

**Durham Public Schools
Board of Education
Resolution Concerning Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Durham**

WHEREAS, there has been a recent dramatic increase in children and minors traveling to the U.S. without their parents from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and other parts of Latin America largely as a result of rising rates of poverty and violence in their home countries; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 of these children have settled in Durham according to statistics; and

WHEREAS, gang and drug trafficking violence has driven Honduras' murder rate to the highest in the world and El Salvador's murder rate to the fourth highest; and

WHEREAS, there are tens of thousands of unaccompanied children in the custody of federal government agencies; and

WHEREAS, children are always among the most vulnerable in any emergency; and

WHEREAS, many of the unaccompanied children arriving at the border are suffering from physical illnesses, exhaustion, hunger, dehydration, and emotional trauma, and some have been victimized during their long and difficult journey and are in urgent need of protective adult care, legal services, medical care, supportive supervision, nutritious food and safe housing; and

WHEREAS, many of these children are reuniting with their North Carolina families or other sponsors who can care and provide for them; and

WHEREAS, these families or other sponsors are an important part of the Durham community that should be welcomed and supported; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called the flood of unaccompanied migrant children seeking refuge from violence and poverty in Central America a "humanitarian crisis;" and

WHEREAS, from October 2013-September 2014, the Office of Refugee Resettlement has reported that 2,064 of these children have been placed in North Carolina alone; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education expresses its commitment to welcome unaccompanied children from Latin America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education offers special appreciation to Durham Public Schools' staff for educating more than 300 of these children in the current school year without regard to immigration status, an obligation that is required by federal law and is supported by the Durham Public Schools Board of Education; and to non-profits and faith-based organizations which are working diligently to support these children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education encourages the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies to ensure that the minor children


seeking safety in the United States and being apprehended by Border Patrol receive due process and legal representation in court hearings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education will forward this Resolution to all members of Congress that have Durham County within their jurisdiction, and to our State legislative delegation; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education encourages staff to work in concert with other agencies as they pursue resources for support of these children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education urges all Durham residents, businesses and government entities to make unaccompanied children welcome in our community and invites the help of our faith-based organizations, non-profits, businesses and government agencies in this humanitarian work.

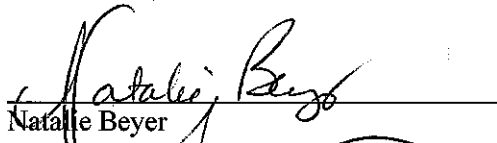
This the 26th day of February, 2015.



Heidi Carter, Chair



Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair



Natalie Beyer



Matt Sears



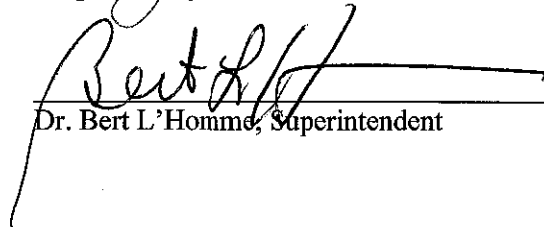
Sendolo Disminah



Leigh Bordley



Mike Lee



Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent