

**MINUTES  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting September 26, 2013, 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:**

Dr. Eric J. Becoats, Superintendent; and Hugh Osteen, Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Tina Hester, Chief Human Resource Officer; 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.

**Be Our Guest**

Ms. Omega Curtis Parker shared comments and thanked the Northern High School Culinary students for the meal during Be Our Guests. She invited the Board Members and Superintendent Becoats to join her on the red carpet to pay tribute to the parents/guardians of students at Creekside Elementary, Hope Valley Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, and Githens Middle Schools.

**Celebrations**

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

- **100% Graduation Cohort Rates-** The following schools and their principals were honored and recognized earlier this week by Dr. June Atkinson and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for having 100% Graduation Cohort rates for the 2012-13 school year. Principal Gloria Woods-Weeks - Early College High School, Principal Pauletta Thompson (represented by Dr. Schanna Smalls), - Hillside New Tech and Principal John Rollack, Jr. - Southern School of Engineering. Area Superintendent for High Schools, Jim Key, called the names of the recognized schools and their principals.

- **Principal Appointments –**

- Jim Key, Area Superintendent for High Schools, introduced **Joel County**, new Principal of Riverside High School, and welcomed him to Durham Public Schools.
- Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Area Superintendent for Elementary Schools, introduced **Ms. Shayla Holeman**, new Principal of Eastway Elementary School, and **Ms. Janice King**, new Principal of Mangum Elementary School, and welcomed them to Durham Public Schools.

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

- **Glenn School Road Wal-Mart** - Glenn School Road Wal-Mart was recognized for their contributions in the first Annual “Stuff the Bus” drive. This drive was organized by Wal-Mart Manager Rishado Robinson who contacted Glenn Elementary School asking how they could help meet the needs of students. The store purchased a large banner, provided posters and space for the school bus to be parked. The school received everything from book bags to crayons and enough composition books to give to every child at Glenn. In the two days of the drive, over several thousand dollars’ worth of school supplies were collected and distributed to students. Glenn Elementary and Wal-Mart are looking forward to a continued partnership throughout the years. Principal Cornelius Redfearn recognized Wal-Mart Manager Rishado Robinson and Superintendent Becoats presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Redfearn presented Mr. Robinson with a plaque of appreciation.
- **Dr. Nicolette Cagle** is passionate about environmental issues, especially studying the impact of human beings on our world. She is dedicated to providing students engaging experiences so that they too may find that they share this interest, possibly giving them a direction for their career paths, but definitely spreading awareness of these important issues. Dr. Cagle’s partnership began with her reaching out to the school system to share this opportunity, and after the first year, she advocated within her department to not only repeat the experience for students the next summer, but to TRIPLE the opportunity so that more students could be involved, offering the Environmental Science Summer Program for three weeks instead of one. Durham Public Schools is very appreciative of the partnership with Duke’s Nicolas School for the Environment, and especially Dr. Nicki Cagle. Ms. Beth Cross, Executive Director of AIG Services, introduced Dr. Cagle and Superintendent Becoats presented a certificate of appreciation.
- **Duke’s Nicholas School for the Environment** -Thirty DPS high school students attended Duke’s Environmental Summer Sciences Program this summer. The program stems from a partnership between DPS and Duke’s Nicholas School for the Environment. During each interactive week long session, students worked with staff of Nicholas School of the Environment. Using the resources of Duke Forest and the state of the art facilities at Nicholas School of the Environment, they investigated the water quality of New Hope

Creek, explored topics such as aquatic biology, water chemistry, land use and environmental justice, and also explored career options that focus on environmental science. At the end of each session, students presented a summary of the week's experience to parents and representatives from DPS. Based on student's comments, the experience was very positive for all! Ms. Beth Cross, Executive Director of AIG Services, introduced all the students who participated in the summer program.

