

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

**Mumford High School
17525 Wyoming
Detroit, MI 48221**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Regular Board Meeting of the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD or District) Board of Education was called to order by President Dr. Iris Taylor at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Dr. Iris Taylor, President
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry, Vice President
Misha Stallworth, Secretary
Sonya Mays, Treasurer
Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Member
Georgia Lemmons, Member
LaMar Lemmons, Member

All Members were present.

Meeting Norms

The Meeting Norms were read to the audience by President Dr. Iris Taylor.

Moment of Silence

President Dr. Iris Taylor called for a Moment of Silence.

Student Presentation

Mumford High School Color Guard presented arms. The “Star Spangled Banner” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was performed by the Renaissance High School Men’s Choir. Directed by Patrice DeBose.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Welcome

Welcome and greetings were given by Mumford Academy Principal, Nir Saar and student representatives.

Approval of the Agenda

Member L. Lemmons Motion to Approve the Agenda with possible amendments.
Treasurer Mays second the Motion.

Member L. Lemmons request community member Ms. Helen Moore and Keep the Vote/No Takeover Coalition to be allowed 10 minutes to address the Board.

President Dr. Taylor stated she received the request to address the Board from Ms. Helen Moore and Keep the Vote/No Takeover Coalition on Monday, March 12, 2018. The time the request was received did not allow an appropriate amount of time to add to the agenda. A Meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks to allow Ms. Moore and the coalition to address the Board.

Member L. Lemmons's second request was to amend the Agenda to add information regarding the reabsorption of the three former Educational Achievement Authority (EAA) Charter Schools Trix, Murphy, and Stewart and to add under "New Business" a discussion on the Mayor's plan presented to the city.

President Dr. Taylor stated a report on the Mayor's plan will be included in the Chair's report.

Member L. Lemmons request to amend the Agenda to Include the Palmer Park Academy and the status of the school's physical plant.

President Dr. Taylor stated information on Palmer Park Academy would also be included in the report.

Member L. Lemmons request to amend the Agenda to refer to committee to deal with opposition on charter schools of the Bay Mills Indian tribe. Possibly setting up a Committee of the Whole or the agreement of the body.

President Dr. Taylor stated, the matter will not be added to the agenda because the Board would need complete information on the subject matter.

Member L. Lemmons's final request is to amend the agenda to include clarity on a time certain to take action on the renaming of schools.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

President Dr. Taylor stated the issue relating to the three charter schools will be included in the Superintendent's Report. She will chair the ad-hoc committee on the renaming of schools. The secretary to the board will schedule a committee meeting within the next two weeks. All of Member L. Lemmons's requests will be addressed either in the Chair or Superintendent's report or with a scheduled meeting.

Treasurer Mays request to add a brief follow up to the listing of vacant school properties.
Member L. Lemmons second the Motion.
Motion carried without objection.

Treasurer Mays Motion to accept the Agenda as amended.
Member L. Lemmons second the Motion.
Motion carried without objection.

Approval of the Minutes

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry Motion to tie bar meeting minutes of the Special Meeting on **January 24**, Special Meeting on **February 8**, Closed Session on **February 8**, Regular Meeting on **February 13**, Policy Ad-hoc Committee Meeting on **February 20**, and Special Meeting on **March 5, 2018**.

Treasurer Mays second the Motion.
Motion carried without objection.

Treasurer Mays Motion to approve the tie bar meeting minutes.
Member L. Lemmons second the Motion
Motion carried without objection.

President's Remarks and Board Comments

President Dr. Taylor reported the following:

- A Resolution will come before the Board recognizing Keith Pollard, Arzel Jones, and Andre Batts for their contribution to the movie "Black Panthers".
- Concerns regarding Palmer Park Academy will be addressed in the Superintendent's report.
- A Meeting of the Whole will be scheduled to address concerns of the community relating to DPSCD in the Mayor's State of the City remarks.
- The Board's first quarterly Community Meeting was held on February 20, 2018.
- The Strategic Plan and Metrics are posted on the District web.

Public Comment Follow Up

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry read the follow-up responses to Public Comments received

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

at the February 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.

Old Business

Donald Hubler the DPSCD Board of Education's selection for Board of Director was elected as the MASB Region 8 Board of Director.

Standing Board Committee Reports

Curriculum/Academics Sub-Committee Report

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill serves as Chair of the Curriculum/Academics Sub Committee. Dr. Hunter-Harvill presented the committee report. She reported that:

- Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill attended the February Central Durfee Advisory Council meeting.
- The committee recommended approval of several contracts that will come before the board.
- Board members were encouraged to take advantage of visiting schools in recognition of March is Reading Month.
- The next Curriculum/Academics meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fisher Building, 12th Floor Conference Room.

Finance Sub-Committee Report

Treasurer Mays serves as Chair of the Finance Sub Committee. Chair Mays presented the report for the Finance Sub Committee. She reported that:

- The Finance Committee met twice since the last Board meeting on February 13, 2018.
- The CFO delivered January's Finance Report at the February 23, 2018 meeting along with providing an update on the Business Office restructuring plan.
- The committee reviewed the upcoming Budget Amendment for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year at the March 9, 2018 Special Meeting.
- Budget Amendment No. 2 will reflect the final student count for the year.
- The final Budget Amendment No. 3 will include the final accounting of the transfer of Educational Achievement Authority (EAA) properties back to DPSCD.
- The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fisher Building, 12th Floor Conference Room. The date maybe subject to change.

Policy Ad-hoc Committee Report

Secretary Stallworth serves as Chair of the Policy Ad-hoc Committee. Chair Stallworth presented the report for the Policy Ad-hoc Committee. She reported that:

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

- The Policy Ad-hoc Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.
- Policies previously reviewed by the committee will be reviewed by the Board at today's meeting.
- Board Members were encouraged to continue to provide feedback on their questions and concerns regarding policies.
- The next scheduled meeting for the Policy Ad-hoc Committee is Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9:00am in the Fisher Building, 12th Floor Conference Room.

Treasurer Mays Motion to approve the Curriculum/Academics, Finance, and Policy Ad-hoc Committee Reports.

Member L. Lemmons second the Motion.

Motion carried without objection.

Finance Report

Jeremy Vidito, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report on the District's Finances. He reported that for:

Detroit Public Schools (DPS):

- Revenues through January were above budget with \$2.9 million dollars in tax collections that were above anticipated collections.
- Expenditures for the audit and legal expenses through January were below budget.
- The next bond payment for DPS is scheduled for April.
- DPS received the Healthcare refund from the Michigan Office of Retirement Services in January. Funds will be disbursed in March.
- The ending cash balance prior to repayment of funds is \$53 million. The cash balance will be \$1.8 million dollars after repayment of funds.

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD):

- Revenues were \$1 million dollars below budget due to an increase in student enrollment.
- State revenues were up \$13.9 million dollars.
- Expenditures are below budget due to lower than expected purchase services and salary and benefits.
- DPSCD have approximately 2 months of available cash.
- There is \$97.8 million dollars in available unrestricted funds and an additional \$48 million dollars in the Internal Service Fund totaling \$146 million dollars in available cash.
- Finance is projecting an ending cash balance of \$106 million dollars.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Supplemental Reports

- Approximately \$29 million dollars of the 3% Healthcare reimbursement will be disbursed to current and former employees on Monday, March 19, 2018.
- All district financial reports are being submitted in a timely manner.

Member L Lemmons asked and requested standard reporting on the District's \$6.5 million-dollar fund loss.

CFO Vidito stated the Districts is continuing to work with the Michigan Department of Treasury and will be scheduling a meeting for an update on the District's request.

Member L. Lemmons asked the CFO what is the length of the contract with the Bank of New York.

Mr. Vidito stated, the Bank of New York which is handling the payment of the \$18 million-dollar debt have an anticipated 10-year agreement between Treasury and the former transitional or emergency manager.

Member L. Lemmons requested a legal opinion to the authority to incur a local district and local taxpayers exclusively with a debt structure by the state.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill requested a report on the Districts spending of the Enhancement Mileage.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti will supply the information to the full board tomorrow (Wednesday, February 14, 2018).

Treasurer Mays Motion to accept the Finance Report.
Vice President Peterson-Mayberry second the Motion.
Motion carried without objection.

Discussion of Vacant Property

Treasurer Mays cautioned the Board to rethink the sale of properties pending an assessment and building capacity study, a report to understanding the District's real estate holdings, and taking into consideration community and various planning efforts and steps to rationalize capacity across schools.

President Dr. Taylor stated the items listed and scheduled for board up was to illicit interested parties but not to execute a sale. A decision would be made on a one-to-one basis if it is in the

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

best interest of the district to sell the property as is with the party securing the property versus the district boarding the property. No property would be sold until information returns to the board.

The Superintendent stated the process would be completed as early as June/July but no later than August. That facilities review is for buildings currently in use educationally. The buildings currently being discussed is for vacant properties. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued to reanalyze the possible collective strategic use of those vacant buildings that are not being used. Proposals have returned but a decision have not been made.

President Dr. Taylor asked the Superintendent if he had received responses to the RFP but have not recommended a vendor to perform the service.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated he had not. He further stated, the cost would likely be below the \$250,000 threshold and that a discussion with the finance committee chair would take place.

