

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
and
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, May 9, 2005

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Durham Public Schools (DPS) Board Chairman Gail M. Heath, Vice-Chairman Regina George-Bowden, and Members Heidi Carter, Minnie Forte, Steve Martin, Stephen Schewel, and Jackie Wagstaff; Superintendent Ann T. Denlinger

Commission Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, Vice-Chairman Becky M. Heron, and Commissioners Lewis A. Cheek, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Michael D. Page; County Manager Michael M. Ruffin

Absent: None

Presider: Commission Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow

Announcement

Chairman Reckhow announced that citizens had made a request to speak at the meeting. She stated that 15 to 20 minutes would be reserved at the end of the agenda to entertain comments regarding agenda items.

Welcome

Chairman Reckhow called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She recognized School Board Chairman Gail Heath for opening comments.

Chairman Heath stated that the DPS Board is excited and proud about the progress being made on its bond projects. The local funds increase regarding the Schools' budget was made with no enthusiasm; but the School Board felt it was important that the Commissioners realize the full needs of the system. Superintendent Denlinger and her staff have been redirecting funds to support academic goals. The budget request being presented is a representation of the system's needs. Chairman Heath asked that the Commissioners keep an open mind during the presentation.

Status Report on Bond Projects

Chairman Reckhow stated that after the presentation by Hugh Osteen, Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services, she would recognize Frank Duke, Planning Director, to give background on growth and development issues and the challenges related to the Adequate Public Facilities Policy (jointly adopted by the BOCC and City Council last year).

Mr. Osteen provided the following update on the 2001 Bond Referendum:

2001 School Construction Bond Referendum—Construction Projects:

- Bethesda Elementary School—eight classroom addition
- Oak Grove Elementary School—four classroom addition
- Durham School of the Arts—driveway addition
- Lakewood Elementary School—entire building renovation, plus additional wing, new playground
- R. N. Harris Elementary School—new entrance, new playground, additions to first and second floors
- Chewing Middle School—two-thirds building renovations, parking and driveway improvements
- Carrington Middle School—additions to back and front of building, including 12 to 14 classrooms
- Rogers-Herr Middle School—additions to back and front of building (largest middle school project)
- Creekside Elementary School—new school

Mr. Osteen read the 2001 Bond Status Report and Bond Financial Update as follows:

Facility	Status
Bethesda Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
Creekside Elementary	Completed late; within budget
R. N. Harris Elementary	Completed early; within budget
Lakewood Elementary	Completed on time; budget adjusted
Oak Grove Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
Pearsontown Elementary	Completed early; within budget
Watts Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
Carrington Middle	Completed on time; budget adjusted
Chewing Middle	Completed on time; within budget
Durham School of the Arts	Completed early; within budget
Neal Middle	Waiting for developer's action on commitment; DPS portion ready to bid
Rogers-Herr Middle	Permit delayed; contract on time; within budget
Facility/Transportation	Completed on time; budget adjusted
Mobiles	Completed early; within budget

Funding Available	\$51,776,084
Expended/Obligated To Date	\$49,658,668
Percentage Expended/Obligated	95.91%
MWBE %	14.37%
*As of May 2005	

Mr. Osteen continued with the 2003 Priority One School Construction Bond Referendum—Construction Projects:

- Parkwood Elementary School—cafeteria expansion, driveway loop expansion, paved parking lot Staff Development Center
- W. G. Pearson Elementary School—improvements until new school opens
- New W. G. Pearson Elementary School—underway
- C. C. Spaulding Elementary School—upcoming project; out for bid—late summer
- Playground improvements at all 28 elementary schools

Mr. Osteen read the 2003 Bond Status Report and Bond Financial Update as follows:

Facility	Status
Pearson (Old) Elementary	Completed early; within budget
Smith Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
New D/ Pearson Elementary	On schedule; within budget
Githens Middle	On schedule; within budget
Staff Dev. Center	Completed on time; within budget
Technology	On schedule; within budget
Playgrounds	On schedule; within budget
Activity Buses	Completed on time; within budget
Burton Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
Parkwood Elementary	Completed on time; within budget
Security	On schedule; within budget
Chewing Middle	On schedule; within budget
Spaulding Elementary	On schedule; within budget

