

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

## BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2017 – 5:30pm  
Fisher Building, 3011 W. Grand Blvd.  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Detroit, MI 48202

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education of the Detroit Public Schools Community District was called to order by President Taylor at 5:30pm.

#### Meeting Norms

Meeting Norms were read by the President

#### 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.

\*present after roll call

#### Moment of Silence

President called a Moment of Silence

#### Call for Special Board Meeting

Secretary of the Board Karen Morgan read the following statement:

I, Karen Morgan, Secretary to the Detroit Public Schools Community District Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing Notice of the Special Board of Education Meeting was delivered to each Board of Education Member on Monday, February 6, 2017, pursuant to its applicable statute.

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

## **Approval of Agenda**

Chair called a motion to approve the Agenda

Secretary Stallworth moved the motion

Treasurer Mays seconded with all members in favor

Motion carried unanimously

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair called for a motion to defer Minutes for the following meetings until the February 14, 2017 Board Meeting:

- January 19, 2017 – 5:30pm Minutes
- January 24, 2017 – 5:30pm Minutes
- January 24, 2017 – Closed Session Minutes

Treasurer Mays moved to defer Minutes until the February 14, 2017, Board Meeting

Secretary Stallworth seconded with all members in favor

Motion carried unanimously

## **Closed Session**

Chair read the statement for Closed Session Pursuant to MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (h)

Chair called a motion to go into Closed Session

Treasurer Mays moved the motion

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member Hunter-Harvill requested to go into Closed Session after the Update on the Superintendent Search.

Motion to go into Closed Session was voted down

Treasurer Mays called a motion to amend the previously approved agenda to change the order to move the Update on the Superintendent Search ahead of Closed Session.

Member Hunter-Harvill seconded with all members in favor

Motion carried as amended

## **Update on the Superintendent Search**

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry provided an update on the Superintendent Search regarding surveys, community meetings, Flyer for approval, salary range, and timeline for interviews. The top five (5) recommendations from the Superintendent survey were:

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

1. Is willing to listen to input but is a decision maker”
2. Possess the leadership skills required to respond to the challenges presented by an ethnically and culturally diverse community.
3. Is able to work with legislatives on key topics and can lead an organization throughout the legislative process.
4. Possess an earned Ed.D. Education degree or Ph.D.
5. Inspires trust self-confidence and models high standards of integrity and personal performance with the ability to develop and communicate a vision of quality education for the future to the board, the staff, and community.

It was requested that several changes be made to the flyer such as language, appearance, and salary. Alexis Wiley from the Mayor’s office will assist with this effort.

Treasurer Mays moved that the Board delegate authority to approve the final flyer to the Superintendent Search Committee

Various members echoed a second  
Motion carried unanimously

Roll Call for Closed Session was called  
Secretary to the Board, Karen Morgan called the roll:

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

There being a quorum in favor  
Members will go into Closed Session

Treasurer Mays moved that the Board come out of Closed Session (6:57pm)  
Member L. Lemmons seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously

Chair noted for the record Member L. Lemmons has joined the meeting.

## DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry motioned to engage Miller Canfield to file a complaint for Declaratory Action and Injunctive Relief in regards to State School Reform Office's (SSRO) authority.

All members echoed to second  
Motion carried unanimously

A Roll Call on the Motion for the Record was called by Secretary to the Board, Karen Morgan:

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

The following statement was read by the Chair:

“For the first time in nearly a decade, the City of Detroit has a true board made up of educators, executives, and community leaders, an elected Board with greater authority and influence in the educational process in the City of Detroit. Yet just days into our term, the State School Reform Office (SSRO/SRO) has listed sixteen (16) low-performing DPSCD Schools and eight (8) EAA schools on a potential closure list regardless of whether those children or families have quality schools in their neighborhoods. The SRO advised Detroit parents that if their school is closed they should consider sending their child to schools as far as Holly and East China to find quality schools.

Since 2009 when the State Emergency Managers took over Detroit schools, over 150 schools in Detroit have been shuttered. These closures have imposed serious hardship on Detroit school children. Study after study have indicated these students are forced to switch schools unexpectedly. Their academic performance suffers, their absenteeism rate increase, and the risk that they would drop out of school skyrockets. Yet, the SRO is considering closing still more schools inflicting new educational injuries on a population of students that have already suffered. This is simply not right! The DPSCD School Board is committed to improving the schools and not shutting them down. To that end, the Board has directed DPSCD Management to rapidly complete improvement plans for each of these schools. We have spoken to Governor Snyder's staff and he has committed that thoughtful analysis will be done before the schools are closed. Meanwhile, we authorized

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

DPSCD to take legal action when timely and appropriate to present why we believe these school closures cannot legally move forward. We are hopeful that we can work with the state to avoid any action, however, we reserve the right to do so. We look forward to presenting a plan for improvement for the SRO and families of Detroit”.

## **Public Comment**

Several Public Comments were made in support of the Board’s vote to litigate

Chair requested motion to adjourn

No objections meeting adjourned at 7:28pm



Certified:

Karen Morgan, B.S.B.M

Secretary of the Board