



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 Board of Directors' Meeting July 24, 2014

MINUTES

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

No Performances

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Richard Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Robinson, Stewart, Devlin, Mayes, Dulin

Absent: Tobier, Goss-Foster

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OATHS OF OFFICE

A. Supt. Sharon McPhail of Detroit Community Schools administered Oath of Office to the following Board Members:

Rev. Robert O. Dulin
Toney Stewart
Patrick Devlin
Kirk Mayes
Richard Robinson, PH.D.

All Board Members in attendance were sworn in. Their signatures were notarized.

B. Richard Robinson conducted the Election of Board Officers and encouraged nominations as followed:

Motion: To Elect a Board President

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin to Re-elect Board President Richard Robinson; Seconded by Toney Stewart

Resolve: Motion Passed Unanimously to Re-elect Board President Robinson

Motion: To elect a Board Vice President

Vote: Moved by Kirk Mayes to elect Board Vice President Patrick Devlin; Seconded by Toney Stewart

Resolve: Motion passed unanimously to elect Board Vice President Patrick Devlin

Motion: To elect a Board Treasurer

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin to re-elect Nicholas Tobier; Seconded by Kirk Mayes

Resolve: Motion passed unanimously to re-elect Board Treasurer Nicholas Tobier

Motion: To elect a Board Secretary

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin to elect Rev. Robert Dulin as Board Secretary; Seconded by Toney Stewart

Resolve: Motion passed unanimously to elect Rev. Robert Dulin as Board Secretary

Board President Richard Robinson confirmed the following officers for the 2014-2015 school year:

Richard Robinson as Board President

Patrick Devlin as Board Vice President

Nicholas Tobier as Board Treasurer

Rev. Robert Dulin as Board Secretary

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion: To accept the Agenda

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin, Seconded by Toney Stewart, Motion carried

Resolve: Agenda accepted and passed as presented with no modifications.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Nothing was presented to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. Approval of Resolution that Board will comply with all laws, rules and regulations
- b. Approval of Resolution setting dates, times and place of Regular Board Meetings and location of official posting for meeting notices
- c. Approval of Resolution designating depositories for various funds and authorized signature(s) for various funds and accounts.
- d. Approval of Resolution to bond Board Treasurer and others as designated by the Board
- e. Approval of Resolution appointing attorneys who may act as legal counsel
- f. Approval of Resolution appointing auditors
- g. Approval of Resolution appointing designated AHERA contact
- h. Approval of Resolution adopting 2014-15 school calendar
- i. Approval of Resolution designating Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) contact; Sexual Harassment contact; Section 504 contact; Homeless Children & Youth Title VII-B and U.S. Office of Civil Rights Title VI & Title IX issues
- j. Approval of Resolution approving Board Member participation in Regular & Special Board meetings via teleconference
- k. Approval of Restated Articles of Incorporation

Vote: Moved by Devlin, Seconded by Mayes, Motion carried

Resolve: Consent Agenda Items A-K accepted and approved without modification.

Board Treasurer Rev. Robert Dulin asked why we are using only one bank for different funds. Supt. McPhail explained that historically we have always been at Comerica and that Detroit Community Schools doesn't wish to separate funds State Aid funding. Ms. McPhail said that she is open to suggestions for a new bank.

Board Member Kirk Mayes suggested PNC Bank due to their accessible banking locations and the active role they play in the community.

Board President Richard Robinson asked to bring info on all banks to the next Board Meeting so that we can explore all options.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

Motion: To approve the following Action Items:

- a. Approval of June 27, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of June 27, 2014 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin; Seconded by Toney Stewart; Motion carried

Resolve: Action items A & B approved

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion: To review and approve the following Financial Reports:

- a. Revenue & Expenditures through May 31, 2014
- b. Revenue & Expenditures through June 30, 2014
- c. Cash Flow Statement through May 31, 2014
- d. Cash Flow Statement through June 30, 2014
- e. Bills to be paid

Vote: Moved by Kirk Mayes; Seconded by Patrick Devlin; Motion carried

Resolve: All statements and reports reviewed and approved

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. McPhail opened by thanking everyone for their time and expressed how happy she is about the partnership of DCS, with such a premiere and stellar authorizer Bay Mills Community College. We are honored to be in association with them.

Reauthorization

Bay Mills Community College Board of Regents approved DCS to be authorized for a five (5) year term commencing on July 1, 2014. Ms. McPhail is happy to offer her staff immense stability over the next 5 years. Staff is continuing to provide additional documentation to both BMCC and the Michigan Department of Education as part of the re-authorization process. We are honored to be associated with the premier charter school authorizer in the State of Michigan.

Student Achievement

High School Graduation Rate

We have 91 tasks to be completed in preparation for the upcoming school year. We have cleared out the entire garage and inventoried everything in prep for the building trades program.

Ms. McPhail has been meeting with principals regularly reviewing curriculum. Students will be given either a passing grade of A,B,C or an incomplete. Students who get an incomplete will be given an opportunity to retake the course to receive a passing grade. Supt. McPhail stated, "we believe in Mastery not punishment."

Teachers will be given packets on each student containing all academic information in the fall. This will help the instructor to better educate the student by knowing what to expect.

New students will be given an initial examination to assess their particular needs so that we can adequately educate them.

SWAT has been meeting every Thursday for hours reviewing the curriculum plan making sure that everything is aligned by September.

Our preliminary data is showing that DCS experienced a 96% graduation rate for the school year 2013-2014. Once summer school seniors successfully complete all courses needed, our graduation rate will be 98%.

Summer School

High School- 101 students enrolled in summer school.

K-8 School-42 students enrolled in summer school.

All kids are passing summer school and arriving on time. Supt. McPhail monitors attendance daily and it has been excellent. We believe that the high rate of attendance is due in part to the new rule that limits students to only one (1) absence. The 2nd absence results in a student being dismissed from summer school and not earning any credit for the course(s).

High School Senior Scholarship and College Acceptance Update

DCHS seniors have been awarded more than \$806,000 in college scholarships as of June 13, 2014! The Detroit Regional Chamber's Program continues to provide scholarships for students who want to go to select junior colleges. Bottom line, if you need money to go to school you can get it as a Detroit Community Schools graduate. All scholarships were not recorded for announcement at the graduation, so the figure is higher. For instance, the Tipler twins have over \$70,000 in scholarship money apiece!

The Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce program continues to provide 2-year scholarships for our seniors to go to any one of the area community colleges.

Enrollment

We have begun accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year.

We have already sent out intent to return forms to students and have successfully collected about 80% of them.

DCS initiated enrollment commercials on all 4 local stations owned by Radio One Detroit. Hot 107.5; 105.9 kiss-fm; "Newstalk" AM1200 WCHB and Praise 102.7. The scripted commercials have been airing since Tuesday July 22nd primarily during the morning and afternoon drive times. I have also participated in an in-depth on-air interview with Cliff Russell that aired on his show earlier today. Two additional radio show appearances are planned.

The ads promote DCS and our enrollment Open House being held on Friday, July 25th. Radio One is providing their most popular DJ, "Dockta Darius" along with their mobile broadcast facility at 9:00 AM for our Open House.

As of today approximately 80% of our previously enrolled students have submitted intent to return notices. These required forms continue to be received daily.

Human Resources

DCS is holding interviews to fill all remaining and expected vacancies for the 2014-15 school year. Notable new hires include a full time experienced Attendance Officer and a Grant Writer who will also teach drama and public speaking electives. Supt. McPhail stresses to potential candidates that you will not be successful here if you do not love the kids. Certain disruptions do not occur at DCS because of this philosophy. We care.

Professional Development

We have re-designed 2 weeks of Professional Development. Classroom management and not utilizing Glasser techniques were the existing problems. We are confident since identifying the problems that we will have a more progressive year.

Re-evaluating 7th period.

Supt. McPhail implemented 7th period to help students with the culture shock of a new environment. It works in terms of engaging kids and preventing a high drop out rate, however the attendance is poor. We are re-evaluating the 7th period electives to potentially offer as 1st period course.

Facilities/Vehicles/Food Service/Security

Facility-Maintenance

DCS maintenance & custodial staff have been engaged in the annual summer maintenance & cleaning activities. Summer cleaning includes stripping and waxing all floors, shampooing all carpets, washing walls that are in good condition and wall prep & painting walls as required.

Security

We are in the process of installing 10 additional video surveillance cameras. These additional cameras will enhance our coverage of the exterior of the high school building, provide coverage for the interior of the K-8 Administrative Module, additional coverage of the high school cafeteria and the K-8 bus pick-up & drop-off area.

Unfinished Section of Main Building

We made tremendous progress in cleaning out and re-organizing the “unfinished” section of the building. Staff and students under the supervision of Office Manager, Andrea Bragg, have discarded numerous broken and unusable furniture, items and equipment. This work is step one in the process of turning the “unfinished” section into usable instruction space.

Facility-QZAB

Staff is evaluating DCS facility needs to determine if we should submit an application for the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program. The QZAB program is a federally funded bond program that utilizes tax credits to offset the cost of interest on *facility improvement* bonds. In other words, if an applicant is approved, it is allowed to sell up to \$2.0 million of bonds and pay no interest over the life of the bonds. Some of the improvements that we are considering include relocating K-8 students into the main building thereby providing K-8 student with a cafeteria and access to the gymnasium; make needed repairs to the roof; upgrade our HVAC control systems to allow zoned heating & cooling; create at least 2 pre-school classes and possibly an additional multi-purpose room or auditorium.

One of the critical components of the QZAB application process is that DCS will need a *“written commitment from private entities to make qualified contributions having a present value as of the date of the issuance of the bonds of not less than 10 percent of the proceeds of the bond issue.”* It can include such items as:

- Equipment for use in the program
- Technical assistance in developing curriculum or training teachers to promote market driven technology in the classroom
- Volunteer mentors

- Internships
- In-kind services
- Cash

We are currently reaching out to various organizations in order to line up “qualified contributions”. Board Members who have expressed interest should contact Mr. Coleman to obtain specifics as to necessary content of the contribution letters.

Other School Activities

2014 Senior Class Activities

Senior Prom

The DCS Senior Prom was held on June 12, 2014 from 6:00 PM 12:00 AM held at the Detroit Marriott in Renaissance Center Inside 42° North Restaurant-Level 3. It was catered by Andiamo and was a huge success.

88 DCS students attended along with 43 of their guests. Our students and their guests had an enjoyable and memorable evening: We received many compliments from them. For the first time, parent volunteers were in attendance.

Senior Class Graduation

DCS Senior Class Graduation Ceremony was held at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Dearborn, MI on June 20, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00PM.

102 DCS seniors, their families and current & former DCS staff participated in this exciting event. An additional 11 seniors are expected to receive their diplomas upon completion of summer school.

Professional Development

DCS summer staff development activities commence on August 18, 2014 and continue through August 29, 2014. Our jam-packed schedule includes research-based programs with demonstrated effectiveness such as:

“First Days of School”, created by Harry Wong, teaches proven techniques on setting the correct tone from day 1 build a successful teacher-student relationship)

“Skillful Teacher”: This intensive program focuses on the use of student data on a day-to-day basis and helps teachers examine their beliefs and expectations that influence students’ motivations to learn.

In addition, we have included sessions on “Bullying, Harassment & Classroom Safety”; ACT Workshop; Charlotte Danielson teacher observation & evaluation process and PowerSchool (on-line pupil attendance and grading system).

We finally have arranged to begin Medicaid billing through DPS and are planning training for our staff.

Community Activities

DCS hosted the College of Creative Studies (CCS)’ **“Detroit Neighborhood ARTS Workshop”** from July 7, 2014 through July 24, 2014.

The free program targeted middle school students living in the Brightmoor community. DCS earned a modest community use fee for allowing CCS to use a single classroom for various arts projects. Approximately 15 local area students participated.

Graduate Update

Supt. McPhail updated the Board with our Gates Millennium Scholarship Recipient Nicholas Powell. Nicholas is doing very well and adjusting just as we expected him to. Dr. Robinson enrolled Nicholas into a great summer program that assists him with tutoring, mentoring, and overall preparing Nicholas for what is headed his way in the fall.

Supt. McPhail also keeps in contact with the Tipler twins at Michigan State. She plans on visiting them later this year to take them out to dinner. Ms. McPhail stated, "we are their family and we cannot lost contact with any of our children."

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Trades Program Kick-Off Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be Thursday, August 28, 2014 in the Chemistry Lab at 6:30PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board President Richard Robison thanked and welcomed Bay Mills Community representative Pat Victor. The Board and Detroit Community Schools looks forward to a rewarding and very positive relationship with the people of the Bay Mills Community.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Nothing was presented to the Board at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Vote: Moved by Patrick Devlin; Seconded by Toney Stewart; Motion carried

Resolve: Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.



Certified
Rev. Robert Dulin
Board Secretary