

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

April 28, 2008

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 Chairperson Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice-Chairperson Steve Schewel, and Members: Heidi Carter, Fredrick A. Davis, Stephen Martin, Omega Curtis Parker, and Kirsten Kainz.

Durham Public Schools Administration: Dr. Carl E. Harris, Superintendent; Hugh Osteen, Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services; Dr. Terri Mazingo, Chief Academic Officer; Chris Bennett, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Curriculum & Instruction; Stacy Wilson-Norman, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Deborah Pitman, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

Commission Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, Vice-Chairman Michael D. Page, and Commissioners Lewis A. Cheek and Becky M. Heron

Absent: Commissioner Philip R. Cousin Jr.

Presider: Commission Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow

Welcome

Commission Chairman Reckhow welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and Durham Public Schools Board of Education. She noted progress made by the Board and DPS, such as the purchase of the Lakewood YMCA, which was announced at the press conference held prior to today's meeting. Lakewood YMCA would be an asset to the Durham neighborhood.

School Board Chairman Forte-Brown praised the collaborative relationship between the Board of County Commissioners and DPS Board of Education. She echoed Chairman Reckhow's comments regarding Lakewood.

School Construction Projects Update

School Board Chairman Forte-Brown introduced Hugh Osteen, Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services, to present the update on Durham Public Schools' construction projects.

Mr. Osteen presented the update as follows:

DPS 2001 Bond Projects Status Chart

DPS 2003 Bond Projects Status Chart

DPS 2007 Bond Referendum Projects

- Proposed Estimated Schedule

MWBE Participation in Bond Programs

2001 Bond Program	\$51.8 million
Construction Contracts & Services	13.28%
Design Contracts & Services	35.40%
All Contracts & Services	15.00%
2003 Bond Program	\$105.3 million
Construction Contracts & Services	18.20%
Design Contracts & Services	14.38%
All Contracts & Services	17.58%
2007 Bond Program	\$194.2 million
Construction Contracts & Services	N/A
Design Contracts & Services	13.32%
All Contracts & Services	13.32%

Amended Exhibit A

The following projects are to be included in the Interlocal Sales Tax Agreement between the Durham Public Schools Board of Education and the Durham County Board of Commissioners:

- Original Exhibit List (10/26/06)
 - Fayetteville Street Elementary School Expansion and Renovation
 - New Elementary School "B" New Facility
 - Lowe's Grove Middle School Renovations
- Additions to List in Amendment (12/06/07)
 - Mangum Elementary Addition & Renovation
 - Shepard Middle Addition & Renovation
 - Morehead Elementary Addition & Renovation
 - Club Blvd. Elementary Addition & Renovation
 - Bacon Street Addition & Renovation
- Additions to List in Amendment (2/28/08)
 - Creekside Elementary Expansion
 - New Elementary "E" New Facility
 - Carrington Middle Roofing and HVAC
 - Upgrades
 - Neal Middle Renovations
 - New Middle School "B" New Facility
 - Hillside High Expansion
 - Jordan High Site Improvements
 - Lakeview School Expansion
 - New High School "A" New Facility
 - City of Medicine Academy New Facility

Mr. Osteen addressed questions by the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education throughout his presentation.

Chairman Reckhow asked Mr. Osteen to explain in an email to the County Manager the difficulty with businesses obtaining permits for the upcoming construction projects.

Carol Hammett, Assistant County Attorney, replied to Chairman Reckhow's question regarding the number of hours spent working with DPS to avoid paying sales tax on property. She stated that County Attorney staff routinely spends an average of 10 hours per project providing contract management for DPS projects. Approximately 180 hours of services have been provided in the last year.

Chairman Reckhow requested that staff relay to the Durham Delegation the countless hours that County and DPS staffs have dedicated to the sales tax process for construction projects. The process involves DPS deeding property to the County and performing work under the County's name through DPS process. At the end of the project, the land is transferred back to DPS to avoid paying sales tax.