President Dr. Taylor requested the Superintendent to discuss with the Finance Committee.

Treasurer Mays stated she does not agree or understand the logic of listing a property you are not fully prepared to sell and that the Board have not had a discussion on a range of issues to be taken into consideration.

President Dr. Taylor stated the concern will be forwarded to the Finance Committee to develop a succinct process that everyone is comfortable moving forward.

The Superintendent requested clarity on the process. Once the district determines through the RFP process who they would engage to review the vacant buildings, the Finance Committee will come up with a plan to determine how the District would make decisions regarding selling any property or building interested in by another party.

President Dr. Taylor concurred.

Member L. Lemmons asked was \$2.6 million dollars the best price for boarding up buildings.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated in the affirmative that the price was the most competitive price for the use of plywood and secure view through an RFP process. A Board policy will be created and presented to committee as part of the policy development process.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Treasurer Mays stated the full board should be a part of the conversation regarding the vacant properties.

President Dr. Taylor stated she would like to include that agenda item as well as have both a policy and process moving forward.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Vitti began each report by recognizing employees and community members that reflect the District's core values of Student's First, Tenacity, Excellence, Equity, and Service. In recognition for March is Reading Month students were acknowledged for various reading accomplishments during the break. The students acknowledged were: Rahima Shordar, 6th grader at Davison Elementary, Jailene Vega, 8th grader at Priest, and Muntahar Siddiq, 4th grader at Davison. Cass Technical High School Coach Thomas Wilcher was acknowledged for his induction into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

The Superintendent addressed several issues of the Board prior to his standard reporting. The issues were:

- Trix, Murphy, and Stewart
- Initiative and Partnership announcement by the Mayor
- Palmer Park Academy

Trix, Murphy, and Stewart

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated a one-year contract was approved by the board along with a one-year lease which both expire on June 30, 2018. The district's charter team verified that all three schools are interested in reauthorization by the district. The District staff will review and consider the schools achievement, equal access to all students, number of seats available in the neighborhood, and enrollment trends. The recommendation will go before the board at the April board meeting after being reviewed by the Finance and Academics Committees.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated he does not believe the District should continue to authorize charter schools. There are three buildings linked to the three schools. The Superintendent believes there is an opportunity to use one or two of the buildings as a possible alternative school.

Initiative and Partnerships announced by Mayor Duggan

The mayor recommended the creation of an Education Commission that will include charter schools and DPSCD. The commission would include a teacher and representative from the charter and DPSCD. Superintendent Dr. Vitti recommends that he be the individual to represent the district. The group would create a grading system to rate schools throughout the

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

city which concludes the authority of the commission. To the Superintendent's knowledge, the commission will not have the authority to open or close any schools.

The second initiative was the creation of bus routes offering an easier route to Detroit schools bringing over 30,000 students who live in the city but attend surrounding suburban schools to the District. The model is based on a Denver project. Details of the plan have not been finalized.

President Dr. Taylor made it clear that there is only conversation taking place and that any decisions or engagement must be approved by the board. Chair further stated that a grading system that defines quality and what the essence of that quality means and how it is going to be measured is powerful for the District and also required under PA 192.

Member L. Lemmons stated it is a means for the Mayor to insert himself in the District and that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) could look at charters and the suburban schools and not just be limited to Detroit. The Mayors program by its own limitations must exclude that. He disagrees with the Mayor when he weighs the district against the suburban districts and not the charters where there is no elected board. Member L. Lemmons request the Board move to make it an MDE oversight to investigate the schools in the region and not charter vs. DPSCD.

Palmer Park Academy

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated after public comment regarding Palmer Park Academy's class size and building condition, Superintendent and Board Vice President Peterson-Mayberry visited the school and observed the school primarily needed a new roof. It was determined an RFP would be issued once the weather permitted inspection. A selection of a vendor to repair the roof would come to the Finance Committee prior to the board in April. Positions were added to the school's budget to address the class size concern. However, the positions have not been filled to date. There were no direct concerns articulated regarding mold.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti reported on the following occurrences:

- On Thursday, March 8, 2018, the Superintendent received an email from the Principal stating teachers were concerned with the possibility of mold in the building. A concern that was new to the superintendent, the principal, and facilities.
- On Thursday, March 8th and Friday, March 9th, the operations team visited the school to review the situation and found there were signs of mold in the building.
- Upon review, an additional operations team went to the building over the weekend to clean, paint, and isolate the mold as much as possible.
- On Friday, March 9, 2018, Superintendent Dr. Vitti authorized a letter to parents

