

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 23, 2014**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting October 23, 2014, 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 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 Chrissy Pearson, Chief Communications Officer, were present.

Attorney present: Ken Soo

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 for the meal during Be Our Guests. 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 Bethesda Elementary, Little River Elementary, Holt Elementary, Shepard middle, Hillside High, and Performance Learning Center.

Celebrations

Board Members recognized students, parents, and community partners including:

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

Jasmine Cousar – October Student of the Month.

Principal Woods-Weeks introduced Jasmine Cousar who has been named the Duke University Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for October. Jasmine Cousar has been named the Duke University Durham Public Schools Student of the Month for October. The Early College High School senior holds a 3.4 weighted GPA and spends the majority of her time outside of school serving as a member of her church choir, the mime team, the praise team and volunteering on various church committees. Jasmine says although her favorite subject is math, she’d prefer a career in elementary education and wants to teach kindergarten or become a speech pathologist. For fun, Jasmine likes to dance, sing and hang out with her friends and family. Jasmine credits her parents and her older brother for being her inspiration to work hard and says that, “they push

me to go for my dreams and never stop.” After graduation, Jasmine plans to attend North Carolina A&T and double major in elementary education and speech pathology. Dr. L’Homme presented Jasmine with a certificate and invited her to walk the red carpet.

Cisco

Principal Woods-Weeks recognized CISCO Systems, Inc., a partner with Early College High School and Megan DePorter Zeishner, Community Relations Program Manager with CISCO Systems. Nearly 50 students from DPS's JD Clement Early College High School visited Cisco on October 8th to take part in job shadowing and one-on-one mentoring sessions from Cisco employees. The daylong visit was filled with tours of the Cisco campus and its operating facilities, informational sessions, budget training, lunch, and question and answer sessions between students and Cisco employees. Students were also given the opportunity to participate in a mock teleconference session. She thanked them for opening their doors and allowing our students to have a glimpse into CISCO Systems and the various career options. The day truly made a difference! Dr. L’Homme presented them with a certificate and invited them to walk the red carpet.

National Healthy School Awards

Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family and Community Services, recognized Kate Turner, Wellness Coordinator, and James Keaton, Director of Child Nutrition, who introduced the National Healthy School Awards winners. The National Healthy Schools Award winners improved their nutrition and wellness services and physical activity programs to meet or exceed stringent standards set by the Alliance’s Healthy Schools Program. The Alliance was founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation. Out of 25 North Carolina Schools to win, 12 were Durham Public Schools.

- The Silver Award winning schools are Brogden Middle and Sandy Ridge Elementary School.
- The Bronze Award Winning Schools are Durham School of the Arts, Hillside/Hillside New Tech High, The School for Creative Studies, Lakeview Secondary, Easley Elementary, Forest View Elementary, Glenn Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, and Spring Valley Elementary.

Congratulations to all of our winning schools! Dr. L’Homme presented certificates to all the winning schools and invited the school representatives to walk the red carpet.

Superintendent’s Updates

Superintendent L’Homme shared the following updates:

- **This morning, I attended the 4th Annual Neurological Disorder's Symposium at Southern School of Energy and Sustainability.**
 - This was a student PBL for neurological disorders presented by the students in Human Anatomy class. Some of the topics covered were; Multiple Sclerosis, Narcolepsy, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Schizophrenia, Spina Bifida and Autism. I was very impressed and very proud of all the students who participated.
- **In addition, I visited Rogers-Herr to recognize DPS EC Teacher of Excellence for 2014-15, Cassandra Abels.**

