

Statement of Interest in Appointment to the Durham Public Schools Board of Education Consolidated District B Vacancy

In order to serve on the Board, a candidate must reside in school board consolidated district B, not be a convicted felon unless restored to the rights of citizenship, be a registered voter, be at least 21 years of age, and not be an employee of Durham Public Schools.

Additionally, all candidates should be prepared to fulfill responsibilities including participating in work sessions, monthly meetings, hearings, called meetings, school visits and regular communications with constituents.

Name: Frederick Xavier Ravin III

Address: 4309 Tyne Drive, Durham, NC, 27703

Telephone: 336 - 508 - 1006

Email: fxravin@gmail.com

I hereby declare my interest in filling the vacant Consolidated District B seat on the Durham Public Schools Board of Education through June 30, 2022. I have read the DPS Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for School Board Members (1106) and agree that if I am appointed to the vacant seat I will comply with the code and with all other policies governing the conduct of board members.

I certify that I reside within the boundaries of Consolidated District B and that I am eligible to vote in elections for the Consolidated District B seat on the Durham Public Schools Board of Education.



8 / 9 / 2020

SIGNATURE

DATE

*The completed form must be delivered to Nicole Smith, School Board Executive Assistant, by 5 p.m. on **August 12, 2020**. The form may be delivered to Ms. Smith by electronic mail at Nicole.Smith@dpsnc.net or by letter carrier at Durham Public Schools, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27702.*

Statement of Interest in Appointment to the Durham Public Schools Board of
Education Consolidated District B Vacancy

August 8th, 2020

Durham Public Schools Board of Education
511 Cleveland Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear School Board Members,

I am formally submitting to each of you my formal statement of interest. I humbly request the opportunity to serve our great community of Durham as a member of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education representing Consolidated District B. My desire to serve on the school board is deeply rooted in my desire to serve on every other board, committee, and council that I've served on since being a parent in 2012. I want to make sure that I'm not only an advocate for my children but, also an advocate for their friends, peers, classmates, and ultimately the community at-large. I want to do whatever I can to ensure that Durham Public Schools (DPS) continues to rise to the challenges it is consistently faced with. Having been raised in Durham and been enrolled in DPS since 1st grade I am knowledgeable of many of the improvements over the last 30+ years. I am also extremely optimistic about the numerous improvements I know are on the horizon.

My experience in the community more specifically with public education begins with my own education at Fayetteville Street & Oak Grove Elementary School to my graduation from Southern High School. It was then continued with my attainment of (4) college degrees from (2) North Carolina based Historically Black College & Universities (HBCU).

- Business Marketing, North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T SU)
- Business Finance, North Carolina Central University (NCCU)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA), North Carolina Central University (NCCU)
- Master of Information Science, concentration in Strategic Information Management (MIS), North Carolina Central University (NCCU)

I've also served on multiple boards, commissions, and councils advocating for mentoring and improvements to our education system:

- Durham (NC) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. – Guide Right Program Mentor at RN Harris
- Board of Directors, Evolve Mentoring Inc.
- Durham Public School - Zero-Based Budgeting Committee
- Durham Public School - Budget Process Advisory Committee Meeting
- Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People (Education Committee)
- Spring Valley Elementary School PTA - Vice President
- Oak Grove Elementary School PTA - Treasurer
- Oak Grove Elementary School PTA – President

- DPS Student, Teen Court Awardee/Certificate
- DPS Student, Rotary Youth Leadership Awardee/Certificate
- Advisor to The Theta Omicron Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Durham Special Needs Advisory Council (D-SNAC) - Chairman

Having been a civil servant for over a decade I understand the complexities surrounding the governance of policies, people, processes, all while not being in control of your own revenue. Durham and the country as a whole is facing new challenges that lack comparison. We are being challenged to consider using unorthodox approaches to satisfy far reaching needs. I have a great deal of experience with risk mitigation and I would hope that my personal experience in solution development and fiscal management would be an asset to the community.

I am fortunate to be employed by a municipality that has supported DPS for years. One that has progressively sought out to ensure that the residents of Durham feel engaged and empowered to work together on solutions. My work schedule, coupled with earmarked time dedicated to volunteer leave, and a virtually untapped bank of paid time off (PTO) hours allows me ensure that my availability under virtually all conditions should not be an issue. While I understand that this letter alone cannot encompass my desire nor my commitment to Durham. Regardless of the outcome I will continue to be a staunch supporter of DPS as it has increasingly sought out to become an even more inclusive district.



2530 Meridian Parkway, Suite 300
Durham, NC 27713
919.617.4008 (Office)

August 7, 2020

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education
511 Cleveland Street
Durham, NC 27701

Greetings Durham Public Schools Board of Education,

It is with great pleasure that I respectfully submit this letter of recommendation in support of my longtime friend, Frederick Xavier Ravin, III, ("Fred") for the Durham Public Schools ("DPS") Board of Education Board Member vacancy.

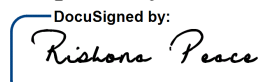
Fred and I have been friends since our Freshmen year in 1994 at Southern High School, a DPS public school. I first met Fred in our Civics class, and he quickly became one of my closest friends in high school. Early on, I gravitated to Fred as he was one of the most intelligent and witty students in our class. He always had a yearning to learn as well as an innate ability to dig deep and reach beyond surface level information. In the legal world, we say, "the devil is in the details", and this certainly represents Fred's approach to fact finding and making sound decisions.

Through the years since high school, I have personally witnessed Fred's growth into one of the men that I admire the most. He is a great father, a wonderful husband, a committed public servant, a trustworthy and dependable friend, and a magnificent role model. For all of these reasons, I selectively and carefully chose Fred to be my daughter's godfather as I knew that he would be as committed to her as he is to any one person or endeavor that he has embraced in his life. Further to that point, I trust Fred's judgment as well as the genuineness in his heart for his family, his friends, and this Durham community.

Accordingly, I respectfully request and recommend that DPS Board of Education extend an offer to Frederick Xavier Ravin, III to be the next DPS Board Member for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year as he will be a trusted and sound asset and voice on the DPS Board of Education.

Should you need any further information for me, please feel free to contact me at 919.410.8024 or rpeace@peacesquireslaw.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Rishona M. Peace, ESQ., MBA
Managing Partner
Law Office of Peace & Squires, PLLC

Durham School Board
Durham Public Schools (DPS)
511 Cleveland Street
Durham, NC 27702

August 7, 2020

Dear Members of the School Board:

Frederick X. Ravin, III recently shared with me his interest in filling the recently vacated seat for Consolidated District B of the Durham School Board. It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support of his application.

I have worked with Frederick (and his wife, Samantha) as a volunteer for the past four years. Together with other DPS parents, we have worked to establish the Durham Special Needs Advisory Council (D-SNAC). D-SNAC's works in collaboration with the DPS EC Program to advocate for the needs of exceptional children in our local public schools.

It is through the work in D-SNAC that I have come to appreciate many of Frederick's skills and experiences that I feel would make him uniquely qualified to serve on the School Board. These qualities include:

Understanding of governmental processes. Frederick's professional experience working in government for the City of Durham gives him insights into fiscal and human resource processes that are required to carry out the essential work that DPS does to serve its student body.

Current experience with many facets of DPS. As a parent of two school age children, Frederick has lived experience as a parent with all that DPS has to offer. His family has also collaborated directly with their neighborhood school's PTA, the DPS Early Learning Program as well as the DPS EC Program to improve the learning experience of all children.

Diplomacy and tact. The volunteer work I have done with D-SNAC has given me direct insight into the way Frederick interacts with both parents and administrators when there is potential for conflict or difficult feedback to share. Frederick is able to listen without judgment when there are concerns. He can also always be counted on to look at the bigger picture; he thinks about the process as it should be, rather than assume people are at the root of a problem.

In summary, I think Frederick would be an outstanding candidate to serve the remainder of the term for the Consolidated District B School Board seat. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my recommendation. I can be reached at 919-931-5286 or via email at jess.simo@gmail.com.

Best Regards,

Jessica A. Simo, MHA
DPS Parent to Jacob, 11 & Mae, 7
Secretary, D-SNAC