Facility	Status
New “C” Elementary	On schedule; within budget
New “E” Elementary	On schedule; within budget
New “A” Elementary	On schedule; within budget
New “B” Elementary	On schedule; within budget
Durham School of Arts	On schedule; within budget
Facilities/Transportation	On schedule; within budget
Hillside High	On schedule; within budget
Jordan High	On schedule; within budget

Northern High	On schedule; within budget
Riverside High	On schedule; within budget
Southern High	On schedule; within budget
Bond Management	On schedule; within budget

Funding Available	\$31,890,420
Expending/Obligated To Date	\$20,001,433
Percentage Expended/Obligated	62.72%
MWBE%	10.80%
* As of May, 2005	
** Includes Bond and PSBCF	

School Board Member Wagstaff asked about the status of the Fayetteville Street Elementary and Shepard Middle Schools' bond projects.

Mr. Osteen responded that Fayetteville Street Elementary School renovations, included in the Phase II projects, are due to begin in 2006.

Chairman Reckhow clarified for Member Wagstaff that the County is selling the bonds in three steps—1/3 in 2004, 1/3 in 2006, and 1/3 in 2008.

Ms. Wagstaff voiced her concern that staff development appears to be a top priority while the schools are a low priority.

Mr. Osteen explained that staff development has been presented several times but has been a one-time-only project.

Commissioner Cheek suggested that when a developer is causing project delay, as in the case of Neal Middle School, the governing bodies should be notified so that appropriate action can be taken.

Mr. Osteen informed Commissioner Cheek that one-half of the work is complete; the developer has promised to begin again in the upcoming week.

Commissioner Cheek directed Mr. Osteen to inform him if another setback occurs.

In response to a question by Commissioner Cousin, Mr. Osteen answered that no new high schools are planned at this time.

Chairman Reckhow suggested that the Schools update its CIP on a cycle similar to that of the County so that it could feed into the County's CIP process (odd years, every other year).

Chairman Reckhow recognized Frank Duke, Planning Director, to give background on growth and development issues and the challenges related to the Adequate Public Facilities Policy.

Mr. Duke stated that the BOCC and Durham Public Schools Board were given a handout that provided a brief update on the Adequate Public School Facilities Policy. The policy was formally initiated by the BOCC in March 2003, was adopted by the BOCC in January 2004, and adopted by the City Council in February 2004. The policy is applied on a countywide basis. All numbers regarding building capacity, enrollment, and student generation is collected from Mr. Osteen's office and updated every semester.

Mr. Duke presented the following:

Adequate Public Schools Facilities	
Status Report	
May 9, 2005	
Policy History:	
BOC initiates, March 2003	
JCCPC reviews, April 2003	
Planning Commission recommends, June 2003	
BOC adopts, January 2004	
City Council adopts, February 2004	
Level of Service (LOS) :	
Based on system– wide building capacity	
Measured by school type	
Elementary	
Middle	
High	
LOS set at 120% of building capacity	
Status of schools at present:	
Elementary Schools	97%
Middle Schools	107%
High Schools	103%
Level Of Service Revised:	
Policy Revised February 2005	
LOS raised to 110% of capacity	
Middle Schools out of capacity in 2008- 2009 (based on current rate of rezonings)	

Mr. Duke stated that capacity is sufficient in middle schools for up to four years at the current rate of growth; high schools will exceed capacity in five to six years.

Chairman Heath asked Mr. Duke how early college and middle college high schools are factored into the figures.

Mr. Duke replied that the numbers are obtained from Mr. Osteen's office about building capacity and student placement; however, this does not affect the capacity of the buildings. The focus is on the students in the schools themselves. The numbers in the alternative programs are tracked with the assumption that it is 100% of capacity.

School Board Member Martin received confirmation from Mr. Duke that early college high school, middle college high school, and the proposed City of Medicine program will add the same number of students and the same number of slots in capacity.

Mr. Martin inquired whether Mr. Duke has taken into account the plans within the bonds to create a new middle school and two new elementary schools.

Mr. Duke responded that as soon as the bonds for the buildings have been sold, the capacity is added.

Chairman Reckhow interjected that two middle school site purchases are funded from the 2003 Bonds but no middle school buildings are funded.

Vice-Chairman Heron expressed that the developers should assist in funding for school growth, which should not be the total responsibility of taxpayers.