Mr. Martin responded to Chairman Reckhow that the School Board Association has the sales tax issue on its priority list for legislative action.

Chairman Reckhow suggested that the School Board Association consider notifying citizens of the sales tax issue in a high-profiled manner.

Chairman Forte-Brown concurred with Chairman Reckhow that the Association should be more aggressive when notifying the public.

Chairman Reckhow suggested that DPS collaborate with Wake County regarding the sales tax issue.

Mr. Schewel noted that sales tax is paid when school supplies such as books are purchased.

Mr. Osteen and Dr. Harris responded to the following questions by the Board of County Commissioners:

- Is Holton School on schedule for its projected completion date? (Vice-Chairman Page)
 - *Yes, it is anticipated to be completed in summer 2009.*
- How to enhance the popularity of other middle schools to the popularity level of Rogers-Herr Middle School; is there a plan to improve these schools? (Vice-Chairman Page)
 - *Yes, the plan is to redesign the schools to improve their attractiveness, which in turn may increase their popularity among parents and students. E.K. Powe and Y.E. Elementary Schools are addressed in the 2007 Bond, totaling \$11 million.*
- What is the long-term plan for Creekside Elementary School? (Vice-Chairman Page)
 - *Demographers will be working with DPS during the summer and fall to compose a comprehensive plan to observe student projections over multiple years. That should provide better information for DPS to make long-range decisions regarding where and how quick a school should be built. Some areas would have to be redistricted as new schools are built.*

- Is Parkwood Elementary School at full capacity? (Vice-Chairman Page)
 - *Yes, it is at capacity.*
- When issues arise in regards to projects to occur from the 2003 bonds, how will the issues be addressed? (Commissioner Cheek)
 - *If there are not enough funds remaining from the bonds to finish the projects, then DPS would present the dilemma to the Board of County Commissioners and DPS Board of Education.*
- Accepting donated property from the Egypt Development, if the site is approved (Commissioner Heron)
 - *DPS does not accept donated property that is of poor quality.*
- Mobile classrooms for music and art (Commissioner Heron)
 - *Mobile classrooms allow the physical classrooms to be restored to their original conditions.*
- Cafeteria and restroom space (Commissioner Heron)
 - *The cafeteria requires a permanent addition, which is scheduled for completion after the new addition in 2009. Three mobile restroom units will be placed next to the onsite trailers. Canopies will be added over the walkways.*

Chairman Forte-Brown spoke to the overcrowding at Creekside Elementary School.

Mr. Schewel addressed Commissioner Heron's comments regarding the relationship between the approval of developments and infrastructures. He encouraged the Board of County Commissioners to consider overcrowded areas in Durham during the next bond issuance.

Chairman Reckhow recommended that the demographer working with DPS consider the situation relative to a 110% capacity in elementary, middle, and high schools. If any of the schools exceed 110%, then neither the City nor the County is permitted to approve new developments in that area.

Per a request by Chairman Reckhow, Mr. Osteen and Mr. Schewel provided a brief update on a request by the Board of County Commissioners in 2002 for DPS to adopt high performance guidelines for new facilities.

Chairman Reckhow emphasized the importance of reducing energy costs.

Ms. Kainz suggested that the City and County officials work together to remedy overcrowding and encourage sustainability.

Chairman Reckhow stated that Ms. Kainz's suggestion will be raised at the next Joint City-County Planning Committee meeting. She noted that a City-County sustainability manager has been hired.

Mr. Osteen responded to Chairman Reckhow that DPS employs a coordinator who tracks the utility rates and usage, not necessarily sustainability.

Major School Programs/Initiatives Update

School Board Chairman Forte-Brown introduced Dr. Terri Mazingo, Chief Academic Officer, Durham Public Schools (DPS), to present the update on major school programs and initiatives.

Dr. Mozingo thanked the Boards for the opportunity to provide them with an overview of the programs and initiatives. She recognized her colleagues in attendance who would be presenting portions of the update—Chris Bennett, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Curriculum & Instruction; Stacy Wilson-Norman, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Deborah Pitman, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services.

Dr. Mozingo made a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- Instructional Services
 - Mission Statement
 - District Goals
 - DPS Basic Facts
 - 2007-08 Enrollment 32,749
 - Seventh largest school district in the state
 - 50 Schools
 - 28 Elementary
 - 9 Middle
 - 2 Secondary (grades 6-12)
 - 10 High Schools
 - 1 Hospital School

Mr. Bennett presented on the following topics:

- Small High School Options
 - City of Medicine Academy
 - Early College High School at NCCU
 - Middle College High School at DTCC
 - Southern High School of Engineering
 - Hillside New Tech High School
 - Durham Performance Learning Center
- Specialized Opportunities
 - Business and Finance Academy at HHS
 - Construction and Architectural Design Academy at SHS
 - Culinary Arts
 - Holton Center
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
 - Business/Industry Partnerships
 - ✓ American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 - ✓ Durham Careers in Construction
 - ✓ Durham Careers in Hospitality
 - ✓ Durham Chamber of Commerce
 - ✓ City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development
 - Work-Based Learning Opportunities
 - ✓ Apprenticeships
 - ✓ Cooperative Education
 - ✓ Job Shadowing
 - ✓ Internships
- High School Programs/Initiatives
 - College Preparatory Curriculum
 - Honors, AP and IB Participation
 - Freshman Academies
 - Evening Academy at Southern High School

- Online Courses
- Support in Preparing for SAT/ACT
- Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) Expansion
- High School Reform Teams
- Middle School Programs/Initiatives
 - Middle School Reform Teams
 - Academically & Intellectually Gifted Programs
 - ✓ William and Mary Curriculum
 - ✓ Renzulli Learning System
 - ✓ Nurturing Programs
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - Expansion of new W.G. Pearson Magnet Middle School
 - Futures4Kids

Chairman Forte-Brown and Mr. Bennett explained that students at Early College High School at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) are permitted to partake in extracurricular activities at NCCU and DTCC (i.e. athletics, band). Attending middle and early colleges allows students to earn college credit and gain the college experience.

Ms. Carter echoed Ms. Forte-Brown’s comments.

Ms. Wilson-Norman presented on the following topics:

- Elementary School Programs/Initiatives
 - Literacy Alignment
 - Kindergarten Readiness
 - Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) Expansion
 - Academically & Intellectually Gifted Programs
 - ✓ Nurturing Program
 - ✓ Renzulli Learning System
 - ✓ William and Mary Instructional Units
 - English as a Second Language, ESL (K-12)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

Languages	Staffing
4554 LEPs (Limited English Proficient)	73 ESL (English as a Second Language teachers)
4062 Spanish	3 Interpreters
47 Vietnamese	3 Registration Center Employees
45 Chinese	1 ESL Database Manager
38 Arabic	2 Teacher Leaders

- ESL Instructional Support Continuum
- ESL Strategies for Achieving Goals
 - ✓ Provide student access to core curriculum
 - ✓ Integrate with regular education programs

- ✓ Ensure that high expectations of English Language Learners (ELLs) are present at all grade levels and levels of proficiency
- ✓ Provide student access to accelerated courses
- ✓ Coordinate and implement professional development with departments such as Curriculum and Instruction, Research, Development and Accountability, and Student Support Services
- Future Direction of ESL
 - ✓ Address issues associated with high school completion
 - ✓ Redesign registration support for schools
 - ✓ Design programming for older students with interrupted or no previous schooling
 - ✓ Embed strategies to support ELL students in all instructional models
 - ✓ Prepare for the Teaching and Learning Conference
 - ✓ Increase ELL numbers in Advanced Academics
 - ✓ Support pre-school programs and kindergarten readiness
 - ✓ Increase parent participation in district-wide activities

Dr. Pitman presented on the following topics:

- High School Completion Plan Update
 - Review 2006-07 dropout data for Durham Public Schools and North Carolina
 - Review 2007 Cohort Graduation Rate for Durham Public Schools and North Carolina
 - Share monitoring and implementation strategies of the High School Completion Plan
 - Dropout Rate in Grades 9-12 (Durham Public Schools vs. North Carolina)
 - Cohort Graduation Rate
 - ✓ Percentage of students who graduate from secondary school with a regular diploma in four years or less.
 - ✓ The cohort graduation rate was reported for the first time in 2006 on the NC School Report Card.
 - HS Completion Plan: 10 Implementation Work Groups
 - ✓ At-Risk Factors
 1. Academic Performance
 2. Behavior/Suspensions
 3. Attendance
 - ✓ Instructional Reform
 4. Compulsory Attendance Age
 5. Structure of the High School
 - ✓ Parent & Community Leadership
 6. Family Support and Engagement
 7. Business and Industry Engagement
 8. Cultural Differences and Languages
 9. Instilling Hope/Vision for the Future
 - ✓ Data Quality
 10. Data Collection and Reporting
 - Focus Area I: At-Risk Factors
 1. Academic Performance
 2. Behavior and Suspensions
 3. Attendance
 - Academic & Behavior: Personal Education Plans

- ✓ A Personalized Education Plan (PEP) must be completed for students (K-12) to:
 1. Provide focused interventions and performance benchmarks at the beginning of the school year for any student not performing at grade level
 2. Support students experiencing behavioral difficulties
 3. Document interventions
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
 - ✓ SAP provides support for students through the early identification of needs in the area of achievement and behavior
 - ✓ SAP promotes a systematic approach to best practices in addressing these concerns within the regular education classroom
- Student Assistance Program
 - Members
 - ✓ Counselor, Chair
 - ✓ Administrator
 - ✓ Teacher- Regular
 - ✓ Teacher- ECP
 - ✓ Parent
 - ✓ Psychologist
 - ✓ Social Worker
 - ✓ Student
 - Activities
 - ✓ Review PEP
 - ✓ Gather & assess data on the student from teacher(s)
 - ✓ Revise & expand individualized interventions & strategies
 - ✓ Monitor effectiveness of strategies
 - ✓ Make appropriate referrals for further testing
 - ✓ Refer to CFT if beyond the scope of school; contact agency(s)
- Save Our Students Tracker- Counselors
 - ✓ Monthly tracker is used to monitor strategies and supports for students at-risk of dropping out
 - ✓ Counselors support at-risk students by providing them with necessary resources to promote success
 - ✓ Referrals made to Child and Family Team, as appropriate
- Attendance & Truancy
 - Truancy Court Members
 - ✓ Social Worker, Chair
 - ✓ Counselor
 - ✓ Administrator
 - ✓ Student
 - ✓ SRO (Secondary)
 - ✓ Parent, Recommended
 - ✓ Judge
 - Activities
 - ✓ Review attendance rates
 - ✓ Gather & assess data on the student
 - ✓ Revise & expand individualized interventions & strategies
 - ✓ Monitor effectiveness of strategies
 - ✓ Provide resources & support

- ✓ Refer to CFT if beyond the scope of school; contact agency
- Focus Area II: Instructional Reform
 4. Compulsory Attendance Age
 5. Structure of High School
 - Small Learning Communities
 - Durham Performance Learning Center
 - Early College High School
 - Middle College High School
 - City of Medicine Academy (Fall 2008)
 - Freshman Academies
 - School Within a School
 - Southern School of Engineering
 - Hillside New Tech High
 - Evening Academy (new)
- SHS Extended Evening Academy
 - ✓ SHS students who are two years over age are targeted.
 - ✓ DPS will use Durham Technical Community College instructors specifically trained to work with non-traditional students in alternative settings.
 - ✓ DTCC instructors will use strategies to connect reading, writing, math, and other academics to job skills and readiness.
 - ✓ Students will be able to earn more than four credits in a semester, allowing them to begin catching up to their cohort graduation peers.
- Focus Area III: Parent & Community Leadership
 6. Family Support and Engagement
 - System of Care (and Network of Care community resources)
 - Promote family-friendly schools
 - Offer Beyond High School session
 - Parent Workshops on completing college applications, seeking scholarships
 - HS Transition Nights for rising freshmen
 7. Business and Industry Engagement
 - Create business partnerships that provide mentoring, internships, community service, and/or apprenticeships
 - Summer Career Academy (Yo! Durham, RIL, AALA, etc.)
 8. Cultural Differences and Languages
 - Navigating the School District
 - ESL Registration Center to welcome families to DPS
 - Orientation Session prior to start of school
 - HS Transition Nights for rising freshmen (Hispanic Families)
 - DTCC offers English services to our adult ELL (parents, family members)
 - Expand academic support for students with “interrupted schooling” (4-5 grade levels below age-appropriate peers)
 9. Instilling Hope/Vision for the Future
 - Recruit community volunteers to mentor students at-risk of failure
 - Provide scholarship opportunities for students
 - Assist families who are homeless
 - Build leadership and career/college options through summer programming

