July 15, 2013

Dear Detroit Public Schools Staff,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you that Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Jack Martin to serve as Emergency Manager of Detroit Public Schools. His appointment is effective today, July 15, 2013.

As I have said previously, serving as Emergency Manager of Detroit Public Schools has not only been the toughest job of my career, but it has also been by far the most rewarding. Every action that I’ve taken over the last two years has been about the students and fixing the system so that every child in the City of Detroit can receive the quality education they deserve.

Thanks to everyone’s hard work and dedication, we’ve made great progress these last two years – witnessed by a greatly reduced deficit, improved MEAP scores, an increase in our graduation rates and a decrease in the drop-out rate. There is, however, still significant work that remains, and the new strategic plan developed by stakeholders provides a solid road map for those efforts.

I am confident that Jack Martin is the right person to lead Detroit Public Schools and maintain this positive trajectory.

A native Detroiter and respected public servant, Jack brings critical expertise in finance and public education to the District. A practicing Certified Public Accountant for more than 40 years, Jack has not only run his own accounting firm, but also served three U.S. Presidents during that period. He served as Chief Financial Officer/Chief Acquisition Officer/Chief Procurement Officer for the U.S. Department of Education and held a concurrent appointment as acting director of the U.S. Selective Service System under President George W. Bush. Jack also served Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton as Chair of the Provider Reimbursement Review Board of the Department of Health and Human Services. Most recently, he held the position of Chief Financial Officer for the City of Detroit. Prior to his work at the City, Jack served as Emergency Manager of Highland Park Schools.

Importantly, Jack is grounded in Detroit Public Schools, having been educated within the system. A graduate of Cass Technical High School, he also attended Post Middle School and Custer (Thurgood Marshall) Elementary School. In essence, Jack is coming home to Detroit Public Schools by taking this position.

Trust me when I tell you that Jack is excited to get started. It is my sincere hope and desire that you would commit to working with him as you have with me. Working together is the only way that we can continue to effect the change necessary to ensure a sustainable future for Detroit Public Schools.

I am truly honored to have worked with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Roy S. Roberts
Emergency Manager