

## 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: Myca Jeter, MSW, LCSWA

Address: 318 Kinnakeet Drive Durham, NC 27704

Telephone: 919-672-9807 Email: mycajeter@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.



08/11/2020

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](mailto:Nicole.Smith@dpsnc.net) or by letter carrier at Durham Public Schools, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27702.*

August 12, 2020

My name is Myca Jeter and I am writing to express my interest in filling the vacancy for the Consolidated District B seat on the Durham County School Board.

I have been a resident of Durham, North Carolina since coming to North Carolina Central University as a Freshmen in 1996 and have had the privilege of watching the Bull City grow as I pursued my degree in Political Science and Spanish. After graduation, I taught Spanish at Neal Middle School and Hillside High School before I began work in child welfare. I completed my MSW at UNC- Chapel Hill and now, I am a child welfare executive with over 15 years of county DSS and mental health experience.

As a single mom to a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Lakewood Montessori Middle School, I enjoy opportunities to contribute my time and passion to issues around public education and social justice reform. I take pride in my ability to advocate for, motivate and empower others by asking thoughtful, provoking questions and sharing information.

I want to fill the vacant seat on the school board because I believe my experience as a former educator, current DPS Parent, and child welfare social worker will add needed perspective to the current needs of Durham's most vulnerable residents. I believe that if I am afforded this opportunity, I will apply a clinical lens to the impact of trauma and generational poverty on segments of the population that the school board works to reach and partner with differently to achieve collective success. I also have extensive experience in change management and data analysis that I believe would be an added resource to the board. Since my daughter entered DPS, I have been an active parent advocate for all students of color informally and then formally, when I joined PAAC at Club Blvd Elementary as one of its founding members. Subsequently, I have served on various committees, participated in events and shared information with other parents about ways to improve the learning experiences of their own children.

I am seeking this opportunity at this time because I have a flexible job that will allow me to commit to the required work sessions and board meetings. I will be available when needed for additional events or sessions to further to goals of the board and Durham Public Schools that may occur. I am excited about pursuing a role that will allow me to “give back” and improve the educational system in Durham for my own child and community. This board seat serves as an opportunity to combine the principals of my social work profession with concepts and values learned when pursuing my political science degree and the teachings of my parents/ancestors that “education and opportunity matter most- and must be fought for”.

I firmly believe that people are resilient if they are empowered to take part in designing their own destiny and I would like an opportunity to create that possibility for those students and families touched by Durham Public Schools as a member of the Board.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Myca Jeter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Myca" and last name "Jeter" clearly distinguishable.

Myca Jeter, MSW, LCSWA



August 4, 2020

To the DPS Board of Education:

It is with great pleasure that I express my support for Myca Jeter's candidacy for the Consolidated District B School Board vacancy. In my role as AIG specialist at Club Blvd, I have been fortunate to be able to get to know Ms. Jeter through teacher conferences and school functions. In the three years I have known her, I have been inspired by her and have grown as an educator because of her. I am confident that Ms. Jeter has the qualities, skills and commitment to serve our community as an effective school board member.

Ms. Jeter will advocate for excellence and equity in Durham Public Schools. I am confident of this because Ms. Jeter advocated for excellence and equity through her work with the Parents of African-American Children Committee (PAAC) while her daughter attended Club Blvd. She was instrumental in building bridges between PAAC and the Advanced Academics program at our school. Additionally, she empowered African-American parents to take on leadership roles and deepen their level of involvement in the school community.

In addition to her strength as an advocate, Ms. Jeter is a skillful communicator. In school meetings where challenging issues are often being discussed, her comments are direct, clear and constructive. She is able to move conversations forward and ensure those conversations lead to action. Ms. Jeter seeks to understand and does the hard work of in-depth learning about important matters such as curriculum and assessment. She asks thoughtful questions that get to the core of an issue. She listens.

Ms. Jeter embraces the idea that *it takes a village* to educate Durham's children and holds high expectations for all involved. She has demonstrated a willingness to work alongside staff and families to go the extra mile in support of our children while affirming the importance and value of each stakeholder. Making morning classroom visits to encourage students before EOGs, participating in school leadership, and empowering parents are just a few of the ways Ms. Jeter has contributed to the Club Blvd Village. I am excited by the prospect of expanding her leadership, advocacy and care beyond Club Blvd and into the whole DPS community. Please feel free to contact me at [denise\\_baynham@dpsnc.net](mailto:denise_baynham@dpsnc.net) or (919) 886-5393 if you need any additional information regarding my endorsement of this excellent candidate.

Sincerely,



Denise Baynham



Valerie Miler  
2403 Magnolia Tree Lane  
Durham, NC 27703

August 9, 2020

Dear Durham Board of Education

I am writing this letter in support of Myca Jeter for the vacant seat of Consolidated District B currently open with the School Board.

Myca and I have had the opportunity to work together for three years as an advocate and member of Parents of African American Children, PAAC at Club Boulevard Elementary school.

Myca is an innovative thinker and will push outside the status quo. She is not afraid to ask thought provoking, and tough questions of our leaders and parents. Myca's former experience as an educator and her current role and training in the mental health space have proven invaluable. I've noted a few examples that I've witnessed directly to demonstrate her direct, call to action, advocacy and out of the box thinking.

One of our first tasks as a group was to determine the call to action from our school related to African American Students and equity concerns. Myca worked diligently to help craft a letter endorsed by our administration for our school. I recall a specific section that simply asked that our teachers with all their responsibilities, "look into our kid's eyes and truly "see" them." She understands that academics are important, but until educators really see our children; the additional work will not truly begin.

She has helped us navigate the school system and provided advice on advocacy for our children. She was open to share her persistence with her own daughter Maliya as an example in the AIG space. I will never forget how she pointed out to the group that the Cogat is a critical test to identify how your child learns best. She encouraged the group to examine the results and partner with the teachers around specific strategies based on the test results. She made the argument to suggest that this evaluation could be seen as more valuable than the benchmarks. Her rationale was if we don't understand how our children learn best, then how could we best advocate for their success.

Voting Myca Jeter as the newest School Board member would provide the Board with a current DPS mom, an advocate, former teacher, and innovative thinker with the heart of a social worker. During these times of constant change and uncertainty, it would prove beneficial to have someone constantly pushing and looking for ways to creatively reinvent our current systems.

Thank you for time and consideration and don't hesitate to contact me with any additional questions. My contact number is 919-698-7244 and my e-mail address is [miller.valerie15@yahoo.com](mailto:miller.valerie15@yahoo.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Valerie Miller

DPS Mom

PAAC Co-Chair, Club Boulevard