

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, May 26, 2020

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chair Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair James Hill and Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: Chair Wendy Jacobs

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Chair Jacobs announced that there were no agenda adjustments.

Announcements

Chair Jacobs read the following announcements:

1. **Serving the Durham Community: COVID-19 Volunteer Opportunities** – If you are looking for ways to give back in your community; please check the list below for volunteer opportunities.
 - Feed Durham by volunteering with a food relief agency or assist seniors through the Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center (formerly the Volunteer Center of Durham: <https://tinyurl.com/feeddurham>
 - Support Durham FEAST, a child and adult feeding collaboration between Durham Public Schools and other partners: <https://www.durhamfeast.org/volunteer>
 - Assist another area nonprofit seeking volunteers by searching the Durham County Public Health website: www.dcopublichealth.org
2. **There is Still time for Census 2020** – For the first time ever, the Census can be completed by phone, email, or online. Due to health concerns, the time to complete the Census has been extended to October 31, 2020. Please visit <https://2020census.gov/> to complete the Census today!

3. **Emergency Operations Center, the Heartbeat for COVID-19 in Durham** – To stay abreast of the COVID-19 situation in Durham and to learn more about how to help reduce the potential spread of this virus, residents are encouraged to visit <https://www.dcopublichealth.org/> or follow the DCoPH's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.
4. **Did you Know that you can Vote from Home?** – Vote from the convenience of your home for the 2020 General Election! Please visit www.dcovotes.com for more information absentee ballots and how to request a form.

Minutes

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Hill to approve the April 13, 2020 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

Introduction of Durham County's First Racial Equity Officer, Kweli Rashied-Henry

Joanne Pierce, General Manager introduced Kweli Rashied-Henry, Racial Equity Officer to the Board and gave an overview of her work experience. Ms. Rashied-Henry stated she was excited to join Durham County and to help with racial equity. She added she looked forward to partnering and learning from Durham. The Board welcomed Ms. Rashied-Henry to Durham County and hoped to meet her in-person.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested Ms. Rashied-Henry attend the next Task Force meeting and Commissioner Howerton recommended she perform an assessment on the Board.

Directives:

- **Commissioner Reckhow suggested Kweli Rashied-Henry, Racial Equity Officer attend the next Task Force meeting.**
- **Commissioner Howerton recommended Ms. Rashied-Henry perform an assessment on the Board.**

Introduction of Durham County's Early Childhood Coordinator, Cate Elander

Donna Rewalt, Director, Durham County Cooperative Extension introduced Cate Elander, Early Childhood Coordinator to the Board and gave an overview of her work experience. Ms. Elander stated she was grateful to join Durham County during the critical need of early childhood infrastructure. The Board welcomed Ms. Elander to Durham County and looked forward to working with her.

Older American Month Proclamation 2020

Chair Jacobs read the following resolution.

OLDER AMERICAN MONTH | 2020

WHEREAS, Durham County includes a growing number of older Americans who make countless contributions to our community every day; and

WHEREAS, Durham County is stronger when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are included and encouraged to make their mark; and

WHEREAS, Durham County recognizes the importance of the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Durham County welcomes the opportunity and challenges that require us to think differently about health and wellbeing, aging in place and long-term care, and has developed a Master Aging Plan to ensure that older adults can safely age in place and with dignity by building a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, Durham County appreciates the value of inclusivity, racial equity, and assistance in helping older adults successfully contribute to and benefit from their community's commitment to continuously work toward creating an Age Friendly Durham; and

WHEREAS, Durham County can support our community members by:

- promoting independence, inclusion, and participation;
- engaging older adults through education, recreation, and service; and connecting people with opportunities to share their time, experience, and talents, especially during this time of physically distancing ourselves, but understanding the importance of remaining socially connected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 as

“OLDER AMERICAN MONTH”

in Durham County. We commend this observance to our residents and urge all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses to join with the Department of Social Services, The Durham Center for Senior Life, and Durham's Partnership for Seniors committee to honor older adults, and those who care for them, during May and throughout the year. We urge all to promote and participate in activities that contribute to helping older Americans make choices for a healthy, safe, and rewarding future.

This the 26th day of May 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Janeen Gordon, Assistant Director of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Social Services thanked the Board for honoring older adults, adding this year's theme was "*Make Your Mark.*" The Board thanked Ms. Gordon for her work and commitment to the Department of Social Services.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Month 2020

Chair Jacobs read the following resolution.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH | 2020

- WHEREAS,** to promote awareness of positive mental health, well-being and development for all children, youth and young adults ages birth through 26 years in North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** the leadership in Durham, North Carolina recognizes that mental health needs and treatment be on par with medical needs and treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** families shall not feel stigma and shame to seek treatment for their children and youth and be able to discuss openly their need for help without public retribution; and
- WHEREAS,** Children's mental health promotion needs to be available to everyone. Education on the identification and use of child strengths to support success and promote mental health as well as anti-stigma, inclusion and social skills education should be available to all citizens of North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** available school based mental health programs and positive behavior, interventions and supports should be considered as best practice, and be encouraged to be practiced in every Durham, North Carolina public school; and
- WHEREAS,** children are recognized for having unique needs for recovery of mental health, emotional, behavioral and substance use issues, and not being combined with the adult mental health population for treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** effective mental health treatment services to strengthen families, youth leadership development and family partner/peer supports results in children and youth overcoming trauma, becoming successful and contributing Durham, North Carolina citizens in a safe environment in their homes, schools and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County Commissioners, North Carolina, North Carolina Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, NC Families United, the NC State Children's Collaborative and the families, NAMI-NC, Public Health, Department of Social Services, all medical facilities, all legal entities, and communities who have children, youth and young adults struggling with emotional and behavioral health issues join to recognize Children's Mental Health Awareness month and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 as

“CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

in Durham County, and commend its observance to our citizens.

This the 26th day of May 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Monica Toomer, Clerk to the Board, stated Teka Dempson was not able to join the meeting, however she wanted to thank the Board for the proclamation and the awareness.

Consent Agenda

Chair Jacobs asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

There were requests to comment on the following items: 20-0179, 20-0186, 20-0198, 20-0207, 20-0218 and 20-0242.

- Item 20-0179 – Chair Jacobs inquired about the old County computers. Aaron Stone, Assistant Director of Information Technology responded the County donated the decommissioned computers to Triangle Recycling and Kramden Institute.
- Item 20-0186 – Chair Jacobs asked where the project funds came from for the project. Claudia Hager, General Manager replied the funding was from the General Fund Balance from the FY 2019-20 budget. Commissioner Reckhow asked what the restoring and preventative expenditures were and would they have been included without the malware attack. Ms Hager responded she would contact Greg Marrow, Chief Information Officer to provide the information the Board at a Budget Work Session meeting.
- Item 20-0198 – Commissioner Reckhow inquired about a comprehensive report to provide residents more information on the market and status of recycling. Motiryo Keambiroiro, General Services Director replied a report was prepared and would be presented to the Board at a Budget Work Session meeting.
- Item 20-0207 – Chair Jacobs asked if the funds transferred from the funds balance in April 2020 for COVID-19 could finance the project. Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff replied the funds were allocated for other uses and he would research and respond to the Board.
- Item 20-0218 – Chair Jacobs asked how the agreement would impact residents who had their recycling picked up from homes. Motiryo Keambiroiro, General Services Director responded the agreement would ask residents to separate and take glass to the nearest convenience site. Chair Jacobs inquired about educating residents on the changes. Ms. Keambiroiro replied the changes would be presented to the Board first, then staff would

educate the community on the glass separation and pickup schedule. Chair Jacobs stated the Board could discuss at the Budget Work Session meetings.

- Item 20-0242 – Commissioners Howerton and Reckhow thanked the City and Durham Public Schools for their support with the face coverings and, also thanked Isaac Henrion and Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers. Commissioner Reckhow requested Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager to create a press release to inform the community on the how the three Boards came together to fund the face coverings. Chair Jacobs thanked Commissioners Howerton and Reckhow and expressed the critical need for the face coverings in the community.

Directive: Commissioner Reckhow requested Deborah Craig-Ray to create a press release to inform the community on how the three Boards came together to fund the face coverings.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Jacobs entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

20-0174 Enter Contract with Insight Global.

20-0179 Extend Contract Phoenix Business Incorporated.

20-0180 Enter into Contract with SAP, Inc. for Cloud Services Support and Staff Augmentation.

20-0185 Microsoft Detection and Responses Team (DART) service contract \$73,800.

*20-0186 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 20BCC00061 appropriating General Fund Balance (\$190,562.46) to fund a third-party cyber security monitoring service contract per National IPA/Omni Partners 2018011-02 public sector agreement.

*20-0191 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for March 2020.

*20-0192 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2020.

20-0198 Increase for the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Durham and Durham County for the City to Provide Recycling Processing and Haul Services to Durham County for Target Recycling Materials.

*20-0207 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 20BCC000059 appropriating General Fund Fund Balance (\$152,000) to support previously approved contracts related to the Food Security Task Force and Durham County's response to COVID-19.

20-0218 Interlocal Agreement between Orange County and Durham County Regarding the Disposition of Source Separated Glass.

20-0225 Approval to use current Operating Funds for annual Microsoft Premier Support Agreement additional support hours payment of \$19,500.

20-0242 Approval of Commissioners Funds in the Amount of \$21,525 for Face Covering for High Risk Durham County Residents provided by the Cover Durham Project.

Consent Agenda Item #20-0186

**Durham County, North Carolina
2019-2020 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 20BCC000061**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2019-2020 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Revenue:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Other Financial Services	\$35,772,297	\$190,563	\$35,962,859.93
Total Revenues	\$472,701,180.93	\$190,563	\$472,891,743.93

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
General Government	\$129,535,941	\$190,563	\$129,726,504.05
Total Expenditures	\$472,701,180.93	\$190,563	\$472,891,743.93

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved May 26, 2020

Consent Agenda Item #20-0191

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of March 2020.

Releases and Refunds – March 2020

Personal Property	\$	0.00
Real Property	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	0.00

Releases and Refunds for 2019 Taxes

Real Property	\$	0.00
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Personal Property	\$ 350.40
Motor Vehicle	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ 158.81
VTs Refunds	\$ <u>14,294.74</u>
Total	\$ 14,804.95

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years
2014 - 2018

Real Property	\$ 0.00
Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 0.00
Grand Total	\$ 14,804.95

Consent Agenda Item #20-0192

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of April 2020.