### **Superintendent's Updates**

Superintendent Becoats shared the following updates:

- **The New State Standards regional public meeting will be held next Monday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m. at Southern School of Energy and Sustainability.**
- **Family Academy class registrations underway now for early October**
  - The following classes begin October 1 or 3 at Holton or Northern:
    - Parent & Family Advocacy & Support Training (PFAST)
    - Protect & Prevent: Mental Health Basics for Parents of Young Children
    - Parenting a Second Time Around
    - Positive Behavior Management
    - Development of the Individualized Education Plan
    - Welcome to STEMVILLE
    - EFNEP's Families Eating Smart and Moving More
  - For details: call Family Academy at 919/287-4194 or click "Family Academy" under "Parents" on our website
  - Continuing commitment to connecting families with support and services that help their child succeed
- **20<sup>th</sup>-day enrollment**
  - Up 850 from last year, or 2.6 percent
  - 33,400 students, K-12 (not including pre-K)
- **SAT/AP**
  - SAT:
    - Scores increased by 27 points from last year, beating the state's increase of 10 points
    - Combined score of 1,426
    - Tremendous increase of 13 points in writing
  - AP
    - 1,384 exam-takers, an increase of 29 from last year
    - Decrease in percentage of scores in the 3-5 range (college credit) from 61.7% in 2012 to 61.0% in 2013.
    - DPS's 61.0% pass rate is still higher than the state (59.2%) and national (56.9%) pass rates.

- **Thanks to an anonymous donor** that built on Bob Moulton of National Pawn's gift of musical instruments last month
  - Anonymous gift plus matching gift by The Tuba Exchange means a new tuba or euphonium for each DPS middle school
- **George Watts Elementary, Morehead Elementary, and Lakewood Middle celebrated 20 years of DPS Montessori education** this week with an International Peace Day parade and rally Monday. Durham Public Schools is the only district in North Carolina that provides a FREE Montessori Middle School.
- **Disability History and Awareness Month**
  - In 2007 the governor signed Senate Bill 753 making October **Disability History and Awareness Month**
    - Focus is on helping all of our students understand and appreciate the contributions and gifts of people with disabilities.
    - Since 2007 the Exceptional Children's department has provided sample lessons to teachers and worked with individual schools on awareness programs
  - This year, we will further celebrate Disability History and Awareness Month by:
    - Continuing to serve as a partner in Durham Parks and Recreation's disability awareness event, Unity in the Community Day, on October 5 at Holton
    - Promoting across our schools the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities' poster competition for National Disability Employment Awareness Month
    - Providing resources for our teachers to enhance their instruction and for our community to use as well on our website at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net)
    - Presentations on Disability History and Awareness Month at principals' meeting, Channel 4, and other avenues

### **Agenda Review and Approval**

Vice Chair Forte-Brown made a motion to add DPS's Contribution to NCSBAC to the agenda for discussion and subsequent approval. Chair Carter placed the item right before Closed Session. By unanimous board consent, the agenda was approved as noted.

**General Public Comment:** One person signed up for Public Comment.

1. *Andrea Underwood* – President of the Durham Association of Educators, thanked everyone for wearing red on the first day of school in support of public education. She invited everyone to participate in the I (HEART) Public Schools Pep Rally on November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the CCB Plaza in Downtown Durham. There will be speakers, music, and entertainment to celebrate the great work in Durham Public Schools.

### **Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

Presented for approval:

- August 22, 2013 - Regular Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions
- August 29, 2013 – Special Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions
- September 9, 2013 – Special Meeting – Open and Closed Sessions

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent as written.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Pearsontown Elementary School – Renovation Design Agreement**
- b. **Riverside High School – Bids for HVAC Controls Upgrade**
- c. **Southern School of Energy and Sustainability – Bids for HVAC Controls Upgrade**
- d. **Hillside High School – Right-of-Way Dedication**
- e. **Budget Resolution Amendment #3 (2012-2013)**
- f. **Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees Appointments**

Pastor Fredrick Davis made a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Forte-Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nancy Cox asked that the names of the Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees Appointments be read aloud. Chair Carter announced the Honorable Mary Ann Black and Mr. John Burness were chosen.

### **Reports of the Committees**

- I. **Support Services Committee**
  - a. **Response to Intervention**  
**Recommendation: Information**  
**Public Comment: None**

Committee Chair Omega Curtis Parker introduced Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent for Students, Families and Community Services, to present an update on the Response to Intervention initiative. Response to Intervention (RtI) is a framework that focuses on providing high quality, research-based instruction and interventions based on student need. The process is guided by student outcome data and uses all resources within a school for prevention and early intervention of academic and behavior problems. She shared the four essential components: Screening, Process Monitoring, Data Based Decision Making, and a Multi-Level Prevention

System. Thirty-one schools have embraced the framework and are receiving multi-level support. Dr. Pitman provided the next steps for 2013-14:

- Provide professional development in interventions and enrichment for AIG, ESL and ECP teachers
- Increase the number of parents involved in Personal Education Plans (PEP)
- Analyze data with PBIS coaches to provide specific interventions for students with repeat suspensions
- Begin implementation of RtI in Pre-K
- Partner with Communities in Schools of Durham

She also shared programs and support (prevention and intervention) for students: more rigorous and intensive academics, electronic Personal Education Plans (e-PEP), summer bridge and freshman academies, and smaller high school options. In addition, Dr. Pitman provided multiple support programs and strategies.

Dr. Pitman thoroughly addressed all questions and concerns throughout the presentation.

### **Reports of the Board of Education**

#### **I. DPS's Contribution to NCSBAC**

##### **Recommendation: Action**

**Public Comment: None**

Vice Chair Forte-Brown shared that at a specially-called meeting on April 26, 2013, the NCSBA Board of Directors voted unanimously to authorize the creation of the NC School Boards Action Center, a new 501(c)(4) organization designed to strengthen local school board advocacy efforts. The fee structure is based on school population and the fee for DPS would be \$8,000. She shared that many districts had stepped up and it was time for DPS to support this initiative and that NCSBAC will not be empowered to do anything that is not congruent and consistent with the NCSBA legislative agenda. NCSBAC will not endorse political candidates or establish a political action committee. Rather, it will provide the type of vehicle we need to raise additional revenue to engage in social networking efforts, expand our messaging, interact with the media, and advocate for the NCSBA legislative agenda. Attorney Ken Soo confirmed that school districts could not spend money to endorse a candidacy. Ms. Forte-Brown is confident that this new initiative will allow school boards to deploy the kind of resources we need to protect, promote, and defend school board governance and the NCSBA legislative agenda. She shared that in no way was this effort in support of gun control or to attack second amendment rights.

Superintendent Becoats shared that there were dollars in contracted services and that he was confident that the system could cover this expense without impacting any current programs. This would equate to approximately .26¢ per student.

Vice Chair Forte-Brown made a motion to approve Durham Public Schools contribution to NCSBAC. Pastor Fredrick Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Closed Session**

On a motion by Pastor Fredrick Davis, seconded by Vice Chair Forte-Brown, 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 7:55 p.m.

**Open Session – Personnel Recommendations**

The board reconvened in open session at approximately 9:48 p.m.

**Personnel Approval**

Superintendent Becoats recommended approval of the September 26, 2013, Personnel Reports for Information, Approval, and the Substitute List with emphasis on the recommendation of Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman as the new Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services. On a motion made by Natalie Beyer to approve the Personnel Reports for Information, Approval, and the Substitute List dated September 26, 2013; seconded by Pastor Fredrick Davis, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman thanked the Board of Education and Superintendent Becoats for this opportunity and welcomed the challenge.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.



Heidi Carter, Chair  
Durham Public Schools Board of Education



Dr. Eric J. Becoats, Superintendent  
Durham Public Schools