2005-06 Board of Education Budget Request

Dr. Denlinger gave a brief overview of the 2005-06 Durham Public Schools Budget request as follows:

Our Commitment:

Student Achievement

- Safe and Orderly Learning Environments
- High-Quality Instructional Programs

Concept

We are designing a school district that...

- Provides more options for students and parents
- Tailors our services to meet a greater number of specific needs
- Delivers a higher quality of instruction that can be found anywhere

Budget Request

Capital Outlay	\$2.5 million
Instructional Services	\$1.9 million
Personnel	\$2.8 million
Technology	\$0.3 million
Continuation	\$4.4 million
Total Request	\$11.9 million

Capital Outlay

- New and renovated facilities result in need for additional funds
- Roofs need to be replaced
- Present allocation of \$1.5 million is not adequate
- Request: additional \$2.5 million

Instructional Services

- Expand choice options (Watts and Choice initiative)
- Middle and high school reform
- ESL interpreters
- Request: \$1.9 million

Personnel

- Need to boost teacher supplement to be more competitive with neighbors
- Phase-in of classified salary study
- Request: \$2.8 million

Technology

- Technical support
- Request: \$0.3 million

Continuation

- Growth in student population
- Inflationary costs of classroom materials
- Step salary increases
- Benefits contributions
- Request: \$4.4 million

Dr. Carl Harris, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, explained the instructional implications of the budget:

Elementary Initiatives

Watts Montessori - \$500,300

- Create Watts Montessori lower elementary program
 - Nine classrooms (Grades 1, 2, &3)
 - Instructional materials
 - Training

Science (K-8) - \$60,000

- Expand inquiry-based science kits to elementary and middle schools

Secondary Initiatives

Secondary Schools Reform - \$366,250

- Continue middle and high school reform implementation meetings
- Develop quarterly assessments
 - Language Arts
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- Continue professional development
 - Instructional strategies
 - “Capturing Kids Hearts”
 - “Teen Leadership”
- Expand AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

District-Wide Initiatives

LEP interpreters/Translators - \$144,000

- Create four positions
- Responsibilities
 - Parent Outreach
 - Interpretation
 - Document translation
 - School support (PTA, SBDM, ECP, etc.)

Choice Programs - \$87,000

- Hire program planner for City of Medicine
- Choice schools program support
 - Community outreach
 - Publications

After-School Programs/Transportation

One-Time Capital Request

- One-time capital request for 40 new buses and retrofit 20 existing buses - \$2,800,000

Instructional Technology Objectives

- Equal access to technology for all teachers
 - Additional workstations
 - Additional digital projectors
 - Developing secured wireless network
- Improve instructional tool availability
 - Curriculum/pacing guide
 - Exemplary lessons
 - Instructional software tools

- Provide additional staff development opportunities
 - Large group / small group / online

Computers for Teachers

One-Time Capital Request

- Provide laptops to all certified secondary teachers
 - Provide equal access to comprehensive Instructional Organizer
 - Unit Plans, Lesson Plans, Standard Course of Study
 - Develop dynamic lessons using productivity and instructional tools
 - MS Office, Inspiration, Internet
 - Access self-paced, web-based, staff development
 - Support 2006-07 NC WISE implementation

Teacher laptops – high school	\$663,000
Teacher laptops – middle school	\$484,000

Hank Hurd, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services, made the following presentation:

Annual Capital Outlay

Improvements and replacements of capital investments such as buildings, equipment, and furnishings.

- Roof system replacements
- HVAC system upgrades/boilers/chillers
- Asphalt upgrades and overlays
- Replacement of fleet vehicles, activity buses and heavy equipment
- Furniture and equipment
- Construction or renovations to buildings, playgrounds, and sites
- Purchase and relocation of mobile classrooms
- Environmental remediation – asbestos abatement, IAQ actions

Annual Capital Outlay

Current Funding Levels

Category / Description	Current Funding Level
Mobile Classroom Purchases	\$195,000
Classroom Furniture	\$155,000
Fleet Replacement	\$217,000
Activity Bus Replacement	\$147,000
Contracted Painting Projects	\$125,000
Flooring Replacement	\$135,000
Other Improvements (HVAC, security, playgrounds, etc.)	\$526,000
Total	\$1,500,000

