

## **RESOLUTION ON K-3 CLASS SIZE RATIOS**

WHEREAS, local school districts receive state funding for classroom teacher salaries based on funding ratios of one position per a specified number of students at each grade level; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have traditionally been afforded flexibility to allow class sizes in kindergarten through third grade to exceed the classroom teacher funding ratios within set limits; and

WHEREAS, this approach has provided local school districts with crucial flexibility to fund teaching positions in art, music, and physical education – none of which receive separate funding allotments – by setting aside some teacher allotments to cover salaries for those positions; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 115C-301, as amended by Section 8.33 of the 2016 Budget Bill, codifies funding ratios by statute and precludes these past practices; and

WHEREAS, the failure to provide commensurate funding to pay for a mandated increase in Kindergarten-Third Grade classroom teachers would require Durham Public Schools to fund these positions by reducing or eliminating funding for other positions; and

WHEREAS, the loss of flexibility in this area would result in drastic cuts in art, music, and physical education teaching positions; and

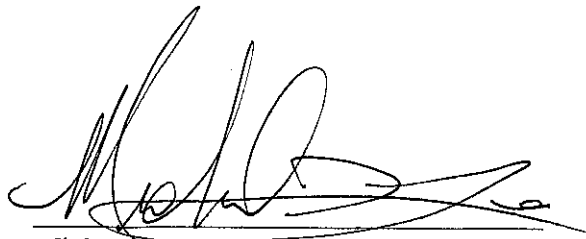
WHEREAS, the loss of flexibility in this area would require an immediate reduction in class sizes in kindergarten through third grade, which in turn would increase the number of physical classrooms required at these grade levels, thereby putting additional strains on crowded school facilities and in many cases requiring the purchase of modular classrooms at substantial additional costs; and

WHEREAS, if the issue is not addressed legislatively in the near future, school districts and counties will be forced to develop their 2017-18 budgets in the spring on the assumption and understanding that large increases in local funding may be needed to preserve art, music, and physical education positions in elementary schools and to meet sudden new demands on school facilities; and

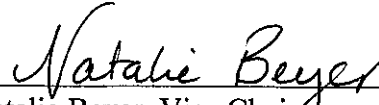
WHEREAS, legislative action is urgently needed to avoid the serious, statewide, negative impacts described above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the General Assembly pass legislation as early as possible in the 2017 session to provide local school districts with the class size and funding flexibility needed to avoid the severe negative impacts described above.

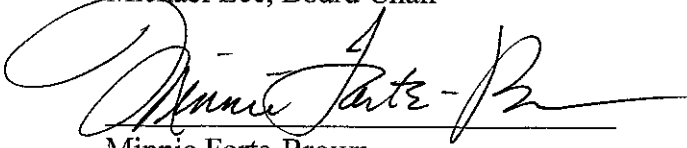
This, the 2nd day of February, 2017.



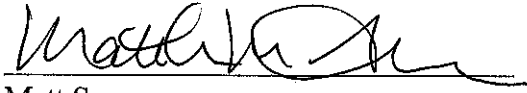
Michael Lee, Board Chair



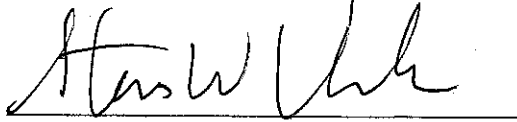
Natalie Beyer, Vice Chair



Minnie Forte-Brown



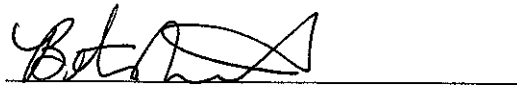
Matt Sears



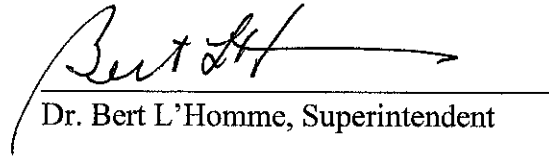
Steve Unruhe



Xavier Cason



Bettina Umstead



Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent