



## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD

### MINUTES

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall  
101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC

Voting Members – Jessalee Landfried (vice chair), Donald Addu (secretary), Roberto Valle Kinloch, Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky, Laura Marie Davis, Casey Collins, Matthew Pait, Matthew Herman

Excused Absences – Matthew Kopac (chair), Wafa Khalil, Tyjuanna LaBennett,

Ex Officio Members/Staff – Vicki Westbrook, Laura Woods, Jonathan Baker, Tobin Freid, Muriel William, DeDreana Freeman, Javiera Caballero

**I. Call to Order at 6:02 pm**

**II. Approval of Minutes, 8-0**

**III. New Business and Continuing Business**

- a. **Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic** – Michelle Nowlin, Clinical Law Professor, presentation on Single-Use Plastics Elimination Roadmap (SUPER):
  - Update for plastics SUPER
  - Ellerbe Creek Little Sweep 2019 had 45 volunteers and collected 67 bags of trash and 42 bags of recycling
  - Will create a directive for voluntary plastic bag reduction program
  - Will produce a legal and cost assessment that could be available in July
- b. **Water Quality Index** – Jonathan Baker, WQ Analyst, Patrick Hogan, Sr. WQ Technician, Public Works Department:
  - Water Quality Index
  - Water chemistry and dissolved oxygen could be added to the WQI
  - Landscape index including tree canopy, impervious surface, land use and storm water measures
  - Aesthetics index
  - Develop a data measurement for trash
  - Clarity, turbidity

- The goal is to lead to a better understanding for the public and a better understanding of where we need to dedicate resources
- Comments can be provided to jonathan.baker@durhamnc.gov

**IV. Announcements –**

- Next EAB Meeting 6/5/2019 at 6:00 PM, Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> starts National Drinking Water Week
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is National Workers Day

**V. Letter – Approval of letter to DPS School Board, Superintendent and Durham County Commissioners supporting the Energy and Sustainability Position for DPS**

**VI. Vote, 8-0 in favor of the letter language and submission**

**Adjourn 7:13pm**

**Attachment**

**Letter to DPS School Board, Superintendent and Durham County Commissioners supporting the Energy and Sustainability Position for DPS**

Superintendent Mubenga, Durham County School Board and Durham County Commissioners,

Thank you for all you do to support a healthy, safe and comfortable learning environment for all children in Durham county public schools. We are writing to urge you to maintain the Durham Public Schools (DPS) Energy and Sustainability Coordinator position as a dedicated position within DPS. Not only will this position incentivize sustainability and energy efficiency, it will also provide cost savings to DPS as a whole. We have already seen the value of this position pay for itself many times over.

From the educational aspect, applying energy efficiency and sustainability in our schools, provides more opportunities to incorporate hands-on and real life learning experiences to our students, boosting their responsibility for environmental stewardship and preparing them to be 21st century leaders. In addition, the sustainability of DPS is essential to the health and wellbeing of DPS Students.

The Environmental Affair Board (EAB) became aware that the DPS Energy and Sustainability Coordinator position has been vacant for the past two months and we want to reaffirm that this position is necessary for DPS and the people of Durham county. With the understanding that DPS schools are the largest energy consumers in the county and that energy costs are the second highest cost in the school budget.

***Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act** - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.*

This position will continue to focus on water efficiency, waste management, and other sustainability practices throughout DPS. Therefore, we believe that this position is essential for DPS.

It is crucial that DPS prioritizes energy and sustainability in our schools, starting with energy efficiency, which is essential in minimizing overall energy consumption. Efficiency can reduce total energy use up to 40% with a potential cost savings of over 3 million dollars a year.

DPS is saving over \$200,000 a year thanks to the move from florescent to LED lighting. These saving are realized over only 14 of DPS's 56 schools showing the need for the continuation of the Energy and Sustainability Coordinator position.

In addition, this position was able to leverage \$1.39 million in Duke Energy Incentives, earning the praise of Duke Energy's Large Business Account Manager Kim Ellis who stated, "We're proud of our long-standing partnership with Durham Public Schools and helping with their efforts to champion energy efficiency."

Durham County and the City of Durham have both passed resolutions to plan to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050 and DPS is a key partner in achieving those goals. The first step in moving toward clean energy is embracing energy efficiency and sustainability, as it lowers the total cost of energy and the cost of the transition.

Considering the cost savings, the investment potential, the educational value, student health and wellbeing, and the stated goals of the City and County of Durham, we strongly urge you to maintain and fill the Energy and Sustainability Coordinator position as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Durham City and County Environmental Affairs Board,

Matthew Kopac, Chair

Jessalee Landfried, Vice Chair

Donald Addu, Secretary

Dr. Wafa Khalil

Laura Marie Davis

Matthew Herman

Mathew Pait

Roberto Valle Kinloch

Tyjuanna LaBennett

Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky

Casey Collins

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