

May 26th Budget Public Hearing Comments

Comment 1:

Chelsea Rae, 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.

Comment 2:

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.

Comment 3:

Ana Gomez

Good evening 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.

Comment 4:

Wilmer Painting

Good evening i just wanted to suggest more interpreters in DPS thank you.

Comment 5:**Millicent Rogers, 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.

Comment 6:**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.

Comment 7:**Tal Matalon, Elizabeth Simpson, 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.

Comment 8:

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.

Comment 9:

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.

Comment 10:

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.

Comment 11:
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.

Comment 12:
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.

Comment 13:
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.

Comment 14:
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.

Comment 15:**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.

Comment 16:**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.

Comment 17:**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.

Comment 18:

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.

Comment 19:

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 o \$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.

o 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.

Comment 20:
Hugh Macsherry

Pleased find in the attached PDF 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. (SEE ATTACHED PDF).

Comment 21:
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.

Comment 22:
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 8.5million dollar budget in new funds for Durham Public Schools. This is a reduction from the 17million 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.

Comment 23:
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.

Comment 24:
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.

Comment 25:
Silvia Gonzalez

por favor necesitamos mas interpretes en las escuelas publicas, gracias.
"Please, we need more interpreters in public schools, thanks."

Comment 26:
Carmen Rufino

Muy respetuosamente solicitamos más intérpretes por el bien de los niños.
"We respectfully request more interpreters for the good of the children."

Comment 27:
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."

**Comment 28:
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."

**Comment 29:
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 esfuerzan por encontrar maneras de aprendizaje para sus alumnos y mantener la sustentabilidad educativa estudiantil, así como mejorar los ser vicios 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 encuesta.

"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.”