Annual Capital Outlay
 Expansion Funding

Category / Description	Current Funding Level
Playground & athletic upgrades	\$211,000
Mobile classroom purchases	\$130,000
Activity bus replacement	\$147,000
Contracted painting projects	\$125,000
Flooring replacement	\$135,000
Other Improvements (HVAC, security, playgrounds, etc.)	\$226,000
District-wide Subtotal	\$974,000

Annual Capital Outlay
 Funding Levels & Distribution
 Specific School Needs

Jordan High auditorium lighting	\$225,000
Jordan High classroom HVAC upgrades	\$214,000
Northern High North Hall HVAC	\$205,000
DSA gym roof & windows	\$455,000
Brogden Middle asphalt upgrade	\$45,000
Easley Elementary chiller	\$160,000
Oak Grove Elementary driveway	\$85,000
Jordan High Gym bleachers	\$137,000
Specific School Needs Sub-Total	\$1,526,000
Total	\$2,500,000

Continuation

Funding Requirements

- Funding for growth to achieve same \$ per pupil as FY 2004-05 = \$1,318,125
- Inflationary cost increase for classroom supplies and materials = \$704,000
- Years of experience salary increases = \$1,636,521
- State mandated employer benefit contributions = \$749,353

Total funding requirements to maintain services and staff at current level = \$4,407,999

System Efficiencies

- Zero-based budgeting campaign
- Streamline operational areas
- Resource management model

Discussion

Member Wagstaff and Commissioners Page and Cousin solicited the following information concerning the request to purchase 40 new buses and retrofit 20 existing buses:

- cost of new versus retrofit
- cost to retrofit existing buses

- how the requested number was determined

Mr. Osteen and Dr. Denlinger responded to the questions.

Dr. Denlinger commented that the buses would be utilized for student transportation for after school programs and activities.

Chairman Reckhow suggested a pilot program to extend the school day to 4:30 p.m. at one or two middle schools.

Dr. Denlinger responded that DPS would be happy to accommodate the suggestion if funding is available.

Dr. Harris responded to Member Wagstaff's request for an explanation about three different amounts in the bus allowance request.

Member Forte asked if the request for computers includes certified and lateral entry teachers.

Dr. Harris clarified that lateral entry teachers are also certified teachers.

Member Wagstaff questioned why DPS is requesting laptops for all certified secondary teachers.

Dr. Harris replied that the school system wishes to provide equitable access to computers.

Member Carter asked for further information regarding the need to boost teacher supplements. Mr. Hurd presented the information.

Commissioner Page recommended that a parent survey be taken prior to piloting a program to extend the school day. He asked questions in regards to the number of computers that DPS wishes to purchase for teachers.

Dr. Denlinger responded that approximately 1,100 computers are needed.

Commissioner Page expressed concern about the possible reduction in teacher assistants.

Mr. Hurd informed the Boards that the school system could lose up to \$1.2 million in funding for teacher assistants; however, other state funds may possibly be obtained.

Commissioner Page expressed the need for teacher assistants in the classrooms.

Commissioner Cousin inquired about the attrition rate at which DPS teachers relocate to other school systems.

Mr. Hurd replied that the rate is 19 percent; however, teachers leave for varying reasons. The supplement initiative should help reduce the percentage.

Member Schewel requested information about the number of high school students to be housed in buildings other than those owned by the school system.

Dr. Denlinger responded that in two years, DPS anticipates 1,400 high school students will be attending other educational centers:

- 400—Early College
- 400—City of Medicine Academy
- 200—Middle College
- 400—International High School (in the discussion stage)

Dr. Denlinger stated that Holton housed roughly 500 to 600 students.

Member Schewel requested clarification concerning the classified employee salary increase.

Mr. Hurd provided an explanation.

Member Schewel wished to know the number of translators in the system.

Dr. Harris responded that the system has six to eight translators and is requesting an additional four.

Member Wagstaff inquired about the different dollar amounts in the request for buses and fleet replacement. During the questions by Member Wagstaff and responses by Mr. Hurd as to why specific staff is provided vehicles, Commissioner Cheek called for a point of order and suggested that the discussion be held at another time. He stated that the Boards should continue their discussions in regards to the budget.

Chairman Reckhow voiced appreciation for the Schools' CIP initiatives at the high school level; but expressed concern about middle school capacity. She recommended further dialogue at future meetings about special nontraditional initiatives for schools (i.e., joint use).