- Focus Area IV: Quality Data
 - ✓ Balanced Scorecards establish annual goals for each school with targets for attendance, suspension, dropout rates
 - ✓ Monthly attendance and dropout data reports are provided to schools to monitor progress towards the benchmark goal and identify students who have dropped out
 - ✓ Tracking document used by counselors to monitor students that fall off schedule to graduate with their cohort
 - Students that fall off schedule with their graduation cohort will be given immediate interventions to restore them to the cohort

Dr. Mozingo concluded the presentation by discussing the following topics:

- Accolades
 - Newsweek Top 1000 List
 - ✓ Jordan 307
 - ✓ DSA 346
 - ✓ Riverside 835
 - ✓ Northern 928
 - National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Education
 - ✓ Shepard Middle School
 - ✓ Carrington Middle School
 - ✓ Rogers- Herr Middle School
 - Magnet Schools of America (MSA) Award Winners
 - ✓ Durham School of the Arts
 - ✓ R.N. Harris Integrated Arts/Core Knowledge
 - ✓ Club Boulevard Humanities

DPS staff addressed questions by the Board of County Commissioners throughout the presentation.

Chairman Reckhow and Vice-Chairman Page thanked DPS staff for the excellent presentation.

Chairman Reckhow inquired about outreach measures taken to increase enrollment at Middle College at DTCC. She urged DPS staff to consider additional ways to inform citizens of the College opportunities.

Citizen Comments

Chairman Reckhow called for citizen comments; as no citizen requested to speak, she recognized School Board Member Heidi Carter for comments.

Ms. Carter suggested that offering mental health services to students may decrease the drop-out rate.

Chairman Reckhow concurred with Ms. Carter's suggestion. Chairman Reckhow stated that subsequent to learning about a mobile mental health team in Milwaukee, she asked the Mental Health Director to explore the mobile team model to determine if it could be used at the schools.

Commissioner Heron stressed that health needs and solutions should go beyond mental health.

Chairman Reckhow and Ms. Carter briefly discussed poor eating habits of students.

Chairman Reckhow requested that School Board members with an interest in particular results-based accountability (RBA) areas work with the appropriate RBA groups. She suggested that a School Board member work with the RBA health group that will be following up on the youth health risk behavior survey, as well as a School Board member to work with the education and safety RBA groups.

Vice-Chairman Page emphasized the importance of educating parents on the health risk of children and how to prevent them, such as feeding children breakfast.

Chairman Forte-Brown noted that Channel 14 lists Durham Public Schools as No. 5 in the nation for obesity.

Board members held a brief discussion regarding students eating breakfast.

Chairman Reckhow stated that the Board of County Commissioners would like to meet with the DPS Board of Education more frequently. She recommended that the two Boards meet semi-annually and add meetings throughout the year as necessary.

Adjournment

Chairman Reckhow invited School Board members to join the Commissioners for dinner in the Commissioners' Conference Room. There being no further business, Chairman Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne R. Gordon
Deputy Clerk to the Board