Releases and Refunds – April 2020

Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Real Property	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 0.00

Releases and Refunds for 2019 Taxes

Real Property	\$ 634.39
Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Motor Vehicle	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
VTs Refunds	\$ <u>3,795.08</u>
Total	\$ 4,429.47

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years
2014 - 2018

Real Property	\$ 0.00
Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 0.00
Grand Total	\$ 4,429.47

Consent Agenda Item #20-0207

**Durham County, North Carolina
2019-2020 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 20BCC000059**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2019-2020 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Revenue:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Other Financial Services	\$35,620,297	\$152,000	\$35,772,297

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Public Safety	\$70,665,582	\$152,000	\$70,817,582

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved May 26, 2020

Public Hearings

Public Hearing on the FY 2020-21 County Manager's Recommended Budget

Citizen comments on the FY2020-21 County Manager's Recommended Budget:

Chelsea Rae and Joan Walsh

Please act on the following six recommendations from the People's Alliance:

- Provide staff and coordinate with the City of Durham, North Carolina Legal Aid, and nonprofits to help people who need eviction diversion and rental assistance funds.
- Provide \$1.2 million to fund the county's share of a model, county-wide program of property tax assistance to homeowners with incomes below 30% of the area median income. This will keep low-income homeowners in their homes, prevent gentrification, and build wealth in low-income communities.
- Provide funding to increase salaries for non-licensed staff to \$15 per hour and increase funding to ensure DPS provides adequate and equitable teacher salary supplements. Also, fully fund English As a Second Language and Exceptional Children academic services.
- Coordinate with the city to advance the Community Wellness Taskforce, prioritizing the leadership of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and other people of color to respond to the immediate needs in their own communities.
- Reduce dependency on incarceration by allocating funds to mental health courts for some felony offenses, supporting the Local Reentry Council, and ensuring funds for transitional housing and services for female-identifying folks who are justice-involved.

- Fund the development of a joint City-County Climate Action Plan in accordance with the “Resolution Supporting a Transition to Renewable Energy, the Creation of Green Jobs, and a Federal Price on Carbon” passed by the City Council and County Commission.

Patrick Nalley

I think this is a great time for a property tax. You could design it so that it doesn't hurt the needy. There are many property owners who have not been economically affected by the pandemic. They still have their income as they did before COVID19. I certainly would appreciate City services to be better funded in our quest to recover from our unexpected expenses.

Ana Gomez

Commissioners, just wanted to bring this to your attention, we really need at least one interpreter in each school, i have siblings who have kids in Hillandale Elementary School and they really have hard time trying to communicate with the teachers.

Wilmer Paining

I just wanted to suggest more interpreters in DPS thank you.

Millicent Rogers and Keethan Kleiner

In an effort to create a more equitable Durham, the constituents of Durham County are asking to increase funding for the local school system. This increased funding should be enough funding to cover a minimum wage of at least \$15.00/hour for all staff. Increasing this funding, would allow DPS to demonstrate their commitment to their staff without sacrificing the safety of students and family in the coming fiscal year.

Sarah Anderson

I am a Durham County resident at 51 Enesco Circle. In an effort to create a more equitable Durham, I'm asking for Durham County to increase funding for the local school system. This increased funding should be enough funding to cover a minimum wage of at least \$15.00/hour for all staff. No school employees should have to worry about poverty wages during the midst of this crisis.

Tal Matalon, Elizabeth Simpson and Eli Seed

I am writing to urge you to increase funding for DPS beyond the \$3.2 million proposed by the County Manager. Specifically, I urge you allocate \$1.7 million to increase all DPS wages to \$15/hr. This is deeply an equity issue, especially at this time of crisis. People employed by DPS not making \$15/hr are the very last public employees in our county below this critical threshold. They are largely black and brown. They have shouldered the brunt of risk as schools closed. They will likely continue to do so as we move into the next school year.

In order to resolve this glaring inequity and driver of poverty, the County may have to dip into its fund balance. However, I believe there are two items in the budget that are far less urgent and whose elimination could create room for the extra expenditure mentioned above. Namely, when looking at the allocation to the Sheriff's department, I notice that:

- \$1.5 million is requested for 34 replacement cars.
- Money is requested for the conversion of 13 positions from a non-existent female mental health pod to be deputized officers.

I believe that these are deeply unnecessary expenditures. In the case of the first, we already know that crime is down due to the epidemic. Surely, given that, and given that cars can be maintained and used, this is not an urgent matter.

In the case of the second, I believe deputizing new officers would be both a gross misuse of funds and increase unnecessary policing in our communities. These funds were allocated for the specific purpose of increasing the welfare of people in the Country Jail. Diverting them to increase officer numbers due to failure to implement this necessary program seems to me to be nothing but increased policing by the back door. I urge you to reallocate these funds to schools - bodies that *increase* equity* - rather than to new officers, which often act in the opposite way.

Going beyond the above, I urge you to consider allocating \$8.5 million in total to DPS. Failing to do so would necessitate cuts to essential programs such as EC and ESL. At a time when we fear many parents will keep their students home, a strong allocation of funds will demonstrate confidence in our school system and perhaps reverse that trend.

Vanessa Barnett-Loro

I am writing as a citizen of Durham County and as a teacher myself to ask for you to increase funding for DPS beyond the amount proposed by the County Manager.

In an effort to create a more equitable Durham, I specifically urge you to allocate an additional \$1.7 million above the proposed budget increase to cover a minimum wage of at least \$15.00/hour for all DPS staff. This is an issue of equity and financial security for a vulnerable group of hard-working DPS staff, especially at this time of crisis.

