

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, July 11, 2017 – 5:30 P.M.**

**Cass Technical High School  
2501 Second Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201**

## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

The Regular Board Meeting for the Detroit Public Schools Community District was called to order by President and Chair Dr. Iris Taylor at 5:30pm.

### **Roll Call**

Secretary to the Board, Karen Morgan called the roll:

Present: Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Georgia Lemmons, LaMar Lemmons, Sonya Mays, Angelique Peterson Mayberry, Misha Stallworth, and Iris Taylor

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

### **Meeting Norms**

Meeting Norms were read to the audience by Chair

### **Moment of Silence**

Chair called for a moment of silence

### **Student Presentation**

Color Guard, “Star Spangled Banner”, and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

### **Welcome**

Welcome and greetings were given by Lisa Phillips, Principal

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## **Approval of the Agenda**

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the agenda

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Treasurer Mays motion to amend the agenda to add as an action item the Resolution Approving the Refunding of the School Loan Revolving Fund.

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve agenda with inclusion

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Member L. Lemmons motion to approve the minutes one at a time

Treasurer Mays seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for Special Meeting on March 30, 2017

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting on May 12, 2017

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for the Budget Hearing on June 13, 2017

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on June 13, 2017

Secretary Stallworth seconded

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Treasurer Mays requested that the Secretary to the Board verify the language used on page 3 in the fourth paragraph under the President's Report. Secretary should also check page 4 regarding the results of the motion made to table the authorization of the movement of Durfee students.

Member L. Lemmons motion to defer the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2017 until review of tape  
Secretary Stallworth seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting on June 19, 2017

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Motion carried without objection

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting on June 23, 2017

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **President's Report**

President and Chair Dr. Taylor stated the Board have an opportunity to work with the firm Neola in developing the Board's Bylaws and Policy and Procedures. The firm will be paid with outside funding. Chair appointed Treasurer Mays to work with Secretary Stallworth as an Ad hoc Committee to report back to the Board on the process for the bylaw revisions and the development of policy and procedures.

## **Curriculum/Academic Sub-Committee Report**

Chair Dr. Hunter-Harvill presented the report for the Curriculum/Academics Sub Committee. Chair reported Dr. Rita Carpenter presented a video entitled, "One Choice Changes Everything". The video focused on the issue of prescription drug abuse. Dr. Carpenter in collaboration with CVS is seeking to bring the program and awareness of prescription drug abuse to DPSCD students.

Superintendent stated there is opportunity to use the program in the high schools. The Academics/Curriculum Instruction team will work towards a fall implementation plan and report back to the committee.

David Thomas Vice President of Business Development with Accelify Corporation provided a presentation on the company's software program for Special Education Management. The program is used in 20 states and works with 120 school districts.

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Chair stated several committee recommendations will be brought forth later in the meeting. Chair mentioned the committee recommend acknowledgment of retiring principals with 15 plus years of service. Teachers and other staff will be recognized in the future.

Committee members attended the Urban School Conference Empowerment Series Workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 28 through June 30, 2017. Committee Chair also attended the City of Detroit and DPSCD Recreational Center Press Announcement held at East English Village Preparatory Academy on July 6, 2017.

An article from Educational Week Spotlight on literacy and instruction was given to the Board for informational purposes.

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the Curriculum/Academics Report

Member G. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **Finance Sub-Committee Report**

Treasurer and Chair Mays presented the Finance Sub-Committee Report. The Finance Sub Committee met on July 7, 2017. Tony Saunders, Interim Chief Financial Officer and Christine Burkette, Senior Executive Director of Technology attended the meeting.

Mr. Saunders is conducting a comprehensive overview of the Pistons Red Wings transaction as discussed at the Special Meeting. A more detailed analysis will be provided by Mr. Saunders at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

The leadership team was informed that two (2) of the trips recommended for approval were taking place prior to FRC approval. Chair stated moving forward, trips should not be approved that are taking place prior to the FRC approval date.

Along with out-of-state travel requests and contract approvals, Chair is recommending approval of a borrowing request from the School Loan Revolving Fund of \$44.6 million dollars to cover the property tax shortfall for the District's operating debt. The amount is \$10 million dollars more than what was borrowed last year.

The Board authorized the Finance Committee to make a decision in April on whether to proceed with the refunding of the Legacy DPS operating debt. The Committee decided to proceed and the transaction is due to

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close in about 10 days. A resolution to support the funding request has been added to the agenda. The next Finance Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 21, 2017 at 9:00am in the Fisher, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference room.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motion to accept the Financial Sub-Committee Report

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Motion Carried without objection

## **Educational Achievement Authority (EAA) Ad hoc Committee**

Treasurer Mays moved to dissolve the EAA Ad hoc Committee.

Member Stallworth seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent requested Roderick Hardamon, EAA Transition Manager, to provide a report on the final steps of the EAA Transition.

## **EAA Transition**

Mr. Hardamon stated as of June 30, 2017, EAA had been officially dissolved. All buildings have been turned over and locks changed. EAA Summer School begin on July 5, 2017 with 48 percent of students enrolled. The target was 50 percent. There was a one hundred percent growth rate in the high schools with a lower number for Grades K-8. The total population of students in EAA was 4,000. The target was at least 2,000 but it is currently a little over 1,000 students. A project manager has been hired to assist with the execution of Central Durfee as well as Southeastern. There are no teacher vacancies in summer school. A hiring manager has been assigned to recruit as many teachers as possible. On the operations side, extra security was added to the schools for the safety and security of the buildings. The focus is now on renovations for the opening of schools. There are targeted sessions to engage the community around the Central Durfee and Southeastern schools.

Treasurer Mays requested an update on enrollment projections for the fall and indications if numbers will hold, decline, or increase.

Mr. Hardamon stated there were no significant changes of estimates to date.

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Treasurer Mays asked if there were adequate resources to do as much as possible to insure we are retaining teachers, principals, and students and using a leverage to encourage those to join the District.

Superintendent stated one of the obstacles they are struggling through is creating a better information system to insure enrollment is an accurate projection of what it would look like in the fall. The District have adequate resources to engage parents and community to increase enrollment and will work on program development. Teacher salaries is the negative impact EAA teachers are facing. Principals are nearly fully staffed District wide. Vacancies left will be addressed by next week.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry asked if there was a dollar amount for renovation costs.

Superintendent stated there are not numbers he is confident with so a deeper study is needed. A long-term broader analysis of schools need to be done for acceptable standards.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill asked are those students receiving curriculum from what DPSCD is doing or following through with EAA's curriculum and what plans for professional development are there for a seamless curriculum type transaction.

Superintendent stated EAA schools were allowed to maintain their current curriculum. Uniformity will come in years 2018/2019.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill asked was there professional development received this summer.

Superintendent stated right now it is school based for EAA schools and largely network based or school based with the District. There are no plans in place during the summer due to not wanting to make major and massive changes insuring continuity.

Member L. Lemmons stated for the record, we should be aware that when they created EAA they utilized DPS resources to do so. The former Board asked to be compensated for staff and resources to create a competing District. At the time, there were 12,000 students in the high schools. Eleven thousand (\$11,000) students did enroll initially. The State experiment has caused a massive depletion of students and the use of our resources without the consent of local voters or elected representatives (predecessors to this body).

Member L. Lemmons asked the Chair to request the Superintendent to look into legal remedies and redress for the action committed by the State upon the District. Secondly, getting some type of waiver in our transition as

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we rebuild the district. The state will be putting pressure on our district about seats and will want to close schools. The State will be in short order to pressure the District to right-size the district and close schools. Request a waiver and seek redress on Headlee and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Phyllis Hurks-Hill, General Counsel requested the information in writing.

Chair stated the Secretary will provide the request in writing.

Member L. Lemmons stated he would provide a more thorough written request.

Superintendent provided a report on academics, talent, and operations of the District with an overview of the reorganization that has occurred on the District level

## **Academics**

Core curriculum and instructional positions have posted on the District's website. Summer School began on Tuesday, June 26, 2017 and the City Recreational Department partnership with DPSCD began on Monday, July 10, 2017. The partnership at the schools is an opportunity to share resources with the city while providing a safe environment over the summer for students.

The Academics focus is to re-staff curriculum instruction in academics. Positions have posted in reading, math, science and social studies. The core element of reorganization is to redesign the work to raise student achievement with a focus on the new standards requiring a new team and structure. The team will do an analysis of partnership school strategies. Detailed strategies on raising student achievement will be presented to the board in a couple of months. The team is working on refining a new testing calendar to limit the amount of duplicate testing to focus on learning and not testing. The new testing calendar will come before the Academic Committee at their next meeting. Working with Wayne RESA on a curriculum audit for reading and math and will engage national experts to analyze where we are in the District.

Will engage teachers and principals on new materials for 2018/19 and training on understanding the standards on reading and math with no adoptions until 2018/19. Michigan Legislature passed a law that states this year's kindergarteners will be held accountable for passing the third grade test by the time they are in third grade. We have to move faster aligning assessments to prevent retention.

Superintendent pulled the Atlas Laptop recommendation from the agenda to expand the initiative by the fall.

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## **Operations**

The number of vacant positions in operations will be posted and the department reorganized to better support schools with clearer accountability. There will be a broader Request for Proposal (RFP) to analyze the degree at which the facilities are at for 2017/2018 standards.

The District is preparing for the opening of schools by meeting with principals, staff, central office, budget, and all departments to better understand where the district stands for the opening of schools.

Currently exploring options for Human Resources and Family and Community Engagement to move to another building that is more accessible for staff and community.

Currently working with the Board for Board policy review and strategic planning and development.

## **Talent**

There will be a complete restructuring of Human Resources with a number one focus on staffing for the fall. All administrative contracts will be shifted to one year contracts without perks.

Principal positions will be posted for individual schools with feedback from parents, community and stakeholders.

For the first time, Assistant Principal positions will be posted. Superintendent recognized Member and Academic Chair Dr. Hunter-Harvill for her encouragement to opening up the process to tie positions to individual school sites. District level positions will be posted as well.

The new Chief Financial Officer will be identified by the end of July or early August as well as a detail plan regarding restructuring of the Budget office.

The District will continue the contract with Ernst and young with a short and long term plan for staffing the office of budget and finance.

There will be greater accountability and transparency analyzing details of revenue and expenditures districtwide moving into zero based budgeting process for this year.

The focus will be on creating the foundation for a new District.

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The current reorganization of the District created \$5 million dollars in revenue with 60 teachers moving back into the schools. A reorganization of cabinet has taken place in an effort to retain and elevate local talent, recruit executive leaders who are superintendent ready, and to continue to search for high-potential leaders through the interview process. Duplicate positions have been eliminated, communications will be streamlined, and the network structure has been eliminated to focus on academics and student achievement. Many positions were non-renewed with some being asked to reapply for their positions.

Superintendent introduced his staff Tony Saunders, Luis Solano, Rod Hardamon, David Donaldson, Iranetta Wright, Jeremy Vidito, Kristan Howard, Felicia Venable, Christine Burkette, Sharlonda Buchman, and Liz Cultrona.

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the Superintendent's Report  
Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member L. Lemmons asked are there plans for an impact study to evaluate and assess the EAA experiment and emergency management on the students, student population, morale, finance, physical plant, enrollment, test scores, and everything with objective benchmarks from 1999 to the present. Also noting to request outside funding or state monies for the study.

Superintendent stated he would be interested to know if there are any studies in the works but none that he is aware. If it is the will of the Board, Superintendent will research options.

Chair stated there is a strategic planning session for July and August and would like to request to defer the discussion to be placed on the agenda at that time.

Treasurer Mays asked Superintendent to include in the business office restructuring plan the analysis of the overall central office restructuring that has been done with a crosswalk between the old salary load and the new as well as for the restructuring for Human Resources.

Motion carried without objection

## **Finance report**

Tony Saunders, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the report on the District's finances. District revenues are on track but are a little less than projected. Expenditures are below projections due to vacancies.

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There is \$62 million dollars of cash on hand that is unrestricted. The final budget will remove the existing vacancies.

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the Finance Report  
Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member L. Lemmons asked what will be done about the vacancies and what is the plan to reconcile that with the projected budget.

Superintendent stated they are looking to see what was budgeted and what was anticipated as far as vacancies were concerned. There is a \$8 million-dollar assumption, at the high level, regarding vacancies. The commitment is to be fully staffed come the fall. If shifts in the budget have to occur a request will be made through the finance committee. The budget will not be allowed to get in the way of teacher staffing. There are lots of contracts and dollars allocated to undefined projects.

Chair stated that there was a request made that the incoming budget would not be predicated on vacancies but a realistic number of vacancies moving forward.

Motion Carried without objection

## **Action Items**

### **Out-of-State Travel**

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the three (3) out-of-state travel requests for this month totaling \$14,853.00.

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Treasurer Mays reminded the leadership team that trips one and two scheduled to take place prior to the Financial Review Commission (FRC) meeting needs to have some sort of special attention to make sure we are in compliance particularly the trip that has already started.

Motion carried without objection

### **Ernst & Young, LLP**

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the renewal of an 11-month contract with Ernst & Young, LLP.

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Secretary Stallworth seconded  
Motion carried without objection

## **Renaming Southeaster High School**

Superintendent stated that the recommendation to change the name of Southeastern has gone through the Academic Committee. The reason is for the rebranding of the school as an exam high school with a special program. According to staff there was extensive stakeholder engagement.

Treasurer Mays motion to approve renaming of Southeastern High School to Southeastern Collegiate Preparatory Academy  
Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member L. Lemmons requested to amend the motion to rename Southeastern High School to Southeastern Renaissance Collegiate High School.

Treasurer Mays accepted for further discussion

Secretary Stallworth asked Superintendent what extent was marketing and branding in regards to the name.

Superintendent stated marketing as designed by the enrollment office was involved with the name.

Treasurer Mays requested to push the discussion of school names to the strategic planning meeting and asked what is the timeline with the renaming process.

Superintendent stated the name change would not affect the school code but the lack of would create discomfort with the enrollment team and at the school level.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry asked when it was tabled did the enrollment and academic team go out to the community and did the community come up with the name.

Superintendent stated previous to his administration the intent was for an exam high school with a college prep program. The name change was not a part of the process but there was stakeholder engagement involved in the program and the name.

Treasurer Mays withdrew her motion

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Secretary Stallworth motion to send the renaming of Southeastern High School back to DPSCD staff for marketing input and stakeholder engagement.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Roll Call

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes
Georgia Lemmons	No
LaMar Lemmons	No
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	Yes
Misha Stallworth	Yes
Iris Taylor	Yes

Motion Carries

## **Durfee Relocation**

Treasurer Mays motion to remove the previous motion of the June 13, 2017 meeting to table her motion to authorize movement of Durfee students from the existing Durfee into Central at the start of the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 until the Academic Committee Report is presented.

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member L. Lemmons move to amend the motion for Life Remodeled to modify the contract to make Durfee available for Grades K-8 and to seclude a cordon of space to secure their mission allowing negotiation to proceed.

Member G. Lemmons seconded

Treasurer Mays requested her motion to stand alone.

Roll Call for Treasurer Mays motion

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes
Georgia Lemmons	No
LaMar Lemmons	No
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	Yes
Misha Stallworth	Yes

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Iris Taylor  
Motion Carries

Yes

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill asked the Superintendent was he currently in talks with Life Remodeled to do some of the things requested in Member L. Lemmons motion.

Superintendent stated the District have engaged with Life Remodeled and they are open to renegotiate the contract. The focus would be on the advisory board already defined in the agreement and clear deliverables that will have to be met. There was no discussion on the amendment for space specific to Grades K-8.

Chair asked Superintendent if Durfee in the present condition was appropriate for learning.

Superintendent stated if you look at what is ideal for our children, it is not ideal.

Treasurer Mays asked Member L. Lemmons in light of the information that the district is already in re-negotiation with Life Remodeled would you entertain an amendment to allow that negotiation to proceed as defined?

Member L. Lemmons stated there is no need to amend if action is taking place.

Mr. Lemmons then asked the Superintendent if there were other schools as you described that will be operating that are in similar condition given a fair assessment.

Superintendent stated there are schools where children are being educated that are not ideal. Superintendent amended his statement to say students are safe but do not believe the facilities are not ideal based on 2017/2018 standards.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill stated there are several schools in the state that are Grades K-12. In order to make it work you have to have highly qualified teachers, outstanding professionals, and principals.

Treasure Mays added that although there are concerns about the lease there is at least one legal opinion that says we are not in an optimum legal position.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill said to give the Board a chance. They did not make the call but are living in the mess and are trying to straighten it out.

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Member L. Lemmons stated the key is to ask Life Remodeled to voluntarily negotiate so there are no legal challenges.

Secretary Stallworth asked Member L. Lemmons if he was asking the Superintendent to include in current negotiations.

Member L. Lemmons restated the motion to request that Life Remodeled voluntarily modify the contract with Durfee School to make available the necessary space for DPSCD to operate a K-8 program while allowing them to secure, seclude and cordon off space to necessary for them to fulfill the Life Remodeled mission in the Durfee facility.

## Roll Call

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	No
Georgia Lemmons	Yes
LaMar Lemmons	Yes
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	No
Misha Stallworth	No
Iris Taylor	No

Motion Fails

## Osborn Consolidation

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill motion to consolidate the academic program at Osborn Academy

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

Member L. Lemmons asked if the same is being considered for Cody Academy.

Superintendent stated the analysis was clear for Osborn but an analysis will be done for Cody as well.

Member L. Lemmons asked the Superintendent if it was his recommendation that those schools be consolidated.

Superintendent responded at Osborn but Cody needs more study.

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Motion carried without objection.

## **Turning Point Academy**

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill motion to relocate Turning Point Academy students in Grades K-8 to the Fleming Early Learning Neighborhood Center Campus.

Member G. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **Resolution for Retiring Principals**

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motion to approve the Resolution to Honor Principals with 15 plus years of service.

Member Dr. Hunter-Harvill seconded

Motion Carried without objection

## **School Loan Revolving Fund**

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the borrowing from DPS of \$44.6 million from the School Loan Revolving Fund.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **Library Commission**

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motion that after interviewing 5 candidates for the vacant position of Library Commission, the committee recommend the appointment of Russ Bellant.

Member G. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

## **DPS School Loan Revolving Fund Debt**

Treasurer Mays motion to approve the Resolution to Proceed with the Refunding of the DPS School Loan Revolving Fund Debt.

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Member L. Lemmons asked the Superintendent does he recommend that the Board take that position.

Superintendent stated in the affirmative.

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Motion carried without objection.

## **Closed Session**

Chair moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.267 (e), to consult with attorney and MCL 15.267 (b). to consider the dismissal suspension or disciplining of a student if the public body is part of the school district, and MCL 15.267 (h), material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal law.

## Roll Call

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes
Georgia Lemmons	Yes
LaMar Lemmons	Yes
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	Yes
Misha Stallworth	Yes
Iris Taylor	Yes

Members went into Closed Session at 7:15pm

Members returned from Closed Session at 7:54

Secretary Stallworth motion to come out of Closed Session.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry seconded

Motion carried without objection

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motion to approve reinstatement of student with conditions as recommended by the Reinstatement Committee.

Member L. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motion to approve the settlement recommendation in case number 15-CV-11949

Members L. Lemmons seconded

Motion carried without objection

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## **Announcement(s) and Acknowledgement(s)**

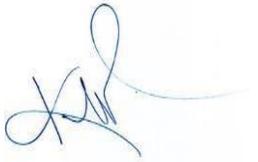
Principal Patricia Hines received a Resolution for Retired Principals with 15 plus years of service.  
Principal Lisa Phillips was acknowledged for her nomination for LifeChanger of the Year.

## **Public Comment**

Several participated in Public Comment

## **Adjournment**

Chair motioned for adjournment  
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



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Certified:

Karen Morgan, B.S.B.M  
Secretary to the Board