

**MINUTES
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 25, 2015**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting June 25, 2015, at 6:33 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; and Sendolo Diaminah were present. Leigh Bordley was absent.

Administration present:

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; Chrissy Deal, Chief Communications Officer; Tom Crabtree, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Finance Officer, were present. Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent, was absent.

Others present: Ken Soo, Attorney

Call to Order

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

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

Zachary Balleisen from Riverside High School has been named the student of the month for June. He holds a GPA of 5.41 and is a member of Riverside High Schools engineering program, tennis team, swim team, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and works with the Triangle Model United Nations Conference for middle school students (TRIMUNC), an organization he has been involved with since 2010. Zach plans to attend Yale University where he will major in engineering.

Lauryn McMiller from Hillside New Tech High School has been named the student of the month for July. She is an outstanding student who is committed to serving her school community. She excelled in the most rigorous classes offered to her and graduated with recognition as a North Carolina Academic Scholar. Lauryn served as Senior Class President and as a student representative on the Hillside New Tech High School site-based team. She plans on going to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she will major in science.

Duke Energy Foundation

Suzanne Cotterman, Director of Early Childhood, recognized the Duke Energy Foundation. Ms. Cotterman asked Indira Everett, District Manager of Duke Energy Foundation, to the podium to thank Duke Energy Foundation for their generous support of Durham Public Schools' Pre-Kindergarten Literacy and Kindergarten Readiness program. Duke Energy Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 to sponsor this program.

Volunteers of the Year

Dr. Renee Carmon, Principal of Morehead Montessori Elementary School, recognized Uriel Reid, who was unable to attend the meeting. Uriel Reid has volunteered consistently since 2013 in Mr. Eaton's upper elementary classroom. He has given lessons in civil rights history, aeronautics, other sciences, mathematics, and other language arts/social studies lessons. He is very encouraging to students, especially those who are struggling. He looks out for students who could use extra help. We are extremely fortunate to have his presence in our community.

Mr. Jonathan Dixon, Assistant Principal of The School for Creative Studies invited Patricia Luke to the podium. Patricia Luke is the role model of a school volunteer and the person every school wants! Pat volunteers on a weekly basis in the Cybrary where she performs all tasks with high standards of professionalism. She went above and beyond when she opened her home to host two teachers from China that were part of the School for Creative Studies and Sister City Zhuzhou, China exchange.

Title I Volunteers

Marcelle Thomas, Title I Specialist, recognized Sheri Starks and Portia Maynor for their outstanding contributions to the Durham Public Schools Title I program. As the PAC Steering Committee Chairs, Sheri and Portia assisted staff and parents at the district meetings and were involved in the planning for the upcoming meeting. They also manage the Backpack Buddies program and Food Pantry at W.G. Pearson Elementary School.

2015 Transportation Awards

- Mechanic of the Year – Neal McKinney

Northern Transportation Division:

- Driver of the Year – Rhonda White
- Monitor of the Year – Tony Ray

Southeast Transportation Division:

- Driver of the Year – Shirley Blake
- Monitor of the Year – Joy Stanley

Southwest Transportation Division:

- Driver of the Year – Felicia Roberts
- Monitor of the Year – Teresita Galvan

2015 Counselors of the Year

- Anissa Hicklen – Merrick-Moore Elementary School
- Rasheeda Omoti – Carrington Middle School
- Cherice Artis – Jordan High School

2015 Graduation

This year's graduations were a logistical success due to the hard work of several individuals. Congratulations to Megan Riggs, Dr. Alisa McLean, Joyce Forte and Eileen Hartwell for their hard work in making them a wonderful event for students, families, guests and staff.

Community Partner

For over 42 years the Durham Arts Councils, Creative Arts in the Public Schools Program (CAPS) has partnered with schools to support core curriculum through arts-based learning. CAPS is an artist residency program which serves more than 20,000 children in area schools each year. Sherry DeVries, Executive Director for the Durham Arts Council and Anita Woodley, Residency Coordinator presented to the Durham Public Schools Board of Education a book created by the sixth grade students from Neal Middle School who participated in *The Stories Come to Life Literacy Residency* program. This program was made possible through a \$5,000.00 grant from GlaxoSmithKline.

Superintendent's Updates

Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operations shared the following updates:

It is a pleasure to sit with you on behalf of Dr. L'Homme.

As you know and just heard about again, Dr. L'Homme wants me to emphasize how proud he was of our 2,000+ graduates. Graduation is the moment we all look for, giving meaning to our work. There are many amazing stories of success – from Gates Millennium Scholars to young people who overcame great odds to succeed.

Some other Durham Public Schools highlights are:

- *Regional Principal of the year*
- *State Assistant Principal of the year*
- *Regional finalist for teacher of the year*
- *DPS earned almost half of the state's National Healthy School awards*
- *Among the nation's top districts in National Board Certified teachers*
- *Teacher of the Year, Lori Khan, won the Gustav Ohaus award, her second national award*
- *New programs started or starting, Lakeview Evening Academy, Future Forward Center and the Second Chance Academy*
- *Three Montessori schools won Magnet Schools of America awards*

Also, Book Harvest, which ran the Books on Break program for YE Smith, Glenn and Forest View Elementary Schools as well at Lakewood Montessori.

1,975 students picked 10 books each to read and keep,

100 volunteers helped

We also have a summer reading program in partnership with the library; details are on the DPS website.

On behalf of Dr. L'Homme, we thank our families and our staff and hope all have a great summer.

Comments from Board Chair Heidi Carter

Ms. Carter spoke of the next steps for Durham Public Schools now that the Durham County Commissioners have approved their 2015-2016 budget ordinance.

We appreciate the funding for new students in the charter schools and Durham Public Schools as well as the local teacher supplement increase. We appreciate the willingness of the County Commissioners to revisit our local funding needs as soon as the State of North Carolina releases its budget. This is an unnecessary and unprecedented delay in the budget process and the resulting time table for funding decisions is terribly problematic for several reasons

It's difficult to plan with all the uncertainties with the State funding of our schools, now we must couple that with local uncertainty as well. The talk out of Raleigh is that the state may not approve a budget until September or October. We will be opening school in about three weeks without being sure of the number of teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, electricians, etc., all these very important staff members. We won't be sure how many we can hire or how much we can pay them. We have already clearly communicated to the county the minimum we need from them in local funding to fulfill our promises to our children. We continue to stand firmly behind that request.

As we await a final budget from the state and poise ourselves for another round of funding requests from the Board of County Commissioners here are some of the uncertainties that we face:

- *How many teacher assistants will the state cut?*
- *Will we have adequate local dollars to keep all positions in our schools?*
- *How many teaching positions will be allotted to us from the state?*
- *Will the number be enough to offset a reduction of 33 teaching positions that the county declined to fund?*
- *Will the state provide a step increase, raise or cost of living increase for our classified staff that have had only a 1.2 per cent state increase in about 7 years? If not then what must we do to fairly compensate these valued employees at a fair and market rate.*
- *Will the county agree to fund the 3 per cent increase in compensation that we believe must be provided or will be forced into another round of cuts and spending reductions*

Even though our state and local funding streams are in limbo, our staff are at full summer tilt and are providing educational and enriching opportunities for children, Pre-K through 12. We are now in the mist of summer school programming for our students. We have already reached over 2000 Pre-K through second graders to help ready them for success in school next year. We also have summer programs for middle school students and high school students, including transition programs and AP camps.

Durham Public School buses transport children nearly every single day of our year. If you think you see busses almost every day, you probably almost do every day. We only take a short hiatus during the winter break. What's more, year round schools open in about three weeks and traditional schools open at the end of August. But, until our budget is finalized, all delays complicate the planning that our schools must do to provide resources and programs for our children. This is a terribly challenging and worry fraught situation for our staff and families.

The Board will be scheduling a special meeting to reevaluate our spending priorities based on our best projections about state funding and the incomplete but perhaps unfinished funding from the county. We will need to meet and discuss what our next steps will be to balance our budget. We have already made deep cuts in spending in preparation of state cuts. We have cut funding for 41 Central Office positions and 25 school based non-teaching positions. We are currently using eight million dollars from our unassigned fund balance to offset ongoing state spending reductions. Depending on the states final plan for teacher allotments we may be forced to eliminate 33 teaching positions.

