



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
313-537-3570
November 21, 2013 – 6:00pm**

MINUTES

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Superintendent McPhail introduced herself, William Coleman, Cori Howell, and Walter Esaw then introduced the student presentations; Chyna Taylor reciting an original poem, *School Bully* as well as Jasmine Mayfield, Janae Holmes, Camille Griffin, Kelly Young, and Kerrell Jackson performing an anti-bullying puppet show.

Anti-Bullying Puppet Show, *Charlie Learns a Lesson*, performed by DCH Students; Jasmine Mayfield, Janae Holmes, Camille Griffin, Kelly Young, and Kerrell Jackson.

Closing poem by Carole Watson, *I Dream a World*, performed by Chyna Talyor.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Detroit Community Schools was called to order at 6:25pm by President Richard Robinson.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Robinson, Member Brown, Member Stewart, Member Devlin, Member Mayes, Member Tobier

Absent: None

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OATHS OF OFFICE

Dr. Robinson introduced and gave the Oath of Office to Pat Devlin and Toney Stewart.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion to accept amended agenda made by Member Devlin and seconded by Member Stewart. Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

High School Principal, Ms. Jordan, stated that there were several students who wanted to speak. Loretta White introduced herself. She stated that she has been a DCH student since 9th grade and the school had been out of control. Miss White went on to say that Ms. McPhail made the school great and brought in great teachers who actually care. She feels cared about and welcome. Miss White thanked all the staff before taking her seat. Jabrail Davenport introduced himself as a senior and stated that he is glad Ms. McPhail came to DCS, that she is one of the best people he knows, and that she is a blessing to him. Nicholas Powell, Senior Class President and Student Council President, introduced himself. Mr. Powell stated that the school is opposite from last year. He went on to say that the school has come such a long way because of Ms. McPhail. Ms. McPhail has helped him develop in his leadership roles and she is an inspiration and a great leader. Mr. Powell sees that Ms. McPhail cares and it shows when she's at work so late every night. Ms. McPhail brought the school from the hurricane to the eye of the hurricane.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Member Devlin to accept all items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of October 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes

seconded by Member Stewart. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

CFO, Walter Esaw, presented the Amended Budget that reflected actual enrollment and unaudited Fund Balance. Mr. Esaw pointed out that the change in expenditures reflects the reclassification of expenses and that the increase in the cost of Maintenance is because maintenance was brought in house. Ms. McPhail added that hiring maintenance staff necessitated one-time expenditures for equipment. Mr. Esaw went on to show that the expenditures are in line with revenue. Member Mayes asked for clarity on line 26x's increase of \$280,000. He asked why maintenance was brought in house if it costs significantly more. Ms. McPhail stated that the cost included security and that cost is necessary because gangs were riding down on the school and that a lot of the costs are one-time expenses.

Mr. Esaw presented the Cash Flow Statement. He asked for the Board to notice that the July through October figures are actual expenses and revenue and that November through June figures are projected values, adjusted for enrollment. Mr. Esaw stated that the noticeable decrease in monthly expenditures is caused by timely monthly payments.

Ms. McPhail stated that 63 students have enrolled since count day and 3-4 students are enrolling each day.

President Robinson asked about the cost of utilities. Ms. McPhail stated that she instituted a sign-up sheet for school use after hours and reduces the air and heat when the building is not in use. Dr. Robinson said that Federal money may be available to offset utility cost. Member Devlin stated that DTE Energy has money available through the Department of Energy and he will work with Superintendent McPhail with the details of the program.

President Robinson accepted Financial Report and Cash Flow Statement. Motion to accept the amended budget was made by Member Devlin, seconded by Member Stewart, and was passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McPhail provided the board members with folders from the Anti-Bullying program.

Superintendent McPhail instituted grammar and composition courses for all students. She also designed an Individualized Student Learning Plan (ISLP) for each student. Ms. Williams-Thornton has implemented the plan.

Two weeks of mandatory professional development for all staff was held in August; Capturing Kids Hearts and the Glasser Model were used to train teachers and staff to create relationships with children.

Ms. McPhail mandated that all new and returning students have Individualized Student Learning Plans. Data from MME, Scantron, MEAP, and MLPP is used to identify strengths & weaknesses and develop strategies to address them.

Students have to master subject matter before going to the next grade. They are no longer moved to the next grade unprepared for their work at that grade level. Data is collected throughout the year to measure achievement.

9th graders have an additional period for project-based learning. The purpose of this is to give 9th graders something at the end of the day that they will enjoy such as video game development, etc.

Dr. Robinson stated that he has never seen individualized plans for each student and he is extremely pleased to see this new process at Detroit Community Schools.

School Psychologist, Dr. Jenkins presented the Developmental Assets Profile process. Affect drives cognition; knowing how one learns, thinks, and lives helps to determine his/her needs. Dr. Jenkins stated that Ms. McPhail exemplifies showing love, acceptance, and support for the students. Ms. McPhail stated that it's a huge amount of work, but it's worth it. She thanks staff members who go the extra mile to make it work by staying late. Dr. Jenkins stated that students are interviewed and referred to programs that support students' needs. Member Stewart asked if there are role models for the students. Ms. McPhail stated that students are referred as needed and that clubs have been formed. The clubs are led by staff and they provide

role models.

Ms. McPhail went on to say that Dr. Robinson provided training to staff, presenting the video “Valentine Road” to the staff and speaking to the staff about the movie and the impact of the gender identity crisis in an educational environment.

Superintendent McPhail stated that Detroit Community Schools’ standard is higher than state standards. Detroit Community Schools’ standard is mastery.

Member Mayes stated that he asked for a plan at the first meeting. He recognizes the information provided today as the answer.

Superintendent McPhail stated that SWAT, the School Wide Academic Team, ensures that teachers are teaching to lesson plans and for mastery.

Member Stewart asked Superintendent McPhail if the teachers have been prepared to implement the programs. Ms. McPhail said that they are.

Superintendent McPhail stated that the focus is on the entire child. Many students do not have access to basic needs. For example, she purchased a washer and dryer for use by the Athletic Department and to wash student uniforms. Coach Washington, Athletic Director, was introduced by Superintendent McPhail. Coach Washington stated that academics and athletics work together with Student Support Services to improve discipline.

Superintendent McPhail stated that Mr. Coleman has taken on the gargantuan task of developing Standard Operating Procedures for all areas of the district. They are available in a binder and on the intranet.

Superintendent McPhail spoke about the success of the debate team. She stated that Teach for America teachers are provided great training by Teach for America. The teachers have a great attitude toward our students, and are committed to education. There are currently, only two classes covered by substitute teachers and teachers have been hired to fill those positions. President Robinson suggested looking to Teach for America when openings are available to keep new energy. Superintendent McPhail stated that one Teach for America teacher was in a horrible accident. He is currently back at home with his parents in Ohio in rehab. Mr. Smith volunteered for everything and was also the Debate coach. He was working with the former debate coach and had continued the success of the winning team.

Nicholas Powell spoke about DECA seeing a great increase in membership this year and the students are excited to participate in conferences, workshops, and competitions. He will make a DECA presentation at the December meeting.

President Robinson received the Superintendent’s Report.

NEW BUSINESS

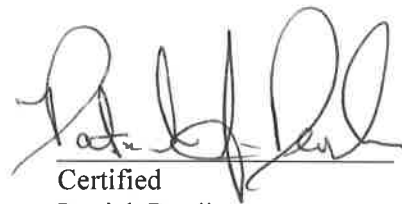
Member Tobier nominated Member Devlin to the position of Board Secretary. Member Mayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

School Founder, S. Bart Eddy, spoke about the Kickstarter campaign. The goal is to raise \$50,000 in one month towards the renovation of the attached garage. The campaign is halfway through the pledge period, \$10,635 has been pledged, and \$5,000 of the pledges were received the week of the meeting. Member Stewart inquired about details of the programs the space will support. President Robinson suggested that there be an off-line conversation about the program. Superintendent McPhail requested daily updates from Mr. Eddy about the progress of the campaign.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:52pm made by Member Devlin and seconded by Member Stewart. Motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Devlin', written over a horizontal line.

Certified
Patrick Devlin
Board Secretary