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

- regarding the concern of mold and the commitment to repair the roof.
- Monday, March 12, 2018, the teachers became increasingly concerned about the status of the building.
- The Superintendent made an executive decision to cancel school on Monday, March 12, 2018.
- On Tuesday, March 13, 2018, a decision was made to close Palmer Park Academy for the duration of the school year. Students will be moved while repairs were being completed.
- A third-party study to determine if mold is existing in the school will be available the week of March 19, 2018.
- The District will meet with parents on Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

Member L. Lemmons stated that prior to and after the arrival of the superintendent he had expressed concern with receiving a report on the entire district's physical plant. He received a statement on several occasions from Ms. Venable, her predecessor, and the Superintendent that schools were safe. He requested the board specifically and immediately address the negligence of the state on the issue of the physical plant and condition of school buildings noting that as time passes the responsibility will lie on the District.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti responded that Member L. Lemmons was correct staff indicated the immediate safety of children was intact, however, the buildings are overall inadequate for what children deserve. Dr. Vitti was horrified of the overall conditions of some buildings in certain locations but will continue to say children are still safe with the day-to-day use of the buildings. If there is a situation where there is immediate harm to staff or students, he would immediately notify the Board and problem solve to insure the safety of students.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry asked where are the Palmer Park Academy students currently being educated.

Superintendent stated currently there is nowhere to educate the students in mass. They are currently reviewing the state statute on the days and hours of instruction to determine if any days would need to be added to meet state requirements. No building is available until Monday.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill asked how many K-8th grade students are at Palmer Park Academy.

Superintendent Vitti stated there are about 500 students.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill stated she may know of a facility that can house about 300 students.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated the proposal is to use Ferguson for PK–5 and Bethune for grades 6-8.

President Dr. Taylor asked if the students would have to be bussed to the new building.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated yes, the district would reroute the current line to accommodate students currently being transported and create a bus depot to pick up and drop off at Palmer Park Academy taking special care and consideration of the PK students by providing extra support.

Member L. Lemmons asked what types of things are in place for damage control, impact on enrollment, and the potential to be a public relations nightmare.

Superintendent Dr. Vitti stated the process begin with a collective strategy with the teachers. The district is being very transparent in informing parents. The plan is to have all repairs to the building completed in the fall. Dr. Vitti stated he supports Members L. Lemmons concern that this could happen in another building. Conducting a facility review will provide the cost and the line item breakdown to bring buildings to 2021 standards. The few dollars the district have can be used to put out the safety-to-life issues in schools and will also show that the current revenue stream is not adequate to bring the students to 2021 expectations.

Member L. Lemmons stated once the work on Palmer Park Academy is completed the district can consider renaming the school. He also would like a component of the report on the physical plant to include negligence.

The Chair called for adjournment due to the constant disruption of the meeting proceedings.

President Dr. Taylor Motion for adjournment.

Treasurer Mays second the Motion.

Motion carried.

Treasurer Mays Motion to rescind the motion to adjourn and replace with a Motion to recess.

Member L. Lemmons second the Motion.

Motion carried without objection.

Treasurer Mays Motion for a 15 minute recess.

Secretary Stallworth second the Motion.

Motion carried without objection.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

The meeting reconvened at 6:42pm.

Treasurer Mays Motion to reconvene from recess.

Member L. Lemmons second the Motion.

Motion carried without objection.

The meeting continued to be disrupted after the return of the Board.

Treasurer Mays Motion to adjourn.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry second the Motion

President Dr. Taylor provided the following statement prior to adjournment:

We appreciate and encourage members of the community and constituents in which we are obligated to as the elected board to participate in giving us feedback and even some opportunities for instruction. However, Meeting Norms must occur. The board cannot have or conduct business and conversations with hollering and outbursts from the community during that course. I realize in some cases it is a point or strategy, but it is not helpful for the Board to proceed in that manner.

Therefore, the respects and rights of all persons to participate in this public meeting of the board and that we do kindly request that everyone engage in behaviors that support the same must be consistent. It is for that reason, I am supporting and requesting the Board adjourn and reconvene at another point and time to continue this agenda.

Member L. Lemmons request the Chair to rescind the Motion to adjourn stating he objects and that if the Board cannot proceed it is allowing the disruption to stop the business of the Board suggesting the Board should take the action items on the agenda and go directly into public comment.

Roll Call on the Motion to Adjourn

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Deborah Hunter-Harvill | Yes |
| Georgia Lemmons | No |
| LaMar Lemmons | No |
| Angelique Peterson-Mayberry | Yes |
| Sonya Mays | Yes |
| Misha Stallworth | Yes |
| Iris Taylor | Yes |

Motion Carried

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Public Comment

Meeting adjourned without Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Certified:
Karen Morgan, B.S.B.M
Secretary