Beyond this specific need, I urge the Board to consider allocating an additional total of \$8.5 million to DPS in order to enact the aforementioned wage increase as well as avoid cuts to essential DPS programs. We have taken steps forward as a public school district and this is not the time to regress.

Michelle Burton

Address: 3009 Stone Fence Ct. Durham, 27704

My name is Michelle Burton and I am the president of the Durham Association of Educators. I want to speak on behalf of the DPS budget, specifically to the ask for \$15.00 minimum for ALL classified staff. DPS needs every single amount that it asked for. But during the COVID-19 Pandemic, DPS classified staff, particularly our custodians, our bus drivers, and our child nutrition staff were considered "essential." We needed their labor to clean buildings, prepare food for our students so our kids would have food to eat, and we needed the bus drivers to deliver those meals. They were putting their health and safety on the line to ensure our buildings were clean and our students and families had food to eat. Yet, they do not get paid \$15.00 an hour. City employees get paid a minimum \$15.00 per hour as well as County Employees. We cannot keep asking our DPS classified staff to do more and more and not pay them a basic living wage that allows them to live and thrive here in Durham. DPS can't get substitute teachers for this very reason because subs are paid such low wages. Bumping all classified employees to \$15.00 an hour would help with recruiting substitutes. Therefore, I am asking you to figure out a way to make this \$15.00 minimum happen for our classified staff. They deserve it and they can't keep waiting. Thank you.

Mika Twietmeyer

My name is Mika Twietmeyer and I am a science teacher at Riverside High School. I am concerned with the manager's proposal to only provide DPS with \$3.2 million in new funds. DPS has requested \$17 million to provide education requirements for special needs students and English-language learners. At the very least, our schools need \$8.5 million to provide for our students and cover the amount of money that charter schools take away from us. In addition, it is a travesty that the only state and county employees that do not make a \$15 minimum wage are educators. Special education educators in my school hand feed their students, hold their hands while they walk through the building, change their clothes, and provide care every minute of the school day -- and they do not make \$15/hour. Custodians, essential workers that will be critical for our schools to safely reopen, do not make a living wage. And it is not surprising that we cannot fully staff positions such as bus drivers, custodians, and cafeteria workers without a living wage. During the current pandemic, Durham's community needs our schools and the availability of sustainable jobs, more than ever. Thank you.

Nicholas Graber-Grace

These have been difficult months as we navigate a global pandemic. As a teacher I miss working with my students in person each day at Hillside. As a parent I feel the challenge of trying to work from home while my own children need more of my attention. As a member of the Durham Association of Educators, I have had many conversations with colleagues and parents about what school should look like, both now and next year.

We know that nothing about this is normal. We know that the pressure of school closure and remote learning is stressful to students, to educators, to parents, and to you as policy makers. We are all in this together. We also know that while tax revenues have shrunk, these circumstances will require MORE, not FEWER financial and human resources to meet the needs of students and school workers. I understand you may not be able to appropriate the full \$17 million needed by the Board of Education.

Yet we strongly urge you to find a way to provide at least \$8.5 million in new funds. This is the amount we think is required to cover state mandated costs for health and retirement benefits, critical staffing needs for EC and English Language Learners, and required costs related to enrollment growth and charter school funding.

Perhaps most importantly, an \$8.5 million investment would mean that Durham County can finally ensure that all DPS staff earns at least \$15/hour. Through this pandemic we have relied on custodians to sanitize our schools and child nutrition staff and bus drivers to assist with food distribution. These are the only government workers anywhere in Durham paid less than \$15 an hour. We can and we must do better. Most people working in these roles are working class Black and Latinx women and men. These are our colleagues. They are parents. They are proud residents of Durham. They deserve a more equitable pay scale.

To accomplish that, we ask your vote for a budget that invests at least \$8.5 million more in DPS. Shift things around or dip into fund balance if you need to. We have studied the budget and are confident you can get this done. This is not the moment to spend \$1.5 million on new vehicles for the Sheriff's department; those dollars would be better spent providing economic security to school workers.

Jenne Scherer

I am writing to second the comments of Nicholas Graber-Grace, my colleague at Hillside High School. As an exhausted single parent, homeschooling my 8 and 5 year-old while also conducting remote instruction for my 9th grade English students at Hillside, this is the best I can do.

Nicholas Graber-Grace said it all, and I second his stance on our budget needs of a minimum of 8.5 billion. Trillion. Zillion. Whatever it is, the people of Durham deserve the very best for our children.

Carina Barnett-Loro

As current resident of Durham (as well as a graduate of the Durham Public School system and friend to/neighbor of many DPS teachers and staff), I hope you will increase funding for DPS beyond the amount proposed by the County Manager. In an effort to create a more equitable and just Durham, I specifically urge you to allocate an additional \$1.7 million above the proposed budget increase to cover a minimum wage of at least \$15.00/hour for all DPS staff. Our hard-working public-school staff deserve financial security, especially during this time of crisis. I also urge the Board to consider allocating an additional total of \$8.5 million to DPS in order to enact the aforementioned wage increase as well as avoid cuts to essential DPS programs. We have taken steps forward as a public-school district and this is not the time to regress.

