

Statement by Robert C. Bobb
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Today we are announcing a series of extremely bold moves that will significantly reorganize the Detroit Public Schools to focus on student achievement, to become more innovative and agile, to restructure failing programs, to redirect resources to meet the needs of the present and future families in our district, and to in all cases ensure the most qualified leaders are guiding our children's schools and programs.

We have recently concluded very intensive processes involving leadership selection, school restructuring, reinvestment, and school closing and consolidation. We are connecting all of the dots to ensure the right schools, teams and programs are in place across the Detroit Public Schools.

First, we will restructure 40 Detroit Public Schools which are miserably failing our students, and the students and their parents deserve better from this school district. This includes every Detroit Public School - high school, middle school and elementary school, that is in Phase 4 or higher of Adequate Yearly Progress. That means that they have not met AYP in reading, math, English language arts and/or attendance. We will implement for these schools various management options, including contracting with private management, conversion to a charter school or replacing all staff within a school, and changing the curriculum. In addition, we will restructure those schools whose AYP status has been reset as a result of

population changes but continue to fail to make AYP. We are not satisfied with the number of schools that have been restructured in the past in this school district. Yes, we are starting this process over, boldly and more aggressively. The restructuring in the past has not proven to increase student achievement. We can no longer afford to let our children linger in chronically underperforming schools, and we must take dramatic action to ensure that all of our children have the opportunities they need to be successful in our school system and beyond. Throughout the summer we will work diligently to develop restructuring plans for each of our level 5 schools. These plans will be completed prior the start of next school year.

[list in attached link]

Second, and as many of you know, I have non-renewed every principal, assistant principal, and every administrator, 786 individuals, in the school district, for the reasons of economic necessity and reorganization of the school district. We have conducted a very in-depth analysis of every administrator in this pool, through 635 hearings that I have personally conducted, to determine who our school leaders will be and who we will place in front of our children moving forward. The DPS Chief Academic and Accountability Auditor Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett, the Assistant Superintendents and I have reviewed all data on all schools and all administrators, and have made several important decisions about the future of our school district.

At our redesigned small schools at the Cody and Osborn High School campuses, we have identified the leadership teams as follows:

School of Small Schools at Cody:

Upper School of Teaching and Learning	Cheryl Harshaw
Detroit Institute of Technology	Dr. Gabriela Gui
Academy of Public Leadership	Johnathan Matthews
Academy of Critical Thinking	Lisa Robinson
Academy of Medicine and Community Health	Michael Barclay

School of Small Schools at Osborn:

Upper School of Global Communications and Culture	Dr. Carmen Wilson
Academy of Math, Science and Technology	Dr. Dennis Myles
Evergreen Academy of Design and Alternative Energy	Raynard Pitts
Academy of Public Safety and Homeland Security Science	Thomas Parker

These communities have concluded a thorough one year planning effort and these school leaders will participate in national leadership training next week.

For all the other schools in the district, assignments will be released Thursday. We are completing the vetting process for leadership of all schools and will make notification of those assignments Thursday. In some cases, one year contracts will be awarded and in other cases contracts will be

for two years. In other cases we will within the next two weeks conduct a national search to attract the next leadership for particular schools.

Third, we will close a total of 29 schools starting with the 2009-2010 school year. These decisions are based on a review that was the most thorough in DPS history. These moves will save the district \$14 million annually starting with the 2010-2011 budget, and the square footage we are charged with maintaining by 2,000,000 sq. ft. We will also notify the next set of candidate schools for closure this summer.

The vetting process, which included significant community input, altered some of our plans, such as the decision keep Columbus Middle School open due to street-level reports regarding the gang activity in this area. Instead, we are restructuring this site to become a Pk-8 school, a model we will emphasize in our grade configurations in bringing the Brewer Elementary School to this site and renaming the building. This will be an ideal site to invite in private management to lead the charge going forward. As such, Dr. Byrd-Bennett will be exploring a partnership with KIPP, the Knowledge is Power Program. KIPP is a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools with a track record of preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. Similarly, on the far west of the city, parents of students who are being reassigned to the Murphy School have expressed strong and convincing arguments regarding the current academic quality of the program there. That site will be our second to implement private management.

The schools to be consolidated or closed for the 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

[list in attached link]

Fourth, we will invest \$123 million in stimulus funds through the Qualified School Construction Bond program. Our first project will be to rebuild and replace Finney High School, with doors to open the first day of school in fall 2011 at an estimated cost of \$70 million. In the meantime Finney will be relocated to the McNair building to allow for this construction to take place over the next 24 month period. Additionally, we will invest \$36 million of this bond program in a new PK-8 school to serve the Brightmoor and surrounding neighborhoods, also for the 2011-2012 school year. This new school will be located near and will encompass Vetal or Harding Elementary Schools as well as the Burt Elementary School closing these existing schools.

As you can see, DPS is moving forward on all fronts. Our charge is to build a school system of excellence from the ground up and it is going to take a massive effort to accomplish this task. I am convinced that in Detroit, we have the energy, the momentum, the absolute desire to achieve.