

*Durham Public Schools Board of Education – September 27, 2013*

**BOE Regular Meeting Highlights from September 26**

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2013, and considered an agenda that included the following highlights:

**Board Chair Heidi Carter** extended a warm welcome to everyone present and to all the television viewers. She promised that the meeting would be rich in information that would support and enhance the vision statement of Durham Public Schools. The standing committees of the board presented information and reports that will keep the public informed on what the district is doing to ensure that the vision of success for every child is realized.

*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:*

**Superintendent, Dr. Eric J. Becoats** recognized the following:

* **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. Please join me as we congratulate them on achieving this success. 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, 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 and Superintendent Becoats presented them with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Redfearn presented him 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.

*New Deputy Superintendent for Academic Services:*

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, who currently serves as Area Superintendent for Elementary Schools, will become the new Deputy Superintendent for Academic Services. She moves into this position after the role of Chief of Staff was restructured. Dr. Lewis Ferebee vacated that position earlier this month.

Dr. Wilson-Norman has served Durham Public Schools since 2000, when she became Principal of Merrick-Moore Elementary School. While leading that school in 2005, she was recognized as DPS’s Principal of the Year. She subsequently joined the Central Office staff in June 2005 as Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, and then moved to Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction before becoming Area Superintendent in July 2010.

Dr. Wilson-Norman earned her doctorate from Gardner-Webb University, and her master’s and bachelor’s degrees from North Carolina Central University. She begins her new role on October 7.

*Consent Agenda:*

**Board Members** voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. **Pearsontown Elementary School – Renovation Design Agreement**
2. **Riverside High School – Bids for HVAC Controls Upgrade**
3. **Southern School of Energy and Sustainability – Bids for HVAC Controls Upgrade**
4. **Hillside High School – Right-of-Way Dedication**
5. **Budget Resolution Amendment #3 (2012-2013)**
6. **Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees Appointments**

*Committee Reports:*

1. **Support Services Committee**
2. **Response to Intervention (RtI)**

Dr. Debbie Pitman, Assistant Superintendent of Student, Family and Community Services, presented an update of 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 Multi-Level Prevention System. Thirty-one schools have embraced the framework and are receiving a multi-level of 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.

Additional information regarding Response to Intervention can be viewed on our website at [**www.dpsnc.net**](http://www.dpsnc.net).

*Superintendent’s Updates:*

Superintendent Becoats shared the following updates:

* **New state standards regional public meeting 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
* **20th-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

*Next Regular Board Meeting:*

**The next regular meeting of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education is set to be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 307, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27701.**

To view all approved DPS Board of Education Meeting Minutes, please visit our website at **www.dpsnc.net**.