Dr. Denlinger mentioned that much has been learned from the parents' choice survey. Additional questions to be asked are if parents prefer more K-5 and 6-12 schools in the district and fewer stand-alone 6-8 schools. Mr. Osteen is considering which current facilities can accommodate 6-12 programs. The land owned by DPS beside Creekside Elementary would allow for a new, two-story middle school; children could remain at the same location K-8.

Mr. Osteen conveyed that DPS is becoming increasingly thoughtful about future middle school space needs.

Chairman Reckhow directed that DPS supply data in terms of the continuation budget and the difference between 2- and 3-percent salary increases. She had questions about: the chart on page 11 regarding the need for 212.5 locally paid positions in the exceptional children's programs; the 76 locally paid positions for school building administration; and 82 positions

for transportation. She also requested an explanation for the discrepancy in the numbers in the budget document as follows:

- 38.5 positions in Central Services – 14.8 locally paid
- 50.6 Central Office Administration – 34.3 locally paid

Chairman Reckhow continued by stating that DPS has provided wonderful goals and objectives. She asked for more information regarding the number of teachers with computer access in their classrooms. The budget should focus on essentials/necessities and priorities.

Chairman Reckhow expressed that the total budget request of \$15.9 million is a huge difference between the \$11.9 million recurring request.

Chairman Reckhow asked how the State assists with the purchases of buses.

Mr. Hurd responded that the first yellow bus is purchased by the school district. The State replaces the buses when deemed defective and provides a majority of operational dollars. All other buses must be purchased and maintained locally.

Chairman Reckhow directed that DPS provide the results of the teacher salary supplement survey.

Member Forte expressed support for the request for teacher laptops, which are a “necessity, not to mention an added incentive”.

Commissioner Cousin asked if other North Carolina school districts provide laptops for their teachers.

Dr. Denlinger replied that she believes that they are not provided; however, DPS is proud of its groundbreaking proposals and hopes to offer its professionals the essential tools for progress.

Citizen Comments/Questions

Chairman Reckhow announced that citizens who wish to speak on the items discussed at today’s meeting would be allowed three minutes to comment. She directed that staff take notes so that questions could be addressed.

Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, P.O. Box 428, Durham 27702, stated that she had concerns about 21 local items and many state items. (Members Forte and Wagstaff had been given a list of the questions and concerns.) Dr. Allison listed several of her concerns as follows:

- administration (she could not match the figures) - pages 15 and 16
- instructional support – pages 21 and 22
- children with special needs – pages 49 and 50
- academically and/or intellectually gifted services – pages 53 and 54
- charter schools (need survey) – pages 57 and 58
- transportation

- magnet choice

Dr. Allison expressed her opinion that the budget request has serious problems--primarily that the amount for improving student accountability is the same as the previous year (pages 91 and 92).

Steven Matherly, 2022 W. Club Boulevard, Durham 27705, strongly supported the teachers' supplement; nevertheless, he expressed that the County Commissioners and DPS must consider non-monetary approaches to attract and retain teachers. The controversy and conditions in the DPS system must be addressed.

Commissioner Cheek called for a point of order and asked that questions/discussion be limited to budget issues.

Chairman Reckhow stated that she felt that Mr. Matherly's comments were related to the budget.

Sheryl Smith, 113 Denver Avenue, Durham 27704, asked the Commissioners whether the schools superintendent had been given more than \$50,000 to increase her salary to \$200,000+ per year, not including benefits. In addition, she asked if the Commissioners aspire for DPS to be the best school system in the district and state.

Darlene Rawls, 610 Cecil Street, Durham 27707, communicated that the request for laptops (663 for high school teachers and 484 for middle school) was unnecessary. She addressed the need for low-income students to be provided computers for their homes. Ms. Rawls stated that funding for charter schools should include materials so that parents would not have to purchase them.

Minnie Brown, 905 Dupree Street, Durham 27701, questioned why DPS has failed its average yearly progress tests for the past two consecutive years.

Chairman Reckhow thanked everyone for attending the special session, stating that the County Commissioners would give the budget request serious consideration. She asked that the flow of information continue between the two Boards and that today's unanswered questions be addressed.

Adjournment

Chairman Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda C. Sessoms
Clerk to the Board