

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

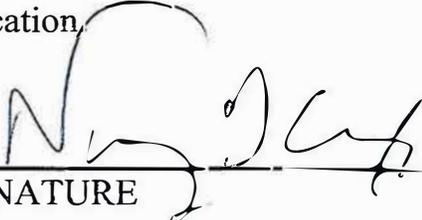
In order to serve on the Board, a candidate must reside in school board consolidated district B, not be a convicted felon unless restored to the rights of citizenship, be a registered voter, be at least 21 years of age, and not be an employee of Durham Public Schools.

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: NANCY COX  
Address: 1108 Infinity Rd  
Durham, NC 27712  
Telephone: 919 210 3329 Email: MS.NANCYDCOX@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.

 8-10-20  
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.*

Dear Board of Education,

It is with sincere pleasure that I submit my application to serve with you for the next two years. I am putting my name forth to serve on the board because I believe that my former board service, career in Education, and role as a community advocate, will be of benefit to the work of the Board. I want to serve on the Board because I care deeply about providing the best education possible to all children and youth in our community. I believe that this role will allow me, alongside you, to realize this goal.

My experience with public education runs deep. I am a former classroom teacher; I taught at Rogers Herr as the AVID coordinator and as a Social Studies teacher at Brogden. I earned my Masters of Teaching and my license in Curriculum and Instruction from UNC. I completed an internship with the DPS Social Studies Coordinator as part of my C&I licensure which provided me with insight into the work of Central Office. I worked with the former, Durham Public Education Network, on a grant focused on assisting the community to effectively support teacher recruitment and retention. I earned my Masters in School Administration from NCCUA in 2016. More recently, I was the Executive Director of the Achievement Academy of Durham. AAD served students 16-adult who were pursuing their GED; a wonderful position that combined my experience in non-profit management with school administration. Through this position I was active in the work of Made in Durham. I helped lead the merger of AAD with the Durham Literacy Center in summer of 2018. Most recently, I worked with an environmental education-based non-profit in Durham. My various career roles have provided me with a multi-faceted understanding of K-12 education.

Both of my daughters are DPS graduates. While they were in school, I volunteered in various capacities. I served on the site-base teams at Southwest, Hope Valley, Githens and DSA. I held leadership roles with PTA's; I most enjoyed serving as the legislative liaison. Of course, I volunteered extensively in my daughter's classrooms and at their schools – wonderful memories.

Outside of the school setting, I served for many years on the PTA Council in leadership roles and enjoyed supporting school-based PTAs to be successful. While on the Council, I coordinated the PTA sponsored art program, Reflections. Through my Council role, I served as the PTA representative on many initiatives including the Education Committee for Results Based Accountability, the early formation of EDCI, and on the district Calendar Committee.

I know that I am recognized in the Durham community for my knowledge and experience in K-12 education and seen as someone who advocates for, and works to insure, stakeholder engagement at all levels of decision making. Because of my significant involvement in the community and credentials in education, I was elected to the DPS School Board and served from 2010-2014; I rotated off to pursue the next phase of my career in Education. I remain involved in Education through the People's Alliance Education Committee; member of white caucus for Organizing Against Racism/REI (I helped to bring OAR/REI to Durham); and at the chapter and state level of Delta Kappa Gamma-an international, professional and service organization for women educators.

Fortunately, at this time, I would be able to make my school board service a main focus; I will be able to meet the time commitments necessary for the position.

These are unprecedented times; I know that my familiarity with the actual role and work of a school board member, responsibilities, and time commitment, will allow me to quickly pick up the baton and work alongside you to meet the challenges before us.

Sincerely,

Nancy D. Cox

**Durham Public Schools Board of Education  
Letter of Support for Nancy Cox  
Vacancy Consolidated District B**

I write this letter to support Nancy Cox for appointment to the Durham Public Schools Board of Education Consolidated District B vacancy.

I met Nancy thirteen years ago in 2007. At that time, Nancy was a dedicated parent of two young girls, championing Durham Public Schools and serving on the Durham PTA Council as legislative liaison and head of the Reflections Art Program. She taught at Rogers Herr Middle as AVID teacher and years later at Brogden Middle. I served as Manager of the Creative Arts in Public & Private Schools (CAPS) program for the Durham Arts Council. We first connected through the Reflections Art Program when Nancy approached me to serve as a judge for the student art competition and again to share my work as a nonprofit arts administrator with her students at Rogers Herr during career week.

Through the years, Nancy has been a strong advocate for student achievement and community engagement. She recognizes the immense value the arts offer to support academic achievement, social and emotional development, creativity and civic engagement. While she served on the Durham Public Schools Board of Directors, we worked on two important initiatives to support student academics through community arts partnerships.

In 2010, we created the Durham Public Schools Arts Education Advisory Council. Nancy visioned a roundtable of community arts partners and DPS administrators who would work together to create pathways for increased arts exposure in DPS schools. The council was instrumental in strengthening Durham Public Schools relationship with arts organizations who offered curriculum-aligned programming to support a comprehensive arts education. Representatives from organizations such as the Nasher Museum, Museum of Life and Science, Carolina Theatre, Durham Arts Council, NCCU and others participated on the council. In 2012, Nancy recommended that the council apply for the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and National School Boards Association Grant. Although our school board was not selected to receive the award that year, the school board was commended for their commitment to the arts.

In addition to the Advisory Council, Nancy was directly responsible for increasing DPS participation in the Durham Arts Council's CAPS artists-in-schools program. The CAPS program has partnered with DPS for over 30 years to bring local professional artists into schools to reinforce curriculum through arts learning residencies. In collaboration with DPS

district Arts Education Director, Mary Casey, myself, and DPS board members, Nancy led efforts to refresh and streamline the CAPS process and funding streams, thereby ensuring that all DPS schools could take part in CAPS experiences.

I have the deepest personal and professional respect for Nancy and sincerely believe that she will again bring her collaborative energy, optimism, and creativity to the Board of Directors.

I highly recommend Nancy for the vacancy at the Durham Public Schools Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shana Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Shana Adams**

Director, Creative Arts in Public & Private Schools (CAPS)

Durham Arts Council, Inc.

August 11, 2020

## Nicole Smith

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**From:** Wendy Mccorkle <wendy.mccorkle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** Nicole Smith  
**Cc:** garyandnancycox  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Nancy Cox

**Categories:** Red Category

Hi Nicole,

Here is my letter of support for Nancy Cox. Please let me know if I should send it to you in a different format. Thank you!

Wendy McCorkle

Letter of Support for Nancy Cox  
Durham Public Schools Board of Education  
Vacancy Consolidated District B

I am writing to support Nancy Cox's appointment to the Durham Public Schools Board of Education Consolidated District B vacancy.

I met Nancy in October 2016 when she became the Executive Director of the Achievement Academy of Durham. I served as President of the Board and worked closely with Nancy during the nearly 2 years she served as Executive Director.

The Achievement Academy provided intensive, individualized high school equivalency education to out of school young adults. Nancy was passionate about that mission and intensely interested in the welfare of each student. She worked collaboratively with all of the Achievement Academy's constituencies -- students, teachers, administrative staff, volunteer tutors, board members, funders, donors and such community partners as Made in Durham, Crest Street Community Council, and Duke University.

Nancy led the Achievement Academy during a challenging time. The organization had a strong history of success, yet as a small non-profit struggled financially. Nancy conceptualized and implemented a plan that strengthened the organization financially, and then led the Board through a process that resulted in the successful merger of the Achievement Academy with the Durham Literacy Center. The Achievement Academy educational model continues today as part of the Durham Literacy Center's Youth Achievement Program.

I asked Lizzie Ellis-Furlong, the Executive Director of the Durham Literacy Center, for her thoughts about Nancy and she sent me the following:

*Nancy Cox's expert knowledge in education and Durham Public Schools is impressive. She is insightful, highly ethical, collaborative, knowledgeable, resourceful and persistent - all qualities that make her an excellent school board member. I know she has a unique perspective on serving vulnerable students through our collaborative work with older youth preparing for their high school equivalency diplomas. I also worked with Nancy when she was a DPS school board member previously. She provided helpful guidance when we launched Rebound, Alternatives for Youth, a community-based program for DPS high school students on short-term suspension in 2013. Nancy's skills, expertise and prior experience as a school board member will enable her to hit the ground running with a keen eye for at-risk students, in particular.*

I highly recommend Nancy for the vacancy at the Durham Public Schools Board of Education.

Wendy McCorkle

Former Board President, Achievement Academy

Current Board Member, Durham Literacy Center