

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Durham Public School Tours

Place: Fuller Administrative Building, 511 Cleveland Street

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice-Chair Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Brenda A. Howerton, and Pam Karriker; Michael M. Ruffin, County Manager; Michelle Parker-Evans, County Clerk

DPS Board Chair Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair Heidi Carter, and Board Members Leigh Bordley, Nancy Cox, Natalie Beyer, Omega Curtis Parker; Eric Becoats, Superintendent; DPS Administrators Hugh Osteen, Jim Key, Julie Spencer, Robin McCoy, Elaine Batten and Carolyn Olivarez

Absent: Commissioner Joe W. Bowser and DPS Board Member Frederick Davis

Superintendent Becoats welcomed the Board to a breakfast and briefed the group on the school tours. The group boarded a bus and toured Northern High School, Carrington Middle School, and Eno Valley Elementary School.

Following the tour, the officials convened at Eno Valley Elementary School for a lunch meeting. The group was joined by Principals Kathy Bonner, Northern High School; Holly Emanuel, Carrington Middle School; and Tonya Williams, Eno Valley Elementary School.

The greatest shared concern expressed by each school was the need for improved technology. Northern administrators indicated that infrastructure was a challenge. Carrington Middle School has capacity issues; and Easley Elementary needed books.

The group discussed the challenges of State budget cuts, the assessment of kindergarten students, teen parents, and pre-K.

There was a consensus that more open lines of communication and frequent meetings needed to exist between the Board and the DPS School Board prior to budget times.

The bus tour concluded at the Fuller Administrative Building.

Respectfully Submitted,



V. Michelle Parker-Evans
Clerk to the Board