



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 Agenda - January 23, 2014

MINUTES

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Dakila Nelson, Jalin Adams, Shayla Thomas and Naye Williams of the 3rd Grade sang a song entitled "Dr. King" under the direction of 3rd Grade teacher, Ms. Cravens.

Chantel Moore and Deon Brewton, President and Vice President respectively of the 8th Grade student council read from the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Dr. Richard Robinson, called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm. Dr. Robinson recognized guests from Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU): Joseph Rousseau and Dave Lewis of the School/University partnership Office and attorney Joseph Urban.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Robinson and Secretary Devlin and Treasurer Tobier

Absent: Vice President Mayes and Member Stewart

QUORUM

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by Secretary Devlin and seconded by Treasurer Tobier. Agenda was approved unanimously with the following change: Swearing in of new Board Members was deleted due to absent members.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No public comments on the Agenda items. However, Mr. Joseph Rousseau of Saginaw Valley State University's School University Partnership Office advised that Agenda items that require discussion should be moved from the Consent Agenda section to the Discussion/Action Item section.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Secretary Devlin and seconded by Treasurer Tobier. All items approved unanimously with the exception of 2014-17 Technology Plan. The Technology Plan was moved to the Discussion/Action Item section of the Agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Candace Sweda asked that the Board approval of the Technology Plan include language that it incorporates approval of the Internet Protection Act provisions which is contained in the Plan. Motion was made by Member Devlin and seconded by Member Tobier. The resolution approving the Technology Plan was approved unanimously by the Board Members present.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Walter Esaw presented the Receipts & Disbursements report. He requested the approval of a proposed budget amendment incorporating the audited fund balance from the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Treasurer Tobier asked about the estimated number of additional students enrolled after Count Day (Section 25 students) and the impact this would have on DCS State Aid payment. Walter Esaw responded that the additional revenue has not yet been calculated by MDE. As this is the first year of the Section 25 program, Esaw said he was unable to estimate the payment.

President Robinson asked if Esaw was pleased with the audit results and the transition to the Wayne RESA SMART accounting system. Esaw stated that all of the audit findings have already been corrected and that the transition to the SMART system was proceeding as planned.

Secretary Devlin made motion to accept financial report with budget amendment. This motion was seconded by Treasurer Tobier.

Motion was passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McPhail discussed significant improvements in math, science and reading. Focus is on gaps to obtain mastery.

Superintendent McPhail discussed the official graduation rate of 86.55% that is based on the Cohort method that tracks incoming 9th graders through the 12th grade. The actual graduation rate of 12th grade students who successfully graduated was 98%! This number also includes students who graduated over the summer of 2013.

Superintendent McPhail acknowledged parent Coordinator Maureen Taylor's efforts in establishing a working relationship with DTE Energy. This relationship has resulted in avoidance of DTE shut off notices to many DCS families, thereby removing an impediment to students attending school.

Superintendent McPhail also briefly discussed the following initiatives:

- • • Bussing
- Extended Day Enrichment program for Core subjects
- 9th Grade Transition Program proved successful in preparing our incoming 9th graders for high school.

President Robinson asked about the progress we are making with Glasser Training.

Ms. McPhail responded that teachers are learning how to implement. More training is needed and more buy in is needed but we are making progress.

Mr. Joseph Rousseau (along with Dave Lewis and attorney Joseph Urban) of the SVSU School & University Partnership Office indicated that he and his colleagues at SVSU have concerns about academic progress at DCS. He indicated that he hopes that DCS submits an application for re-authorization. He also said he is developing a letter which will detail SVSU's concerns. It will be addressed to the Board President and Ms. McPhail.

Dr. Robinson advised Mr. Rousseau that he and his Board Members have had discussions regarding whether or not to even apply for re-authorization with SVSU. Dr. Robinson inquired about the academic achievement of other SVSU charters in urban settings.

Mr. Rousseau replied that SVSU measures its charters against expectations- they do not compare their charters with one another and he again encouraged DCS to re-apply.

Dr. Robinson requested that SVSU send all communications to Ms. McPhail and she will forward to Board Members. Dr. Robinson inquired about the length of authorization that SVSU usually grants. Mr. Rousseau responded up to 5 years generally. Dr. Robinson asked how is the length determined? Mr. Rousseau responded that the charter school can request a contract term.

Mr. Rousseau advised that approval of Board Meeting minutes should not take place in Consent Agenda. Dr. Robinson stated that going forward, approval of Board Meeting minutes will be a stand-alone Discussion/Action Item.

CALL TO PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

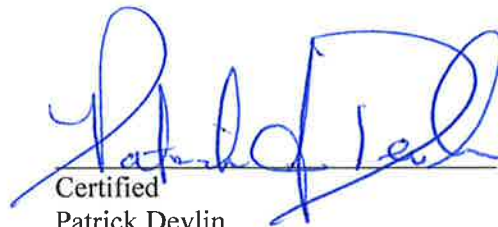
James Cockley (parent) of 2nd & 3rd Grade students asked about SVSU letter. Ms. McPhail indicated that it would be available to anyone as it is a public document. Mr. Cockley indicated that he very happy with DCS as a school for his children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014 in the Chemistry Lab located at Detroit Community Schools High School beginning at 6:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.


Certified
Patrick Devlin
Board Secretary