



#### Mission Statement

The mission of Detroit Community Schools is to awaken our students' highest aspirations and develop the capabilities they need to lead purposeful and productive lives. We believe that all students should be prepared to enter college, pursue a career or engage in other forms of meaningful work in our ever-changing global society. Therefore, we offer a rigorous educational program that integrates academic, artistic and experiential learning within a supportive community characterized by encouragement, collaboration and mutual respect.

**Detroit Community Schools  
12675 Burt Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48223  
Thursday, May 23, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.**

#### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Detroit Community Schools was called to order at 6:39pm by President Norman LoPatin.

#### ROLL CALL

Present: President LoPatin, Members Brown and Mayes  
Absent: Member Tobier

#### PRESENTATION BY STUDENT

Nicholas Powell presented information about the ACT Preparation classes arranged by Principal Jordan. Nicholas attributes his 1<sup>st</sup> time score of 26 to the information, skills, and confidence the training classes held at Detroit Community Schools.

#### SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Joe Rousseau administered oath of office to Norman LoPatin and Richard Robinson.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

President LoPatin made recommendations to amend the agenda. Member Brown made motion to accept the Detroit Community Schools' Board of Directors' Regular Meeting, May 23, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT AND REPORT BY COACH WASHINGTON**

Detroit Community Schools Athletic Director, Henry Washington, extended invitation to the Board to the 2013 Athletic Banquet and requested that the Board support the students' achievement in the athletics during the 2012-2013. The 2013 Athletic Banquet to be held June 14, 2013. The cost of the Banquet is \$2,000. The cost will be offset by ticket sales to parents and Athletic Department supporters.

Walter Esaw, Business Manger, presented the 2012 – 2013 Amended General Fund & Revenue Budget. Member Mayes made motion to approve the 2012 – 2013 Amended General Fund & Revenue Budget and motion was 2nded by Member Brown. Motion carried.

Member Mayes has been in contact with Supt. McPhail and understands reports and budget figures. Member Brown questioned the \$120,000 difference in the amended document for Special Education and gained clarity in Supt. McPhail's explanation that the department was re-staffed with qualified professionals that are full-time employees and not contract personnel. President LoPatin provided additional information that the figures shifted based on Mr. Esaw using standard function codes to record and report figures. Mr. Esaw assured President LoPatin that the Bond Covenant will be met. President LoPatin informed Board members that SVSU provided auditor to ensure QuickBooks is updated and reflects accurate data.

## **BOARD TRAINING**

Joseph Rousseau and Dave Lewis provided Board Member Manuals and an overview of its contents. Board members were urged to reference the manual and to use SVSU website as a resource.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Member Brown, 2nded by Member Mayes. Motion carried with an abstention by Member Robinson.

## **DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS**

President LoPatin read resolution authorizing SVSU's contract with DCS to be extended through June 30, 2014.

Motion to authorize Norman LoPatin to sign authorization document on behalf of the Board was made by Member Mayes, 2nded by Member Brown, and unanimously passed.

Bart Eddy presented employment estimates for summer employment of DCS students with approximate 50 students earning \$56,000 throughout the summer. On June 13, 2013 UAW/Ford will be at DCS for a presentation of thanks of continued support of DCS' Bike Program and Capitol Funding Campaign. Mr. Eddy spoke of the communication with and work with Superintendent McPhail to reconcile grant funds and expenditures. President LoPatin was assured by Mr. Eddy that the grant programs will tie in to the curriculum and that he is preparing a 2013-2014 Budget to clearly list grant funds expected and will highlight academic benefits of each program. President LoPatin requested Superintendent McPhail's presence at the UAW/Ford presentation June 13, 2013 in efforts to encourage grant approval for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Robinson requested that Mr. Eddy contact him to provide an understanding of his work in efforts to include University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and other universities in support of the Entrepreneurial Incubator.

High School Principal, Echelle Jordan, presented Scantron data for 2013-2014. Member Brown expressed concerns with the 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade results being below grade level. Ms. Jordan addressed her concern by explaining that SWAT (School-Wide Academic Team) was created to identify students who are below grade level in math and placing them in a Math Success course in addition to their core math course. The Math Success & Reading Success courses meet students at their grade level and an individualized program is designed to increase their proficiency. Member Mayes requested Scantron data be presented to show number of students and proficiency. Member Robinson stated that the Math Success and Reading Success programs are a great use to resources in focusing on student achievement. President LoPatin expressed concern with class size and financial impact of teacher/student ratio. Principal Jordan

provided ratio of 1/20 for Math & Reading Success Programs. Member Brown asked about the teacher turnover rate and Superintendent McPhail stated that the recent hires are more experienced teachers who are focused on long-term employment. Member Brown also asked about Middle School scores and was told by Superintendent McPhail that a new Middle School program will be implemented to address concerns and that teachers and principals are on board with the philosophy of no excuses not to educate DCS students. Ms. McPhail went on to state that Grammar & Composition course has been added and helps in all courses. Member Robinson commended Ms. McPhail for implementing Critical Thinking and Grammar & Composition courses. Member Mayes would like to see Mr. Eddy and Ms. McPhail work together to ensure career-readiness; connecting hands-on application with classroom lessons. Principal Jordan presented ACT scores, which increased on average and led to increase in students receiving scholarships from 6% to 12%.

Science Teacher, Deborah Willette, spoke about students in grades K – 11 participating in the Science Fair. The Science Fair provided the opportunity for the students to participate in project-based learning and research and continued efforts to increase learning and proficiency. DCS will implement the Next Generation Science program that has curriculum that builds on K – 8 concepts, focused on middle school/high school transition, and critical thinking and research skills. Next Generation Science is different from the Common Core because it is research-based, is a means for success in science, and offers practical application of concepts. The program is based on critical thinking, reading, writing, and science. The SWAT is proposing an extended science curriculum that provides 12<sup>th</sup> grade courses and an Advanced Placement course.

Member Mayes asked about fulfilling the 2 year foreign language requirement. Superintendent McPhail and Principal Jordan stated that French and Spanish will be offered and other languages are being considered.

Member Mayes made motion to accept Superintendent's nomination of William Coleman as SVSU Compliance Ombudsman. Member Brown accepted motion and motion carried.

Board discussion about Clark Hill and Lawrence Patrick payments being made. Acknowledgement made that approving action items provides authorization for Detroit Community Schools to make previously discussed payments.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Students will not be allowed to move to the next course without meeting requirements during the school year, summer school, or keystone course. Recognition of Ms. Candyce Sweda made regarding Science Fair and the apparent comfort level of the students during their presentations. Recruitment mailer sent out and there is expected enrollment as response to the mailer. 16-9<sup>th</sup> grade students have been identified that will be 20 years old at time of graduation with current graduation requirements. In order to ensure students can graduate on time and not exceed the prohibiting age limits, the students will be assigned a peer tutor, executive staff mentor, weaknesses will be targeted, and parents will be involved. The curriculum is being revised to include additional electives including improvisational theatre, film, and tailoring.

Member Mayes commended Superintendent on holding students accountable and not letting them pass along without meeting the requirements.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

A Board Retreat was suggested for an opportunity for bonding and a way to start the year off with general understanding between the Board Members and Detroit Community Schools staff. It was proposed that the retreat be held in July or August for a full day. Member Mayes recommended having an outside facilitator walk through the points of discussion. Cori Howell will provide Board Members three dates to choose from for the training that will include no more than one hour of additional Board Training by SVSU as well as a section on the Schools' finances.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There is a June 30, 2013 Budget Approval Deadline. A Budget Hearing will be held Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:30pm. The Budget will be approved in the regular June Board Meeting. A Notice of Budget Hearing will need to be made in a publication within 8 days of the Budget Hearing. Cori Howell to send information to Member Tobier and ensure availability for the Budget Hearing and will communicate confirmation or need to reschedule to the Board.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Budget 2013-2014 hearing will be held on June 13, 2013 in the Chemistry Lab located at Detroit Community Schools High Schools beginning at 6:30p.m. Approval of 2013-2014 Budget will be June Board Meeting, Thursday, June 27, 2013, in the Chemistry Lab located at Detroit Community Schools High Schools beginning at 6:30p.m

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

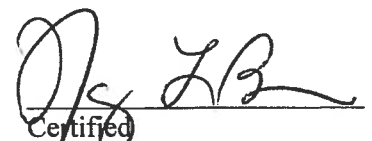
Garan Lucow is representing former DCS coach who is suing MMI, Detroit Community Schools, and the previous Superintendent for wrongful discharge. There will be a motion to dismiss the Board from liability on June 4, 2013 and a hearing regarding the dismissal in August.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC – ANY CONCERNS**

Ms. Bobbi Johnson would like to see a parent on the Board. She requested an application and suggested the Board contain more than five members. President LoPatin addressed Ms. Johnson; acknowledging her concerns and ensuring her that she will be receive an application to be a Board Member. President LoPatin explained that, in his experience, the board is more effective with five members and there was a parent Board member previously with no success. Member Mayes acknowledged Ms. Johnson's concerns and expressed his personal interest in the success of specific DCS students and the student body as whole.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Member Brown seconded by Member Mayes to adjourn the May 28, 2013, Regular Board of Directors' Meeting at 8:54pm. Motion Carried.

  
Certified  
Nancy Brown  
Board Secretary