for Durham Public Schools and Durham City Schools; I can't imagine how many lives he touched.

Thanks to the Board for adopting the resolution honoring the integration for Brogden Junior High School. Janice Mack Guess was an inspiring speaker, and the honorees and school community were moved by your resolution remembering the lessons of those difficult years when young children, through their struggles, helped change the world.

Congratulations to Hillside High's Justine Lyon, who is the PAC-6 player of the year in girls' basketball. This is one of our most well rounded students in Durham Public Schools: a 4.9 GPA in the International Baccalaureate Programme, member of the National Honor Society, senior class vice president and homecoming queen. AND she has 1.442 points, 1.034 rebounds and 315 steals to her name. After graduation Justine will be attending Davidson College on a full basketball scholarship.

We had great attendance at our Title I District-wide Parent Advisory Council Parent Engagement Night last Thursday at the Durham Armory. The theme for the event was "Engineering", our K-5 science specialist Dacia Jones led parents and students in using an assortment of materials to design, build and display towers and test cars. At the end of the session, parents received a nine-week study and activity guide to reinforce the K-8 curriculum

standards taught during the quarter. Thanks to all of our Academic Services staff who made this event a success.

Speaking of Dacia Jones, she was a featured presenter at the South by Southwest education festival in Austin, Texas, March 9th – 12th. Mrs. Jones was on a panel, “While You Were at Work, Your Kid Was on Mars” that discussed the rise of virtual field trips and how digital access has changed how students experience the world outside school. Her fellow panelists included Mythbusters television host Kari Byron; Liat Ben-Rafael, Google Doodles Brand Manager; and a representative from the White House.

Finally, congratulations to DSA student Vernondo Garcia-Carroll and Middle College student Sary Lili Martinez, who both won Human Rights Youth Awards for the City of Durham Human Relations Commission, which recognized them for their time and talents on Friday, February 27th at the Hayti Heritage Center. The Human Rights Youth Award is presented to an individual or group of individuals under the age of 18 for demonstrating an understanding of, and commitment to, human relations in Durham.

Agenda Review and Approval

The agenda was approved as written by common consent.

General Public Comment: There was one speaker:

Ms. Andrea Petifer, Assistant Principal at Pearsontown Elementary and DAE President. Ms. Petifer stated that she was here as the DAE President tonight. Ms. Petifer stated that the DAE is asking all of you to join us at NCAE Lobby Days. This year there will be 2 days, April 28th and June 23rd. The NCAE released its annual ranking of all the states. North Carolina continues to be in the bottom 5 states for expenditures per student. While in 2015 the NCAE sees North Carolina moving to 46th, in 2014 they were 47th. Nationally per pupil funding dropped \$12.00, it went from \$8632 to \$8620 per student. This report follows the release of Governor McCorry’s proposed budget, in which the percentage of overall funding for education in the second year is the lowest in a generation. We are all aware how the shortfall will affect Durham Public Schools. Therefore, the NCAE is asking all of you to join us at our NCAE Lobby Days. We hold Lobby Days at the General Assembly. We are asking you to come to Raleigh to talk to your Representative about developing solutions for great public schools and the commitment is going to take all of us to ensure that each child in North Carolina receives a sound public education. As educators it’s important that we remain engaged in the political process. I hear this question all the time. Why? Because decisions made in Raleigh everyday affect our profession, our personal lives, from the number of textbooks, to class size, to student and school safety. Public education has been a target in the last few years and we must make sure our student centered pro public school agenda moves forward and we need your help. So whether you are on NCAE member or not, if you ‘heart’ public schools, we want to see you on April 28th and/or June 23rd. We will meet at the NCAE Center located at 700 East Salisbury Street at 9:30 a.m. for a debriefing and walk and lobby together.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- February 26 Rescheduled to March 2, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting – Open and Closed
- March 16, 2015 Special Meeting - Open

Natalie Beyer made a motion to approve these minutes as written. Sendolo Diaminah seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Chair Carter noted that the Consent Agenda items were thoroughly discussed in committee.

- a. Hope Valley Elementary School – Right-of-Way and Easement**
- b. Hillandale Elementary School – Bids for Roofing Replacement**
- c. Githens Middle School – Athletic Fields Renovations**
- d. Hillandale Elementary School – Bids for Kitchen, Life Safety & Site Upgrades**
- e. Brogden Middle School – Bids for Life Safety Upgrades**
- f. Southwest Elementary School – Bids for Life Safety Upgrades**

Sendolo Diaminah made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Minnie Forte-Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Committees

- I. Administrative Services Committee**
 - a. Whitted Project Agreement**
Recommendation: Action
Public Comment: None

Mr. Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operational Services, presented the Whitted Project Agreement. Focusing on the continuing planning and design on the redevelopment of the Whitted Project, Mr. Osteen stated that the public private partnership agreement has been developed for approval by Durham Public Schools, the County of Durham and Integral Development LLC. The agreement provides for each party's role in renovation, construction and operation of the facility. Also, further legal documents may be required based on this agreement. Mr. Osteen stated that the operating cost for the Pre-K center will be covered by the County and Durham Public Schools equally.

After a thorough discussion, Minnie Forte-Brown made a motion to approve the Whitted Project Agreement. Matt Sears seconded and the motion passed by a 4 to 3 vote (Sendolo Diaminah, Mike Lee, Natalie Beyer).

- b. 2015-2016 Budget Development**

Recommendation: Discussion
Public Comment: None

Mr. Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Finance Officer, began the presentation and shared the recommended list of budget priorities and guiding principles approved by the Board. Documentation is continuously updated and adjusted as we put the budget together. FY 2015-16 Budget Reconciliation and Projections of Fixed Cost, Inflationary Increases, and State Mandates provide information that is used for planning and projecting the expenses associated with the local current expense budget. Mr. Beaulieu stated that utilization of lapse salary dollars is projected to be available for the current school year and staff is working on recommendations to the Board. Mr. Beaulieu also stated that the 2015-16 budget development process allows the board to work toward submitting a balance local current budget to the County Commissioners by May 15, 2015.

Mr. Beaulieu thoroughly answered all questions and concerns. The Board thanked Mr. Beaulieu and his department for all their hard work.

Closed Session

On a motion by, Mike Lee seconded by Natalie Beyer, 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).

The Board convened in closed session at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 8:59 p.m.

Personnel Approval

Superintendent L’Homme recommended approval of the March 26, 2015, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports dated March 26, 2015; seconded by Sendolo Diaminah, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Carter thanked everyone for coming and having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools