

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 23, 2015**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting April 23, 2015, at 6:32 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 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 and Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Finance Officer, were present.

Others present: Ken Soo, Attorney

Call to Order

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

Special Guests

Hillside High School Chorus – The Hillside High School Chorus sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and “The Star Spangled Banner”. The Hillside High School Chorus was to be recognized during Black History Month, but due to weather the meeting was postponed.

Be Our Guest

Leigh Bordley shared comments and thanked the Northern High School Culinary students for the meal during Be Our Guests. She invited the Board Members and Superintendent L’Homme to join her on the red carpet to pay tribute to the parents/guardians of students at Hope Valley Elementary, George Watts Montessori Elementary, Morehead Elementary, and Pearsontown Elementary.

Celebrations

Board Members recognized students, parents, and community partners.

William ‘Chip’ Sudderth-III, Director of Public Information, presented the following:

Duke University and Durham Public Schools Student of the Month

Mr. Hopkins, Assistant Principal from Jordan High School spoke about Mary Katherine Falgout, the Duke University/Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for April. This Jordan High School senior holds a 4.4 weighted GPA and is quite active in school and civic organizations. She serves as student body president, a member of the school chorus, President of the YMCA

Leaders Club, member of the Brain Game team, Co-Chair of the North Carolina Youth Legislative Assembly, member of the RTP sailing team, a sailing instructor and camp counselor at Camp Seafarer. And if that's not enough, Mary Katherine also finds time to hold down a part-time job at Chick-Fil-A.

Voted "most likely to rule the world" by her fellow classmates, Mary Katherine says she's more focused on changing the world. She is a strong proponent of decreasing the world's poverty rate and hopes that through policy and advocacy of the underserved, the world poverty rate can be lessened. Mary Katherine plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall and major in either public policy or Global studies. She believes the best way to make a difference in how we deal with the issue of poverty is through the changing of laws. Mary Katherine credits her Catholic school upbringing and it's teachings of helping the less fortunate as a major factor in her desire to help end global poverty. She also added that attending law school is highly likely to also be a part of her future plans.

Ms. Mary Katherine was asked to walk the red carpet and presented a certificate.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Dr. Pittman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family and Community Services, stated that the members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) serve as student advisors to the Superintendent's decision-making process. This diverse group of students provides feedback and suggestions on major district-wide initiatives and programs. In addition, the SSAC members serve as liaisons between the school administration, student peers and Central Services administrators in an effort to identify, express and resolve student concerns.

These students were called up to walk the red carpet and presented a certificate.

John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program

Dr. Daniel Kelvin Bullock, DPS K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Specialist stated the John Hope Franklin Young Scholars program is funded by Duke under the auspices of the Center for African and African American Research. Young Scholars range from 6th – 9th grade and are in many DPS schools throughout the district. Participants are all AIG in Language Arts because of the heavy reading and writing component, and are recommended by the 5th grade teachers. Each year begins with a one-week immersion program followed by regular meetings/events throughout the school year.

John Hope Franklin made a point of bringing to light little-known but important parts of history. The Young Scholars have been trying to build on his legacy. Over the six years of the program, they have studied slaves who crafted their way to freedom and the push and pull behind the Great Migration and currently are creating a documentary to bring attention to the Civil Rights struggle happening in North Carolina during the Civil War. Last year, to coincide with the centenary of John Hope Franklin's birth, we published a tribute book, *Running for Hope*, in his honor. It intertwines graphical sections of his autobiography together with the fictional account of an African American Durham student coming to terms with race and making his own mark in bringing history to light. The student, as are the Young Scholars, is passionate about making sure the 1898 Wilmington Coup/Riot is taught in North Carolina schools.

The Young Scholars recently appeared on UNC TV's *North Carolina Now* program and WUNC's *State of Things*. These students have done a wonderful job with their commitment and dedication to this project.

The Young Scholars were recognized by calling them to the walk the red carpet.

Community Partners

Mr. William 'Chip' Sudderth-III, Director of Public Information, introduced the community partner for Y.E. Smith. He stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the partnership with Police R.E.A.D.S. The Durham Police Department reached out to Y.E. Smith a couple of years ago, and ever since then we have been extremely fortunate to have nurtured a strong relationship with our beloved police officers.

The police officers involved in the program are dedicated to supporting student achievement and provide smiles throughout the building on Tuesday mornings for six weeks! Numerous police agencies throughout Durham have banded together to strengthen this partnership that provides students the opportunity to witness our police officers as partners in education, and to interact with the officers up close and personal on an individual basis.

We are thankful and fortunate that our families, staff, but most importantly students experience the power of collaboration with all police agencies within our community. We look forward to the continued partnership for years to come.

The police officer representing the Police R.E.A.D.S. program was presented a certificate and asked to walk the red carpet.

Superintendent's Updates

Superintendent L'Homme shared the following updates:

Dr. L'Homme stated how pleased and proud he is of the Superintendents Student Advisory Council. They are a very advanced group of people with great ideas and visions. There is not a wallflower among the group.

Dr. L'Homme announced some steps that we're taking this summer that will hopefully come as welcome news to our high school parents. As you know, the future of Driver Education in North Carolina is uncertain, as the state legislature has to decide whether to restore funding for it, or to pass on the costs to school districts and families. After a close review, we have been able to determine that we can fund this summer's round of Driver's Ed classes from savings, a cost of \$80,000. This is a short-term solution while we await more details from the General Assembly.

Congratulations to Hillside High's Kiara Thorpe and Jolil Smoke, who have both won the very prestigious 2015 Gates Millennium Scholarship. This scholarship program is for outstanding minority students with strong academic performance and demonstrated leadership abilities, and the scholarships are renewable through graduation. Miss Thorpe and Miss Smoke will both attend Spelman College in Atlanta next year, and we are very proud of them.

This year Dr. Sharon L. Spencer and Dr. Sandra A. Vavra from North Carolina Central University released a new book, 'Getting to the Common Core: Using Research-Based Strategies That Empower Students to Own Their Own Learning.' It's a rich book that provides examples and techniques "from real teachers in real classrooms". I was pleased to see Dr. Spencer and Dr. Vavra acknowledge and thank 19 Durham Public Schools teachers for their contributions to the book, saying "they provide incredibly rich learning environments for their students' success every day of the school year." I want to share our appreciation for their professionalism and dedication to our students to these teachers; Angela Batson, Jennifer Burton, Marion Reid Dixon, Jessica Jakobczyk, Nicole Krisko, Diedre Lee, Michele Leshner, Brian Martin, Paula McEachin, Lauren Owens, Leilani Owens, Tobi Radden, Mary Ross, Regina Rouse, Linda Seligman, Maria Mejia-Sinclair, Mackenzie Slaney, Shamia Truitt-Martin and Jeffrey Whitt.

Our Evening Academy program at Lakeview School is now underway, and I am very encouraged by the early results. The Evening Academy is an alternative to suspension for Lakeview students, staffed by educators who truly care about, and reach out to, our students. All of us, administration and board alike, are committed to reducing suspensions and helping our students build themselves back up. The Evening Academy appears to off to a good start.

We just learned yesterday that we have won a \$15,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to support our Pre-K programs, so I wanted to congratulate Suzanne Cotterman, Leann Brennaman and our whole team for seizing this opportunity.

In closing, Dr. L'Homme stated that he had just heard that Ms. Loretta Lynch has been approved as the new Attorney General! Ms. Lynch is a Durham Public Schools Graduate and Durham could not be any prouder.

Agenda Review and Approval

The agenda was approved as written by common consent.

General Public Comment: Five People Signed Up:

Mr. James Chavis, Jr. – Mr. Chavis expressed his displeasure with BOE Vice-Chair, Minnie Forte-Brown while they were both at Partners Against Crime/District 1 meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2015.

Mr. Wendell Tabb – Mr. Tabb is a teacher at Hillside High School. He wanted to thank the Board for their continued support of the Arts. Mr. Tabb also asked the Board to keep the teacher supplements on their radar.

Ms. Kristi Wescott – Ms. Wescott stated that she was pleased with the Boards resolution to support energy efficient and sustainable facility design. She stated that with solar power, not only is there a cost savings, it can be incorporated into the student's science classes.

Mr. David Tucker – Mr. Tucker stated that he too was thankful for the resolution. He shared that while solar power is expensive, there are grants to help with the costs as well as getting a corporation to purchase the solar project and the school system will reap the benefits of a reduced energy bill. The corporation will reap the rewards from selling the extra power back to the electric companies as well as the energy tax credits.