What we do know with certainty is that we will only be able to give our classified staff a three per cent raise and maintain our current number of teachers if one of three things happens. Either the state adopts a biannual budget that supports all of our needs or the Board of County Commissioners fulfils its promise to fund the needs we have that the state does not fund or finally, DPS will have to make additional cuts in expenditures which will mean cutting positions and programs our children require and deserve for school success.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Education, I want to express gratitude and admiration for our community supporters and true public school advocates who have rallied behind our budget request of the county. The Durham Association of Educators, the PTA Council, members of the Teamsters Union and caring citizens have organized and given life and meaning to our budget request. Thank you for your relentless efforts to fully fund our schools and take care of our children. We look forward to continuing to work with you and our colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners to adequately and equability invest in our children. There is no more important investment for our community than the education of Durham's children.

Agenda Review and Approval

Mike Lee made a motion to move the Career and Technical Education Computer Purchases to the consent agenda. Matt Sears seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was approved as written by common consent.

General Public Comment:

None

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- May 26, 2015 Retreat - Open and Closed
- May 28, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting - Open and Closed
- June 1, 2015 Special Meeting - Closed
- June 8, 2015 Special Meeting - Closed
- June 15, 2015 Special Meeting – Closed

Mr. Soo stated that only the open minutes could be approved; the closed minutes will need to be approved in closed session.

Matt Sears made a motion to approve only the open meeting 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.

- **2015-2016 Interim Budget Authorization**
- **Declaration of Surplus Furniture and Equipment**
- **Construction Management Services – 2015-2016 Contract Extension**
- **Textbook Recommendations for K-12 Mathematics Adoption**
- **2015-2016 Contract for Communities in School**
- **2015-2016 Contract for Discovery Education**
- **Service Agreement between Durham Public Schools and Duke University Health System, Inc.**
- **Contract for Delivery of Visually Impaired Instructional Services**
- **Playworks Contract**
- **2015-2016 Contract for Museum of Life and Science**

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

Reports of the Committees

I. Support Services Committee

a. Career and Technical Education – Computer Purchases

Recommendation: Approval

Public Comment: None

Item moved to the consent agenda for approval

II. Administrative Services Committee
a. 2016-2017 Bell Schedule Proposals
Recommendation: Discussion
Public Comment: Holly Rogers

Dr. Rogers stated that she has a daughter at Lakewood Montessori Middle School. Dr. Rogers also stated that she is appreciative of all Mr. Denton's work on the various bell proposals. She asks that the Board choose the schedule that would be the healthiest for our children as well as serve them academically. Dr. Rogers stated that the schedule that made the most sense was the flipping of elementary start times with middle and high school start times. Understanding that there is a cost to this, she stated it would be worth it. In addition, starting 30 minutes later would not be a positive change.

After a very thorough discussion, administration was asked to conduct a survey; regarding the start times asking teachers and administration for their points of view and bring back the results. The Board would like to have a decision in August.

b. Board Committee Structure and Schedule
Recommendation: Discussion
Public Comment: None

All options concerning the number of monthly meetings, the start and ending times and the day of the week were thoroughly discussed between the Board members. It was decided that there will be a total of three meetings for the month. Academic and Support Services will combine and meet on the first Monday of the month. An Operation and Visions meeting will be held the 2nd Thursday and the regular monthly Board of Education meeting will be on the fourth Thursday. Each meeting will operate with a committee of the whole. The agenda will be set according to policy by the Board Chair, Vice Chair and Superintendent. The meeting time will start at 4:00 p.m. and will be two hours with agenda items time-boxed except for public comment.

Natalie Beyer made a motion for the modified option 2 meeting schedule. Mike Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 2 (Minnie Forte-Brown, Mike Lee)

c. Board of Education Policy 2230-Board Committees –Second Reading
Recommendation: Discussion
Public Comment: None

Mr. Soo recommended that the policy be revisited since the Board has changed the format of the committee meeting.

Minnie Forte-Brown made a motion to bring this item back to the committee in August. Natalie Beyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

On a motion by Minnie Forte-Brown and seconded by Mike Lee, 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; to consider confidential personnel matters under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319; and to consult with the board attorney on matters including Lashana Vincent v. Durham Public Schools District et al. to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in NCGS 318.11(a)(3).

The Board convened in closed session at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 10:07 p.m.

Personnel Approval

Hugh Osteen, Deputy Superintendent of Operations recommended approval of the June 25, 2015, Personnel Reports. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports dated June 25, 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 10:08 p.m.

Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent
Durham Public Schools