Millie Rosen

I am a teacher in DPS and am writing to urge you to approve at least \$8.5 million in new funds for the DPS budget. We desperately need more staffing and resources for ESL and EC students, especially in this COVID-dominated future we are currently looking down the barrel at, and what we have not already is not even close to enough.

We need to commit to paying ALL classified employees, part-time or full-time, at least \$15 an hour. The City of Durham does it for their employees, and there is no reason DPS shouldn't be doing so - especially if our hourly workers, like custodians, cafeteria staff, and bus drivers - will be taking on even more risk in their jobs as we try to eventually go back to school in the time of a pandemic. I don't want to walk into a building where the custodian who cleans my floor each day, who I talk to every afternoon and who always has a kind word for everyone, isn't even making enough to keep a roof over her head and food on the table. We know that \$15 an hour is barely enough to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in most cities in the US, so it's a minimum, but it's sorely needed, and DPS isn't even funded enough right now to afford it. We need you to approve new funding partly for this reason.

I also noticed in the budget, as I have in previous budgets, that quite a lot of money is allocated for the Sheriff's department's new vehicles and manpower. It's astonishing to me how much money that department needs every single year (in this case, \$1.5 million) for new vehicles! I also noticed that the mental health resources the Sheriff wanted to install in the women's part of the jail never materialized - but the Sheriff still wants that funding for new deputies instead. I think that's a huge misuse of funds that would be MUCH better spent on our schools and students.

I know that the Durham County Commission is aware of how poorly funded our schools are by the state. I know you've done quite a lot to mitigate that at the county level when you can. I'm offering a few more ways you could do that in this budget, and a plea to find the \$8.5 million (at least) that we need to run our schools next year and meet more needs, especially in these uncertain times.

Davis Harper

My name is Davis Harper and I'm an educator at Hillside New Tech High School, as well as a Durham resident. I am writing to ask that you please allocate \$8.5 million in new funds for DPS, which I believe is necessary to hit the \$15 minimum wage threshold for all DPS classified staff. It is a travesty that custodians, child nutrition workers and substitutes are the only public employees left in Durham not making a living wage. I see it in my school and others across the district - when these jobs are considered less valuable by the government, and are compensated as such, we cannot hire and retain the most qualified and compassionate workers.

I ask that certain line items in the sheriff department's budget be shifted into the new DPS budget, including \$1.5 million for new vehicles as well as the funds Sheriff Birkhead is requesting to hire new deputies. While public safety is important, our public schools are crying out for the bare minimum of respect and dignity from our county government. If we want to address the root causes of the inequities that exist in our county, it is critical that we prioritize education - now more than ever.

Brannin St. Clair

My name is Brannin St. Clair, and I am a nurse, public school parent and Durham County resident. I am writing to ask that the county commission consider approving \$8.5 million in new funds for Durham Public Schools. My daughter is a rising sophomore at Durham School of the Arts and I am engaged to a public school teacher, but almost everyone I know has some connection to the public school system in Durham. If we want it to be the pride of our county it once was, we need to pay its staff a living wage. I find it hard to believe - and discouraging, as well - that these subs, cafeteria workers and custodians are the only Durham employees not to make a living wage.

I understand that things like public safety and public health are important - I am an ICU nurse at UNC - but I know there have to be funds to help offer our public-school workers the dignity they deserve. Thank you for considering my comment.

Honorio Middough

The intention of this email is to ask the Commissioners to approve at minimum the \$8.5 million in new funds for DPS. I remember traveling through Durham about 15 years ago from my hometown of Virginia Beach, on a Greyhound Bus. At the time, I never imagined that it would be a place that I'd love teaching and supporting businesses in; it looked like such a destitute city.

But now...now investments have been made and it has emerged as a city comparable to any other with one thing that unfortunately remains consistent across the country: as cities emerged economically, and neighborhoods became gentrified, the Black and Brown citizens got left behind. In all of the investments, they (we- because I am them) were left behind.

Ensuring the predominately Black and Latinx workforce within DPS are paid a \$15 minimum wage is not only equitable and just, it is a matter of investing in the health of the Durham community. If people are able to earn a living wage with one job, they live with less stress in their lives, possibly a little more time not spent working

two jobs and more precious time with their families. This trickles down to be a positive impact on our students' well-being as a bonus.

Additionally, during this time, our custodial and nutrition staff have been essential front-line employees. They have been requested and suggestively required to do important work and deserve to be compensated in a manner that reflects their value.

As an ESL/ ELL English teacher within DPS, I would be remiss not to also mention the impact that inadequate funding has had on my students in particular. The majority of my students are already facing unique challenges that place them in even more vulnerable predicaments (i.e. documentation challenges that limit their access to healthcare, food and other government resources, lack of or reduced income during these times, etc.). Prior to the pandemic and during these times, the majority of my students did not/do not have access to a computer at home or reliable internet service. It is both a moral and legal obligation that the public-school system- specifically Durham Public Schools, considers these children into the financial equation! Often no one else does.

Suggestions:

Please consider the feasibility of shifting Sheriff Birkhead's line items for 34 new vehicles to aid the cost of the long overdue living wage for DPS Staff, aiding our English Language Learner and Exceptional Children DPS Departments and for the improvement of mental health support initiatives for women in the Durham County Jail. It is my understanding that funds were intended for this use as well but never materialized to benefit those women in need. The most vulnerable among us are in need of your decisions to truly make Durham the leader that it can stand out as, instead of just another city in America that now has an overabundance of pretty apartments with transplants who do not really echo an alliance to the rest of its population.