Ms. Diane Winstead – Ms. Winstead shared with the Board that she is a former employee and felt that she was plotted against while employed with DPS causing her to be wrongfully terminated.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- March 26, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting – Open and Closed
- April 9, 2015 Special Meeting - Closed

Minnie Forte-Brown 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. Forest View Elementary School-Bids for Asphalt**
- b. Little River Elementary School-Bids for Asphalt Restoration**
- c. George Watts Elementary School-Bids for Life Safety Upgrades**
- d. Classroom Furniture Replacement**
- e. School Nutrition Services-Food Bids for 2015-2016**
- f. School Nutrition Services-Meal Prices for 2015-2016**
- g. Information Technology Active Directory Project Approval**
- h. 2015-2016 Calendars for Small Specialty High Schools**

Matt Sears made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mike Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Board

- Resolution Supporting Energy Efficient and Sustainable Facility Design**

Chair Carter asked the board to read the resolution out loud.

Resolution Supporting Energy Efficient and Sustainable Facility Design

WHEREAS, the Durham voters and taxpayers have been very supportive of building new and improving existing facilities due to both growth and current conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Board has supported the administration's efforts to incorporate sustainable design, energy efficiency and environmentally friendly practices into school facilities, and

WHEREAS, all occupants – students and staff – will be healthier and teach and learn better in such facilities, and

WHEREAS, Durham Public Schools faces challenging and often daunting budget conditions every fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, shrewd investment strategy and fiscal responsibility are a value of all energy decisions at DPS, and

WHEREAS, a diversified energy portfolio reduces our vulnerability to price and supply fluctuations, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Durham County made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions, and

WHEREAS, more energy efficient school facilities are less costly to operate, allowing limited funding to be focused on teaching and learning, and

WHEREAS, DPS has already designed several LEED certified buildings and consistently exhibits its commitment to teaching and learning environmental stewardship through inclusion in programs and curricula, and

WHEREAS, the Board does recognize that current legal restrictions unique to the State of North Carolina limit the financial viability of utilizing solar energy and other renewable sources, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Durham Public Schools Board of Education expresses its support for legislative changes that improve the financial viability of utilizing solar energy and other renewable resources, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education encourages administrators at every level throughout our system to support a culture of energy conservation, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education expresses its commitment to seek all achievable, practical and reasonable measures to reduce its dependence on and use of high-carbon fossil fuel energy sources to the maximum extent possible, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board is committed to design new buildings and major renovations to achieve high performance building standards based on the most current industry opportunities and guidelines available at the time, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board seeks this standard as a partnership with the Board of County Commissioners related to funding available for school construction and renovation.

This the 23rd day of April, 2015.

Heidi Carter, Chair

Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair

Natalie Beyer

Leigh Bordley

Sendolo Diaminah

Mike Lee

Matt Sears

Bert L'Homme, Ph. D., Superintendent

Leigh Bordley made a motion to approve the Resolution. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Committees

I. Instructional Services Committee

a. Summer Programs 2015

Recommendation: Information

Public Comment: None

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services, presented the Summer Programs for 2015. Dr. Wilson-Norman explained the different programs and where they will be held. She stated that these programs are being funded with State and Local dollars, Grants, Federal Funds and Title 1 finds. All programs will be on the DPS website May 1st under Parent Resources. Dr. Wilson-Norman said that she will get the total number of students who will attend these programs.

The Board thanked Dr. Wilson-Norman for the information.

II. Support Services Committee

a. Revised Policy 5430 Non-Renewal of Teachers on Renewable Contracts

Recommendation: Action

Public Comment: None

Mr. Tom Crabtree, Area Superintendent of Human Resource Services, presented the Revised Policy 5430. He stated that these changes will restore the teacher's due process. Questions were

raised about changing the language in the first paragraph of item number 1. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to approve the revision as is, then bring it back to the Board for an additional revision.

Matt Sears made a motion to approve the Revised Policy 5430 Non-Renewal of Teachers on Renewable Contracts. Mike Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Superintendent

a. Presentation of the FY 2015-2016 Budget

Recommendation: Action

Public Comment: None

Dr. Bert L'Homme presented the FY 2015-2016 budget to the Board. He stated that his is a cautious budget and his goal is to have minimal impact on teachers and teacher assistants. The Board will review the budget and have a Public Comment Meeting on May 4, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. and a Budget adoption Meeting on May 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

Closed Session

On a motion by Mike Lee seconded by Sendolo Diaminah, 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 9:01p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 10:05p.m.

Personnel Approval

Superintendent L'Homme recommended approval of the April 23, 2015, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports dated April 23, 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 10:06 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools