



Detroit Community Schools
EDUCATION IS POWER

For Immediate Release
October 16, 2019

Contact: Nancy Berkompas
Superintendent
313 537-3570

**Detroit Community Schools Board of Directors
Stands Up for Local Students**

Panel Adopts "Fairness First" Resolution, Protests Unequal Funding for Its School

[Detroit, MI]—Members of the Detroit Community Schools Board of Directors today voted to oppose Gov. Whitmer's recent veto of a plan to reduce the funding gap that unfairly penalizes students who choose to attend public charter schools.

In adopting its "Fairness First" resolution, the board said it was answering the learning needs of its own students and families.

"All Michigan students should receive the same per-pupil funding amount, no matter what school they choose to attend," said Nancy Berkompas, Superintendent. "To suggest otherwise is a violation of all that we believe as a society. We are a nation that prizes equality. Freedom. Opportunity. To create institutional inequity through this kind of budget policy is harmful and wrong."

According to its resolution, the board believes the governor's actions are political moves that victimize <<Detroit Community Schools>> students. The measure states the board's contention that its students are being singled out, because every other public school student in Michigan received its legislatively-appropriated funding amount.

"Only public school students attending charters are being discriminated against by this action," the resolution said.

The resolution calls on the governor and legislature to come to an agreement that quickly restores the \$240 per pupil increase its FY 2020 school budget was built upon.

A full copy of the resolution is attached.

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BOARD RESOLUTION

FAIRNESS FIRST: A Resolution to Oppose the Governor's Budget Cut of \$240 Per Charter Public School Student

Recitals:

1. As a charter public school, Detroit Community Schools is a public school under the Michigan Constitution of 1963. The school operates under the oversight of Bay Mills and is subject to the general supervision of the State Board of Education.
2. The Board of Directors of Detroit Community Schools "Board of Directors" are public officials who are subject to the same rights and responsibilities as all other public school board members. One of these obligations is to adopt an annual budget by July 1st of each year. Our Board has adopted this budget and is well underway in the 2019-20 academic year.
3. The Board adopted a FY 2020 budget with the best possible information available to it at that time. This included the assumption that charter public schools would receive a per-pupil funding increase equal to the per-pupil funding increase for all other public schools in this state.
4. On Monday, September 30, 2019, Governor Whitmer vetoed the \$240 per-pupil funding increase for charter public schools only. This Board views this veto as political in nature. We hold this view because every other public school student received the full amount of its legislatively-appropriated funding, and only public school students attending charters are being discriminated against by this action.
5. Because Detroit Community Schools is already four months into its fiscal year, the governor's veto necessitates budget cuts that will be harmful to our students and teachers.
6. These cuts will further compound the equity gap between public charter schools and other public schools because public charter schools already receive significantly less funding than other public schools.
7. The Board believes that this action is unfair and unjust because students at (Detroit Community Schools) deserve the same funding as all other public school students.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Detroit Community Schools hereby expresses its dismay and disappointment with state policymakers and the budgeting process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board calls on Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature to take immediate action and restore the \$240 per pupil increase for Michigan's public charter schools.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Detroit Community Schools) at its meeting held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at which a quorum was present.

Motion brought by:

Desmon Daniel

Seconded by:

Sheryl Thomas Matthews

Action Taken:

Support

Signature: [Signature]
Board Secretary of Detroit Community Schools