

Pays

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fishing and photography. He started taking pictures of his own listings when he first started out in real estate and has continued ever since, although now it's with more sophisticated cameras. He also takes pictures for his church, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, and has

taken a few weddings and birthday parties. He was recognized by his church on Feb. 16 for his contributions to the community. He started Cooper Realty Scholarship Fund 13 years ago in partnership with his church and each year they give a \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving student.

Cooper was also recognized as a Realtor Emeritus in 2017 for his

40 years of membership in the Association of Realtors and was inducted into the Realtors Hall of Fame in 2013.

For people who are considering going into the real estate field, Cooper says, "You have to love it because you are going to live it, eat it, and sleep it." He added, "I play real estate. It's not work to me."

Real estate

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that I have an opportunity and I know the ins-and-outs, I feel like it's my duty. And it's actually one of the most gratifying things I do."

In 2011 Davenport's passion for giving back led him to take the vacant seat on the board of education left by Geneva Brown. Davenport said being from Winston-Salem and knowing the community, he felt it was important to bring his experiences and insight to the board. Currently, Davenport is also a board member for several other organizations in the area including: the board of Health and Human Services, the Forsyth Tech Board of

Trustees, and several others.

"It's very important for me to give back. Whether I'm serving on the school board or working with other organizations in the area, it's all about giving back and being able to shape how things unroll in our community," said Davenport. "Someone has to serve on these boards to be the voice and provide prospective. Very few people from Winston-Salem are serving on these boards and the older I get the more I understand how valuable that is."

When asked what advice he would give an up-and-coming entrepreneur who may be having second thoughts about following their dream, Davenport said he would encourage them to learn

from their failures. He said, "Everybody has some strength and you don't measure your strength by somebody else. You look at what you can do and what you bring to the table."

"... The only time you fail is when you don't try. If you just try you're probably going to go a lot further than you thought you were going to go. And then you have to be resilient because anybody who is successful didn't become that way overnight," said Davenport. "So as an entrepreneur, you can't expect to start right off and knock it out the park. That's not how it's going to be. You have to be comfortable with learning how to fail and learn that failure is a learning lesson."

District, community leaders begin talks of new Ashley Elementary

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Earlier this week parents, staff, district officials, elected officials and others with invested interest in Ashley Academy for Global Studies (Ashley Elementary) came together to discuss plans for a new school.

The meeting held on Monday, Feb. 18 was

cific sites, she said it is important that the public trust that the board is asking the right questions.

Emory said they don't discuss sites publicly because it could cause land owners to raise the price.

"I wanted you to be aware that there are dollars for the design of a new Ashley School and the board is currently getting updates and having the

Jabbar said, "First and foremost, this school has to be in this area where students and parents don't have to go out of this neighborhood."

School Board Chair Malishai Woodbury also seemed to be in support of a community school. During the meeting Woodbury suggested that district staff research school systems that have



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Scarlet Linville, principal of Ashley Academy for Global Studies, discusses the current curriculum at the school during a meeting on Monday, Feb. 19 to discuss the future of the school.

designed to give the community a chance to share their thoughts on what a "new Ashley" would look like. During the meeting, moderated by Superintendent Dr. Beverly Emory, attendees had the opportunity to discuss the location of the new school, programming, a timetable for construction, and several other important topics.

Before taking suggestions, Emory gave a brief summary on the process to build a new school. She mentioned they have money set aside, about \$900,000, to design a new school but they are still looking at possible sites for the school. Although Emory didn't mention spe-

opportunity to ask their staff questions about respective property sites," continued Emory.

"...You're going to have to trust that we have several pieces of property that we're looking at and that your board of education is asking really good questions about them."

Several members of the community said they wanted the school to stay in East Winston. Currently Ashley is located at 1647 Ashley School Circle near North Jackson Avenue. Although Ashley is a magnet school that can attract students from across the district, 75 percent of the students are from surrounding neighborhoods.

Community activist Al

adopted the community school model.

When it came time to talk about curriculum and programming, Principal Scarlett Linville gave a brief overview of the current curriculum. Linville said over the past two years they have been trying to implement a school culture that's really positive and nurturing where students and staff adopt a growth mindset.

"... Our mantra has been positive people producing positive results. We know we're not exactly where we need to be yet, but we're working."

As a School Improvement Grant (SIG) school, Ashley receives a significant amount of fed-

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