Feb. 21
9 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome, Setting the Stage
Brenda Stephens, NCSBA President

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Standing in Someone Else’s Shoes
Brenda Stephens, NCSBA President
Ramona Powers, NCSBA Director of Board Development and Technology

*How often do you hear “you never know until you stand in someone else’s shoes? This opening activity will allow participants to represent the experiences of an anonymous fellow participant.*

9:45 – 11 a.m. The Gauntlet of Love: Creating a Culture of Caring for All Students
Robert Lewis, Fox Road Elementary Principal, Wake County

*Hugs, handshakes, and fist bumps are part of the daily ritual for students arriving at Fox Road Elementary! The school’s “Gauntlet of Love” has teachers and staff line the entrance and hallways to greet students as they arrive. It’s part of a culture of caring that Principal Bob Lewis credits for helping his high-poverty school double its passing rate on state tests over the past seven years.*

11 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences: What Can Schools Do?
Dr. Katie Rosanbalm, Senior Research Scientist
Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University

*Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) come in many forms, from physical and mental abuse to neglect and household dysfunction. In 1998, CDC-Kaiser Permanente published a groundbreaking study that investigated the impact of ACEs on physical and mental health problems in over 17,000 adults. Since this study, we’ve not only learned more about the psychological effects of ACEs on young minds, but also the long-term health complications that can come from recurring exposure to ACEs. Now that we understand how toxic stress affects the minds and bodies of children, we can interrupt these changes by providing safe, stable,
nurturing environments, while helping children build social-emotional skills and resilience.

12:30 – 1 p.m.  Lunch

1 – 2:30 p.m.  Equity Leadership – Tools for Critical Conversations, Organizational Learning, and Measureable Improvement Toward Equitable Excellence

- Kirsten Kainz, Research Professor and Associate Director of Research Development and Translation, UNC School of Social Work, and former Durham Public School Board of Education member
- Travis Albritton, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, UNC School of Social Work
- Sarah Rabiner Eisensmith, educator, therapist, and doctoral student, UNC School of Social Work
- Minnie Forte-Brown, NCSBA Past President, Durham Public Schools

Drilling down to the root causes of equity gaps are an essential part of developing pathways to academic excellence. Session leaders will lead discussions and exercise to equip participants with strategies to identify underlying issues that block student success.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.  Break

2:45 – 4 p.m.  Equity Leadership Continues

4 – 4:30 p.m.  Thought Exchange Debrief

Ramona Powers, NCSBA Director of Board Development & Technology

As the conference comes to an end, the equity work does not. As we move forward with equity discussions, participants will take a moment to share key concepts learned and what they can begin discussing in their district.