

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 28, 2015**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting May 28, 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; Chrissy Deal, Chief Communications Officer 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.

Be Our Guest

Matt Sears shared comments and thanked the Northern High School Culinary students and their teacher Mr. John Rudd for all the meals they have served this past year during Be Our Guest. Sears 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 Fayetteville Street Elementary School, Early College High School, Northern High School, Burton Elementary School, E.K. Powe Elementary School and W.G. Pearson Elementary School.

Celebrations

Board Members recognized students, parents, and community partners.

Chrissy Deal, Chief Communications Officer, presented the following:

Duke University and Durham Public Schools Student of the Month

Va’Shon Bowden is a senior at Southern School of Energy and Sustainability and holds a 4.4 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society, serves as a church volunteer and tutors third through sixth graders. Va’Shon has received full academic scholarships to UNC and East Carolina University, a 75 percent scholarship to Duke and acceptance at Yale University. He plans to attend Duke.

DPS Star Educators

The women and men who lead Durham Public Schools as teachers, support staff and administrators are among the best in the nation. They are committed to all Durham's children and to helping them to become tomorrow's community leaders, scientists, public servants, artists and educators. The Star Educators are: Cassandra Abels, Alison Edwards, Jason Jowers, Lori Khan, Rick Sheldahl, Jeff Whitt and Tonya Williams

Governor's School

Twenty-seven Durham Public Schools students have been selected to attend the 2015 session of the Governor's School of North Carolina. They are: Nathan Bernacki, Jakob Bower, Cassandra Clare, Noah Coker, Caleb Conner, Rachel Despard, Pablo Fynamore, Oscar Flores-Montero, Georgia Gaertner, Rachel Geoffrion, Leoncia Gillespie, Axel Herrera Ramos, Rachel Huang, Dominique Javier, Phillips Jones, Kenan Kaptanoglu, Future Kortor, Teona Meek, Ethan Mock, Cy Neff, Wilson Plonk, Kayla Richardson-Piche, Rachel Sauls, Olivia Simpson, Elena Storelli, Peter Streilein, Anthony Teachey, Abbey Thompson and Simone Wilder.

Gates Millennium Scholarship Winners

The Gates Millennium Scholarship program is designed to reduce financial barriers and increase minority representation in computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences. The winners are Kiara Thorpe and Jolil Smoke from Hillside High School and Ming Lin from Northern High School.

Moorhead-Cain Scholar Winner

Keith Beasley, from Hillside High School, received a Morehead-Cain scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books has been one of Durham Public Schools' longest running academic competitions, beginning more than 20 years ago. The winner of the Elementary Battle of the Books is Forest View Elementary, and the winner of the Middle School Battle of the Books is Rogers-Herr, which won the state title.

Visual Arts Awards

Congressional Art Competition:

- Rep. Davis Price's Fourth District – Rachel Geoffrion
- Rep. G.K. Butterfield's Second District – Zeke Seamans

2015 Regional Gold Key Awardees:

- DSA – Teacher Larry Downing: Jessica Fore, Sophia Griffin; Teacher Val Martinez: Emily Burke, Karena Graves, Jonathan White; Teacher Brittney Soderman: Joanny Santiago Hernandez, Claude Stikeleather
- Northern – Teacher Tabitha Eller: Keanne Jones
- Southern – Teacher Crystal Brown: Ivan Martinez, Louis Nunez

Theatre Arts Awards:

2015 Triangle Rising Star Awards:

- Best Orchestra: The Wiz, Jordan High School Jazz Band

- Best Ensemble: Annie Get Your Gun, DSA
- Best Actress: Faith Jones, Jordan High School

Community Partner

Book Harvest's mission is to provide books to Triangle children in need. They believe that having plenty of books at home helps children start kindergarten ready to learn, combats summer learning loss once they are in school, and helps them self-identify as readers.

Superintendent's Updates

Superintendent L'Homme shared the following updates:

- City of Medicine, Early College and Middle College all had a 100 percent graduation rate.
- The Board of Education Retreat on May 26, 2015 was a rich, thoughtful and honest discussion about what the board believes and wants for our students and schools.
- On Tuesday, the county manager presented to the Durham County Board of Commissioners a draft budget that was not what we had hoped for, and would not fund the budget request the Board adopted this month. The county manager's budget only funds enrollment growth. None of the additional priorities are directly funded: in order to achieve any of the priorities, we would have to cut more deeply into other positions and services.