- Ms. Abels will represent DPS at the Statewide Exceptional Children Conference in Greensboro next month.
- **Congratulations to Alison Edwards, our 2014 Teacher of the Year; one of two finalists in the North Central region for the state Teacher of the Year program.**
- **Jordan High and City of Medicine Academy students are part of a multi-school team that wrote a winning proposal for the NASA Student Launch program.**
 - The Durham Area Rocketry Team will build a 9-ft. tall rocket and launch it, carrying an experiment a mile above the earth, from NASA's Marshall Spaceflight Center, Alabama, in April.
- **This evening, the Hillside High School All Fathers Club is hosting a town hall forum for students with questions and answers about law enforcement.**
 - Thanks to District Attorney, Roger Echols, Assistant Public Defender, Clayton Jones, and Captain Raheem Aleem, from the Sheriff's Department, for participating.
- **DPS Family Academy invites parents of kindergartners through fifth graders to come to a workshop and learn about the new elementary report cards and standards-based grading.**
 - Monday, Oct. 27, 6-7:30 p.m., at the DPS Staff Development Center, Hillandale Road
- **Magnet and CTE Pathway Fair is coming:**
 - At Southern School of Energy and Sustainability
 - Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - All magnet programs and CTE pathways will be represented and parents can talk to teachers and students.
 - It's a drop-in event, so parents can avoid heavy traffic by coming a bit later in the day.
 - Exciting chance to see everything DPS has to offer!
- **There is a new flyer showing all the wonderful things in DPS.**
- **The latest addition of We Are DPS was sent out electronically for all to share with friends and family.**

Agenda Review and Approval

Vice Chair Forte-Brown made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Mike Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

General Public Comment:

None

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- September 25, 2014 – Regular Monthly Meeting – Open and Closed Minutes

Leigh Bordley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Chair Carter noted that the Consent Agenda item was thoroughly discussed in committee.

a. Contract for Consulting Services between Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) and Durham Public Schools

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

Reports of the Committees

I. Support Services Committee **a. Elementary Report Card Update** **Recommendation: Information** **Public Comment: None**

Committee Chair, Leigh Bordley, introduced Dr. Teresa Daye, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, who introduced Dr. Kelvin Bullock and Teresa Parker who began the presentation. They provided an overview of the standards-based grading implementation at the elementary grade level and the revised elementary report card template and process. Ms. Parker explained that the DPS Elementary Report Card defines clear and specific clusters of standards; it uses standards to evaluate student achievement levels; it focuses on communication; and reports academic and non-academic indicators separately. Dr. Bullock presented the Standards-Based Grading Principles as follows:

- SBG Principle #1: The purpose of grades is to communicate student achievement based on state and district standards; academic performance only; and behaviors are reported separately.
- SBG Principle #2: A Grading Program should be fair, consistent, support learning, and promote communication between teachers, students, and parents.
- SBG Principle #3: Relate grading procedures to learning goals by identifying critical concepts/skills; assessing individual concepts/skills; mastery is the standard; summative versus formative activities; and multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning.
- SGB Principle #4: What should not be included in a grade is effort, attendance, participation, citizenship, attitude, bonuses, behavior, group work, homework, or anything that doesn't relate to a standard.

Ms. Parker stated that standards-based grading (SBG) communicates a student's level of understanding for a particular standard: 4 – exceeds the standard; 3 – meets the standard; 2 – meets some of the standard; and 1 – does not meet the standard. Ms. Parker explained that standards-based grading is fair, consistent, supportive of learning, and communicates exactly

where the student is academically and indicates the student's needs. Dr. Bullock shared the levels of effective communication and that the final product would be electronic through the use of Gradebook® with a Spanish translation available for all documents. Dr. Daye thanked Dr. Bullock and Ms. Parker for their hard work. She shared that there will be a Parent Session on Monday evening, October 27 and on November 20 for parents of K – 5 students to learn about the new elementary report cards and standards-based grading. Dr. Daye shared that there were some minor “hiccups” but they had come up with acceptable solutions. She shared that everything would be up and running in time for second quarter. In addition, she stated that after the “hiccups” were cured, student performance would be available through the Parent Portal and that all parents should have received information from their schools to access the Parent Portal. Dr. Daye thoroughly answered all questions and concerns.

Dr. Daye announced that this evening, there is an Advanced Academic Expo for parents at the Staff Development Center to see academic acceleration. She said there would be a part II in January and the Board would be invited to attend.

Closed Session

On a motion by Sendolo Diaminah, seconded by Natalie Beyer, the Board convened in closed session to consider confidential student information protected under NCGS 115C-402 and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC 1232g, 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 7:30 p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 9:09 p.m.

Personnel Approval

Superintendent L’Homme recommended approval of the Amended October 23, 2014, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Amended Personnel Reports dated October 23, 2014; seconded by Sendolo Diaminah, the motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L’Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools