

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

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting January 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; Pastor Fredrick Davis; Nancy Cox; Omega Curtis Parker and Leigh Bordley were present.

Administration present:

Hugh Osteen, Interim Superintendent; and Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services; and Ms. 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. Pastor Fredrick Davis asked that we remember the late County Commissioner, Becky Heron.

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 Interim Superintendent Osteen to join her on the red carpet to pay tribute to the parents/guardians of students at Bethesda Elementary, Forest View Elementary, Southern School of Energy and Sustainability, and Northern High School.

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.

- Tyler Booker is the December Student of the Month for City of Medicine High School. Assistant Principal Schirmer introduced Tyler and Mr. Osteen presented him with a certificate. He and his parents were asked to walk the red carpet.

Student Recognition:

Durham School of the Arts – Ryan Mansfield, a senior at Durham School of the Arts, was notified by Congressman Howard Coble that he will receive a letter of appointment to the United States Naval Academy (USNA). He also received a full appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) and received an invitation to the Coast Guard Academy in late February 2014 for another visit. In addition, Ryan interviewed at UNC Chapel Hill as a semi-finalist for the Morehead Cain (full) Scholarship, is a semi-finalist for the General Hugh Shelton (full) Scholarship for NC State and was accepted to Appalachian State Honors Program. (This celebration was moved to February because this student is visiting the U.S. Naval Academy.)

Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted Award- This award is presented to teachers of gifted youth who exhibit a strong commitment to gifted education through professional experiences, professional organizations, and service in the area of gifted education. Mr. Jeffrey Whitt, AIG Facilitator at Carrington Middle School, was named DPS Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted for 2013-2014. Jeff will be recognized at the NC Association for Gifted and Talented Conference next month, and we wish him the very best of luck as he competes with teachers of the gifted across the state of North Carolina. Beth Cross introduced Mr. Whitt and Mr. Osteen presented him with a certificate. He was asked to walk the red carpet.

Community Partners – Celebrating community partners who provide support to our students and school improvement efforts.

Triangle E-Cycle – Triangle E-cycling is a triple bottom line business providing STEM-based vocational education for DPS students through the collecting, refurbishing, and recycling of electronics. The mission is to provide internships to educate and mentor high school students, raise awareness about the environmental and humanitarian threats created by ewaste, protect our environment, and give back to our community. In addition to offering internships and educational opportunities for DPS students, Triangle E-Cycle donates 10% of their profits to Durham Public Schools. Rick Sheldahl recognized Larry Herst, Founder/CEO of Triangle E-Cycle, and Mr. Osteen presented him with a certificate.

School Board Appreciation Month - January is School Board Appreciation Month in North Carolina, and on behalf of our students and school communities, we would like to express our appreciation for your support and leadership.

Interim Superintendent Osteen shared the following comments: serving on a Board of Education is a unique challenge. You're asked to represent your districts while balancing the needs of all students. You craft our policies, but you also work directly with students and families, whether in confidential hearings or as volunteers. You hold us accountable to our community, but also advocate on our students' behalf.

Thank you for your long hours, thoughtful discussions and support of our teachers and staff. Several students came forward and presented a token of appreciation to each Board Member.

Superintendent's Updates

Interim Superintendent, Hugh Osteen, shared the following updates:

- The Information Technology Department has had a successful transfer of the Data Server to an off-site data center. Kudos to the IT Staff!
- Central Services Staff assisted with over 100 proctors during the recent assessments. Thanks to all who participated!

- The Middle School Expo took place on January 11 at Rogers-Herr. The Expo allowed families to learn about Middle Schools in Durham Public Schools and how to help your child prepare for middle school life. There was a great turnout!
- Dr. Tina Hester, Chief Human Resource Officer, is retiring next week and Superintendent Osteen thanked her for her service to Durham Public Schools.
- Winter Graduation was a great experience for 85 Durham Public Schools seniors. The ceremony took place at Durham School of the Arts in Weaver Auditorium on Tuesday, January 21.
- Magnet School Applications are now being accepted on-line through January 31, 2014. You can find the application process on the DPS website at www.dpsnc.net . There is also a list of open houses and school.

Agenda Review and Approval

Pastor Fredrick Davis made a motion to remove the first bullet under Closed Session: To consider confidential student information protected under NCGS 115C-402 and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC 1232g. Natalie Beyer seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the agenda as noted.

General Public Comment: Two people signed up to speak.

1. *Jaelyn Turnwald* – Ms. Turnwald read a letter from the teachers and staff at The School for Creative Studies opposing the four-year contracts for 25 percent of teachers. She thanked Club Blvd. teachers for their letter which inspired the teachers and staff at The School for Creative Studies. She stated that the teachers are committed and provide a high quality education to all students and competition among faculty members will not make teachers work harder. Ms. Turnwald thanked the School Board for signing the resolution opposing this process. She stated that teachers are united and 24 teachers, facilitators, and staff members signed the letter to decline the 25% contract bonus money.
2. *Andrea Underwood* – Ms. Underwood, President of Durham's Association of Educators (DAE), thanked Ms. Turnwald and staff for developing the letter opposing the four-year contracts for 25% of teachers. She stated The Executive Board and membership of Durham Association of Educators applauds the Durham Public Schools' Board of Education in its courage to sign NCAE's resolution against divisive 25% contracts. As a Board you should take pride in your leadership in being one of three School Boards to collectively act on the behalf of every child's teacher. It is now time for educators within the district to support the board, the students, and the profession in which they have committed to serve by joining NCAE and Organize 2020 Caucus in the statewide Decline2Sign campaign and Day of Action on February 5. It is our hope that the Board will participate and visit various schools within the district that will be hosting activities. She asked for everyone to wear red on February 5 in support of this endeavor.
Ms. Underwood shared the things teachers SHOULD do:
 - Visit ncae.org/decline2sign to find everything you need to take these steps
 - Talk to your colleagues about the 25% Contracts

- Participate in the statewide Day of Action on February 5th
- Strongly urge your local School Board to pass a resolution opposing the 25% Contracts
- Sign the pledge to “Decline to Sign” a 25% Contract offer
- Sign the petition to increase school funding at organize2020.com/take-action

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval:

- December 16, 2013 – Special Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions
- December 17, 2013 – Joint BOE/BOCC Quarterly Meeting
- December 19, 2013 - Regular Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions

Pastor Fredrick Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Forte-Brown seconded and the minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. 2013-2014 Local Options for Alternative Schools**
- b. Acquisition of Real Property at W.G. Pearson Middle School**
- c. Mangum Elementary School – Change Order for Administrative Suite**

Natalie Beyer made a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Pastor Fredrick Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Committees

- I. Support Services Committee**
 - a. Revised Policy 4403 – Head Lice – Second Reading**
Recommendation: Action
Public Comment: None

Ms. Omega Curtis Parker, Committee Chair, recognized Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family, and Community Services, who introduced the item and began the presentation. Dr. Pitman stated that policy 4403 needed to be more in-line with the North Carolina Pediatrics Association and the North Carolina Association of School Nurses. This change is Best Practice and the Health Department recommends the changes. She stated the following change: children with eggs (nits) only will not be excluded from school (unless eggs

are within ¼” from the scalp). If the principal determines that live lice and/or eggs within ¼” from the scalp are still present, the child will be refused admittance to school.

Dr. Rick Lemke shared that he is in the process of preparing a document that will be located on the DPS website that will address and offer resources to assist with this issue when a family is faced with this challenge.

Omega Curtis Parker made a motion to approve Revised Policy 4403 – Head Lice. Pastor Fredrick Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of the Board

I. Superintendent Search
Recommendation: Discussion
Public Comment: None

Chair Carter announced that not much has happened since the meeting last week regarding the Superintendent Search. The Board asked for an RFP (request for proposal) and to begin the process of soliciting firms. Interim Superintendent Osteen stated that 5 firms from the 2009 search and 5 new firms had been sent a request for proposal and were due by January 31, 2014. The proposals should include their proposal, their costs, their timeline and a beginning date. Chair Carter stated that the Board would use a search firm and after January 31, the Board would move forward with the process of searching for a new Superintendent. She distributed a brochure she had received from the Omaha, Nebraska-based executive search firm of McPherson & Jacobson, which is conducting the superintendent search in Wake County.

Closed Session

On a motion by Natalie Beyer, seconded by Pastor Fredrick Davis, the board convened in closed session to consider confidential personnel matters under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319, 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 7:14 p.m.

Open Session – Personnel Recommendations

The board reconvened in open session at approximately 7:57 p.m.

Personnel Approval

Interim Superintendent Osteen recommended approval of the January 23, 2014, Personnel Reports for Information, Approval, and the Substitute List, noting one correction as one person was listed twice. On a motion made by Omega Curtis Parker to approve the Personnel Reports

for Information, Approval, and the Substitute List dated January 23, 2014 as noted; seconded by Natalie Beyer, the motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:59 p.m.



Heidi Carter, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education



Hugh Osteen, Interim Superintendent
Durham Public Schools