Agenda Review and Approval

Matt Sears asked that the Board add 'Next Steps on Universal Pre-K' to the agenda. The item was added and the agenda was approved by common consent.

General Public Comment: There were 6 Speakers:

Ms. Angela Starke – Ms. Starke is a parent whose children attend Little River Elementary School. Ms. Starke voiced her concerns over the recent events at Little River that caused her child to be assaulted.

Ms. Julie Hughes – Ms. Hughes is a parent of Little River Elementary School. Ms. Hughes voiced her concerns over the recent events at Little River. She asked the board to help them understand why the DPS policies were not followed. She has filed a police report for assault and had to call the police while at the school.

Ms. Chris Meeker – Ms. Meeker is a parent of Little River Elementary School. Ms. Meeker voiced her concern over the recent events at Little River that caused her child to be assaulted, the lack of Durham Public Schools response and disregard of the policies.

Stephanie Daye & Rachel Eitzen – Ms. Eitzen stated that they were from the Teamsters union and wanted to thank the Board for supporting a budget which included a pay raise for classified employees. She also stated that they will be at the BOCC's meeting showing their support to pass the budget as written. She thanked Dr. L'Homme and the finance department for changing the bus drivers' pay dates to twice per month instead of once.

Reverend Jerome J. Washington - Rev. Washington is from Mount Vernon Baptist Church. He voiced his concerns about some DPS issues: DPS is faced with budget challenges as well as other challenges, 54 percent of schools received a D or F, suspensions are at a five year low with short term suspension down 1 percent and African American suspension is astronomical. He stated that parents need to know what the Board's plans are, and asked the Board to come into the community to share its plan on improving our schools. He invited the Board to share their houses of worships to reach the community and let them help.

Pastor Fredrick Davis – Pastor Davis is from the First Calvary Church. He stated that he is tag-teaming with Rev. Washington. Pastor Davis stated that we have to challenge the community, not just DPS, in addressing our low performing schools. School reassignment is something we don't want to talk about, but it is something that needs to be thought about. Also, DPS needs to make sure that the principal and teachers are fit for the school setting and the population of that school.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- April 23, 2015: Regular Monthly Meeting – Open and Closed
- May 4, 2015: Special Meeting – Open and Closed
- May 11, 2015: Special Meeting

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

Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Budget Amendment #2 (2014-2015)**
- b. **Oak Grove Elementary – Bids for Kitchen Updates**
- c. **Bethesda Elementary School – Bids for Life Safety Upgrades**
- d. **Githens Middle School – Toilet Renovations Project**
- e. **Little River Elementary School – Bids for Kitchen Upgrades**
- f. **Snow Hill Road (Lucas Middle School) – Bids for Offsite Improvement Along Snow Hill Road**
- g. **Southwest Elementary School – Lottery Funds for Roof Replacement**
- h. **Burton Elementary School – Lottery Funds for Design & Repair of Roofing Project**
- i. **Southern School of Energy and Sustainability – Conservation Project**
- j. **New Elementary School “C” – Utility Easement**
- k. **Board Room Audio Video Equipment Upgrade**
- l. **Surplus Equipment**

Sendolo Diaminah made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Committees

- I. **Administrative Services Committee**
 - a. **Board Committee Structure and Schedule**

Recommendation: Discussion

Public Comment: None

Ideas were passed back and forth to decide how many meetings there should be monthly. Suggestions were made to review the meeting agendas to see if the committee needs to hear all the items. Mike Lee made a motion to have two different proposals brought before the Administrative Services Committee on June 15, 2015, involving one or two work sessions/committee meetings in addition to the regular Board meeting. Leigh Bordley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Next Steps on Universal Pre-K

Recommendation: Discussion

Public Comment: None

A decision was made to come to the June BOE meeting with a resolution to empower a community task force to research all that is needed for the Universal Pre-K program and come back in six months with recommendations. Matt Sears and Leigh Bordley were charged to help draft the resolution.

b. Career and Technical Education – Summer Internship Program

Recommendation: Approval

Public Comment: None

CTE wants to partner with the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development to provide 50 students per year to participate in internships directly related to the student's field of study. Funding is through the CTE budget (Perkins Grant). Mike Lee made a motion to approve the Career and Technical Education Summer Internship Program. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

On a motion by Mike Lee and 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 9:14 p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 10:29 p.m.

Personnel Approval

Superintendent L'Homme recommended approval of the May 28, 2015, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Sendolo Diaminah to approve the Personnel Reports dated May 28, 2015, seconded by Matt Sears, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Carter thanked everyone for coming and, having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:31 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools