

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered this 30th day of January, 2017 by and between the DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and the DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education mutually desire to improve the educational achievements of Durham school children;

WHEREAS, members of the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education understand the importance of regular communication during the budget process and throughout the school year;

WHEREAS, as two of Durham County's largest employers, Durham Public Schools and Durham County Government share a commitment to policies that support employees and families such as living wages and family friendly benefits;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners will work with their state and national professional organizations and legislative delegations to seek adequate state and federal funding to ensure successful educational outcomes;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Education, and staff leadership of Durham County and Durham Public Schools commit to focus together on evidence-based practices that support children and families;

IT IS NOW THEREFORE AGREED THAT:

1. The Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education will meet quarterly and discuss education and related issues.
2. Durham Public Schools shall tie its budget development to its strategic planning process for achieving improved outcomes, to include third-grade literacy, eighth-grade preparation for high school, increased graduation rates and decreased out of school suspension rates. The budget and strategic planning process shall be formally integrated for the Durham Public Schools budget.
3. Durham Public Schools and the Board of County Commissioners shall provide one another appropriate information regarding school funding as such information is released to the public.
4. In an effort to align with the county budget development cycle, Durham Public Schools intends to submit its draft budget request for 2017-18 by mid-March 2017 and will accelerate the budget process in succeeding years to submit its request by March 1st.
5. The Board of Education, with input from a broad and diverse cross-section of the Durham County community, will set and regularly report on a broad range of measurable goals and outcomes for students and families. Data will be disaggregated where possible by subgroups of students according to state and federal accountability models, which in 2016-17 include race,

students with disabilities, English language learners, academically/intellectually gifted, and economically disadvantaged students. Reportable data may include measures such as EOG/EOC scores, growth measures, ACT/SAT scores, graduation rates, suspension rates, teacher retention, attendance, college and career readiness as well as post-secondary information from the National Clearing House, and perhaps others. Durham Public Schools shall provide the Board of County Commissioners with regular reports on the above data and outcomes (i.e. as new data becomes available) at the same time this data is released to the media.

6. The County will share with the Board of Education regular reports related to the well-being of children and families. Reportable data may include measures that are associated with academic and social success in school, such as teen pregnancy rates, unemployment rates, number of 4 year olds in high quality preschool, and number of youth engaged in after-school and summer activities, as well as updates on County programs and services that impact children and youth.
7. Durham Public Schools shall continue to develop alternative education programs for all suspended students with the goal of reducing the number of long- and short-term suspended students.
8. The Board of County Commissioners shall provide equal consideration to budget and programmatic proposals generated by Durham Public Schools as to those proposals generated by County staff. Expansion funding requests from both bodies will include detailed data supporting the request, expected outcomes and benchmarks. Absent a financial crisis or involuntary reduction of county revenue, the Board of County Commissioners shall maintain per-pupil funding to continue to be a state leader in educational funding.
9. The Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education recognize the low level of state funding for teacher compensation compared to the rest of the nation and shall work together to support a competitive certified pay scale to ensure the recruitment and retention of highly qualified and effective teachers.
10. The Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education will agree on a targeted undesignated fund balance for Durham Public Schools at a level sufficient to always protect the schools' operational / cash flow integrity.
11. The Superintendent of Durham Public Schools and the County Manager, working with representatives from both boards, will direct appropriate staff members to develop future school sites in a manner that ensures maximum use (co-locating parks and/or libraries on school sites or jointly using existing and expanded facilities) by the public. This will require joint planning prior to the purchase of school sites and prior to finalizing the architectural specifications for school buildings.
12. The Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education recognize the strong commitment by the County and its citizens to high-quality educational facilities. To that end, Durham Public

Schools and the County will both support the ongoing upkeep, operation and repair of new and existing facilities. The County will sponsor bond referenda in consultation with Durham Public Schools and City and County Planning staff to address facility needs.

13. Durham Public Schools will consult with the Board of County Commissioners on school construction and renovation and develop energy-efficient and cost-effective plans and specifications.
14. The Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education shall jointly meet in the last quarter of each calendar year to review compliance with this Memorandum of Understanding prior to the commencement of the following year's budget discussions.
15. The Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education shall review this Memorandum of Understanding in the fall of 2018 and every two years thereafter and discuss how well we are meeting these mutually agreed upon goals and any revisions needed.

COUNTY OF DURHAM



Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham County Board of Commissioners

DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION



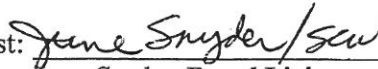
Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Attest:



V. Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk

Attest:



June Snyder, Board Liaison