Teresa Parkinson

My name is Teresa Parkinson and I am a proud DPS teacher and member of Durham Association of Educators. I am writing on behalf of the proposed budget and am asking that you approve at least \$8.5 million in new funds to Durham Public Schools.

My reasons are simple. We have classified staff who have worked tirelessly for many years with meager pay. Why can we not guarantee a \$15 minimum wage? Especially now, when schools are closed and we are asking our custodians and cafeteria staff to be essential workers. These are the folks who will feed our children and sanitize our buildings. As a teacher I am depending on my custodians to keep me safe with a clean building. These are front line workers. Some custodians at my school must work another job before they come to my school. Some custodians at my school fall into high risk categories regarding age and health. These folks need to be treated fairly.

Please defer the purchase of new vehicles so our custodians and nutritional staff may be compensated appropriately.

Turquoise Parker

We know we can't get everything that our students and staff want and need this year. However, there are some really important bottom line priorities that we want to discuss.

The Board of Education is requesting approximately \$17 million in new County funding. The request includes DAE views \$10.3 in vitally important investments listed below:

- \$5.3 million for required, non-discretionary costs (page 6 of summary).

This includes

- The DPS portion of state salary increases
- Increased costs for health care, retirement, and utilities expenses
- \$1 million for state and federally mandated increases to EC staffing
- \$500K for state and federally mandated increases in English Language Learners
- \$2.2 million for projected enrollment growth
- \$2.1 million for charter enrollment -- this is mandated by state law

- \$1.7 million to raise the pay of all school workers to at least \$15/hour.
- DAE believes that with some adjustments to the proposed budget, DPS may be able to meet these priorities with as little as \$8.5 million in new funding.
- The County manager is recommending only \$3.2M in new funding, plus an additional \$2M for capital expenses.

This is far short of meeting the \$17 million in identified needs requested by us DPS stakeholders, and even falls substantially short of what we believe is a more reasonable request for \$8.5 million in new funds given the pressures of the pandemic and its impact on funding. It will almost certainly require \$8.5M in new funding, rather than the \$3.2 proposed by the manager, to ensure that DPS is able to provide a \$15 MW to all staff.

- The Manager recommends an overall reduction in funds for the department of about \$1 million, though he also recommends the same number of FTE positions (493) next year as there were last year.
- The Manager recommends funding \$1.48 Million for 34 replacement vehicles.

This is a need that was in last year's budget and was deferred to this year. It should be deferred again to make room for other priorities. If we are really serious about advancing ALL of DPS' families, we need to bring everything we can out of every instructional day and EVERY aspect of this budget aim at that.

Our school employees simply cannot run any faster, sleep any less and they will never be able to serve without proper funding. We will not be able to compensate for what we are losing during this pandemic and before if we do not fully grant this financial request.

Hugh Macsherry

Pleased find the comments from several of our Spanish-speaking community members in support of adding funds for an interpreter in the upcoming budget.

For my part, I also encourage the Durham County Commissioners to support better communication between parents and school faculty and staff, especially through more interpreters at DPS schools.

Mauricio Castro

The Durham School System is in need of more interpreters to support the growing Latino immigrant families. Please consider Approving the funds requested in the budget from the school district to hire one more interpreter.

Anca Stefan

I am a Durham public school educator, and parent of an 8-year-old public school student. I am an active advocate for public schools and serve on the Board of the Durham Association of Educators for a second consecutive term. I live at 3636 Shrewsbury St, Durham, NC 27707.

I'm writing because I believe deeply in Durham's visionary and courageous leadership, and this faith extends to the budget our county commissioners will be approving under these extraordinary circumstances.

As many of us know, the grave impact of this most recent Coronavirus pandemic didn't, in and of itself, cause the devastation we've been seeing -- it exacerbated the deep structural and systemic inequities in our society, and claimed the lives and livelihoods of people we've been neglecting and abusing for generations. We are seeing the horrifying disparity in deaths and sickness among the very people we rushed to call "essential" workers because of a historic failure to proportionally compensate them for their service. These same people -- our cafeteria, bus drivers, and custodial staff -- have acted heroically and fed thousands of people putting their own lives on hold and their own health at risk for the common good. Our absolute dependence on the labor and resilience of food workers, sanitation staff, garbage collectors, homecare workers, and healthcare professionals should not be news to any of us, but our gratitude expressed through concrete action is long overdue: that dichotomy is disturbing, and we must do everything in our power to right it.

Therefore, I am asking the County Commission and County Manager to approve a minimum of 8.5 million-dollar budget in new funds for Durham Public Schools. This is a reduction from the 17 million-dollar budget DPS has assessed we need in order to properly care for our community's wellbeing. We cannot allow another fiscal year to pass without providing the workers we've all been calling "essential" with the same \$15/hour minimum wage every other city and county employee has received. We have a moral obligation to fairly compensate working people for their labor, and this one is long overdue and should be a priority for our leaders.

Matt Kopac

I hope you are doing well during this challenging time. I wanted to join the chorus of voices and provide comment about funding for school system staff.

In an effort to create a more equitable Durham, the constituents of Durham County are asking to increase funding for the local school system. I believe this increased funding should be enough to cover a minimum wage of at least \$15.00/hour for all staff. Increasing this funding would allow DPS to demonstrate their commitment to their staff without sacrificing the safety of students and family in the coming fiscal year.

Al Donaldson

My name is Alphonso Donaldson. I am a Durham resident, a DPS employee and parent, and a member of the Durham Association of Educators. We've all seen firsthand the impact the Covid-19 crisis has had on schools and students. As we face an uncertain future, I believe our best move is to invest as much as we possibly can into the infrastructure of our school system. This is why I am here today to urge the County Commission to move beyond the \$3.2 million allocation recommended by the County Manager and to instead approve at least \$8.5 million in the budget allocation for Durham Public Schools.

Every day I hear people all over our country praising the efforts of frontline workers. "Thank you" and "You're a hero" and other plaudits are part of our new normal. Today, by funding DPS at a level that will support a \$15hr minimum wage for all district employees, you have a golden opportunity to show tangible appreciation for those members of our DPS system who often are its backbone. This is a chance to meet these heroes, these colleagues, these neighbors with the living wage they need so that when they are working to make our schools places that meet basic needs of safety, cleanliness and nutrition for our children, they have a better chance to provide for their children and families at home.

At a time like this, we have to put our money where our values are. Let's fund DPS at 8.5 million, half of the urgent need the district requested so that we can center our commitment to our schools with a steady eye on racial and economic justice. Those DPS employees who are paid under \$15 an hour are overwhelmingly Black and Latinx. The same is true for the students in the Exceptional Children and English Language Learner programs that an 8.5 million budget allocation would more robustly support.

Again, I urge the County Commission to take another look at the budget and find line items that can be shifted in order to meet these critical needs for our school district. Thank you for your time and good night.

Silvia Gonzalez

por favor necesitamos mas interpretes en las escuelas publicas, gracias.

"Please, we need more interpreters in public schools, thanks."

Carmen Rufino

Muy respetuosamente solicitamos más intérpretes por el bien de los niños.

"We respectfully request more interpreters for the good of the children."

Mariela Agurcia

Mi nombre es Mariela Agurcia soy madre de un estudiante de la escuela de Durham NC solicito inmediatamente la ayuda para las escuelas ya que hay muchas familias que no tenemos acceso a una computadora ni a Internet más intérpretes más ayudas para los niños que hablan español ya que es más difícil para ellos las clases. Por favor no pongan en un cajón nuestra petición.

"My name is Mariela Agurcia. I am the mother of a student from a Durham NC school. I am seeking immediate help for the schools, many of our families do not have access to a computer or the Internet. We need more interpreters and more help for children who speak Spanish [and English as a second language] since classes are more difficult for them. Please do not put our request in a drawer."

Amanda Castizo

Buenas tardes mi nombre es Amanda Castizo y soy madre de 2 niños en las escuelas públicas de Durham. Estoy escribiendo hoy para pedir a la comisión del condado que den por lo menos 8.5 millones a las escuelas este año en vez de los 3.5 millones en el presupuesto ahora. Dar un salario justo de \$15 la hora a los empleados de limpieza y dan de comer a nuestros niños en urgente. También necesitamos mejorar los servicios para los niños que hablan inglés como segundo idioma y para niños con necesidades especiales la educación de nuestros niños no pueden esperar. Gracias por su consideración.

"Good afternoon my name is Amanda Castizo and I am the mother of 2 children in Durham Public Schools. I'm writing today to request the county commissioners give at least \$8.5 million to schools this year instead of the \$3.5 million in the budget now. Give the janitorial employees and cafeteria workers a fair wage of \$15 an hour. We also need to improve services for children who speak English as a second language and for children with special needs; the education of our children cannot wait. Thanks for your consideration."

Nancy Cortes

Buenas tardes! Mi nombre es Nancy Cortes y soy padre de estudiantes de las escuelas publicas y estoy escribiendo para solicitar ala Comisión del Condado de Durham el apoyo que se requiere en calidad de URGENTE! Con un fondo de al menos 10 millones no de 3.2 millones que están supuestas a dar por ahora, debido a la situación las circunstancias han cambiado drásticamente y las necesidades ya existenciales necesitan ser atendidas, se les pide que estas necesidades y urgencia se tome verdaderamente en consideración y se ponga en prioridad.

Ofrecer salarios más justos de al menos \$15 × hora de trabajo a personal de limpieza y quienes trabajan en comedores de las escuelas publicas, quienes se encargan de alimentar a nuestros estudiantes en los centros escolares, salarios más justos para maestros que dentro y fuera de los centros se esfuercen por encontrar maneras de aprendizaje para sus alumnos y mantener la sustentabilidad educativa estudiantil, así como mejorar los servicios para la comunidad el cual el Inglés es su segundo idioma, y mejorar los servicios para estudiantes con necesidades especiales, las escuelas publicas no por serlo , deben quedar como un dolor de cabeza si, no fortalecerse por una comunidad futura que bien merece la pena invertir, la comunidad estudiantil de ahora será nuestra fuerza laboral del mañana, por favor esta es una petición pública urgente que debe tomarse en cuenta.

"Good afternoon! My name is Nancy Cortes and I am the parent of public school students and I am writing to ask the Durham County Commission for the support that is required as URGENT! Fund at least \$10 million not \$3.2 million that you are supposed to give for now, due to the situation; the circumstances have changed drastically and the already [essential] needs need to be met, we are asking that these needs and urgency be truly taken into consideration and made a priority. Offer fairer wages of at least \$15 per hour to janitors and those who work in public school cafeterias, who are responsible for feeding our students in schools. Provide fairer wages for teachers who, in and out of schools, strive to find ways to teach their students and maintain student educational sustainability. Improve services for the community of which English is their second language and improve services for students with special needs. Public schools, not because they are, should remain a headache, and be strengthened by a future community that is well worth investing in. The student community of today will be our workforce of tomorrow, please this is an urgent public request that must be taken into account."

Chair Jacobs thanked the community for their comments.

Public Hearing on the Resolution related to Not to Exceed \$75,000,000 Limited Obligation Bonds, Series 2020C and 2020D.

Susan Tezai, Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the resolution related to the not to exceed \$750,000,000 Limited Obligation Bonds, Series 2020C and 2020D and the project summary. Chair Jacobs inquired about the public comments process. Ms. Tezai responded the Board must allow written comments to be received 24 hours after the public hearing before the item could be approved. She added to allow sufficient time for public comments, the item would be placed on the June 1, 2020 Work Session agenda.

Commissioner Carter asked if the Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) purchase of land and a building for \$2.9 million was planned with Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) funding. Keith Lane, Budget Director replied DTCC wanted to use PAYGO funds until the COVID-19 pandemic, then the County decided to use Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) to fund the building and land to free up \$2.9 million for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget.

Chair Jacobs asked how the public was informed about the public hearing. Ms. Tezai responded the public hearing was advertised and citizens could email comments to the Clerk.

Other Business

20-0135 Durham County Cybersecurity Malware Attach Recovery Update

Greg Marrow, Chief Information Officer explained that IS&T staff completed applications for residents along with restoring County emails and phones. He added Systems Applications and Products (SAP) was restored and Susan Tezai, Chief Financial Officer and staff were uploading information in the system.

The Board inquired about the status of SAP. Ms. Tezai responded information was added to SAP and tested twice. She added SAP was available Countywide. The Board asked when the payroll for short-term and part-time employees would be corrected and if employees were contacted. Ms. Tezai replied payroll staff was working to correct overpayment and underpayment of employees and staff was waiting until the corrections were completed to contact employees. Claudia Hager, General Manager stated Keith Lane, Budget Director had contacted the Election workers and could resend letter. The Board recommended sending a letter to all staff to explain the payroll issues due to the malware attack and COVID-19 pandemic. The Board thanked Mr. Marrow and Ms. Tezai for their efforts.

Directive: Chair Jacobs recommended staff send a letter to all employees explaining the payroll issues due the malware attack and COVID-19 pandemic.

20-0053 Durham County Update on the COVID-19 Crisis

Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director thanked the Board and County Management for their support.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following updates for Durham County:

- 1377 total cases and 45 deaths
- 20.4 percent of cases were community spread;
- 70 percent of cases were close contact of a confirmed case;

- 9.8 percent of cases were still under investigation;
- 73 percent of cases were under age 65 and 27 percent were over 65;
- 2.59 percent were Asian; 33.12 percent were African American; 22.72 percent were Caucasian; 33.09 percent were Other, and 5.48 percent were Unknown;
- 47 percent were female and 52% were male.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following Public Information Updates:

- Print & digital graphics in Spanish.
- Health Director videos with Spanish subtitles.
- Informational video by Ana (interpreter).
- Spanish email listserv.
- Provided talking points to community organizations.
- Presented data to community organizations and activists.
- Significantly increased the number of staff who were available for translation for case interviews and contact tracing.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following on Testing:

- Effective May 29, 2020, Durham would have three new testing sites: CVS on Hillsboro Road, CVS on Garrett Road and CVS on Roxboro Road. Testing would be done at the Pharmacy Drive-Thru by appointment only for 50 test a day.
- A new tool called “Check My Symptoms” would allow users to asses themselves on the site. A tool called “Find My Testing Place” would allow users to determine locations to get tested. Durham had 11 sites available for testing.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following on Contact Tracing:

- 13 Duke Physician Assistant students who joined the County have returned to Duke. Duke had reported on this phenomenal learning experience and hoped to continue to assist in the future.
- The County had successfully trained and deployed more internal assets for contact tracing.

The Board asked if the number of COVID-19 cases were increasing in the Latinx community. Mr. Jenkins responded the Latinx community cases had increased but was difficult to differentiate the percentages. Joanne Pierce, General Manager added the Latinx and Afro-American communities were at risk because of racism, inequality and COVID-19 combined. The Board stated focus could be placed on risk areas identified by contact tracers. Mr. Jenkins responded Public Health had a contract with a Spanish radio station to help reach the Latinx community.

Board and Commission Appointments

Lowell Siler, County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Gale Adland (Carter, Hill, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Barry Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Howerton)

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Kari Linfors (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Board of Health

Joshua Brown (Hill, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Zamir Brown (Carter)

Craig Savage (Howerton)

Durham Cultural Advisory Board

E'Vonne Coleman-Cook (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

JaMeeka Holloway-Burwell (Carter, Hill, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Olga Vysotskaya de Brito (Howerton)

Farmland Protection Advisory Board

William Sparrow, Sr. (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Nancy Herndon (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority

Elisabeth Wiener (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

Shannon Casey (Carter, Hill, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Closed Session

Chair Jacobs stated the board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for acquisition of real property by purchase, options, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

Chair Jacobs announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

Adjournment

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 10:22 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macio Carlton', written in a cursive style.

Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board