

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** All Principals

**FROM:** Robert C. Bobb, Emergency Financial Manager *Robert C. Bobb*

**DATE:** May 20, 2009

**SUBJECT: BUILDING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EVERY SCHOOL FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD**

On May 26, 2009, all Detroit Public Schools teachers and other national educators will have a historic opportunity to participate in a workshop: “Building Centers of Excellence in Every School for Every Child in Every Neighborhood.” The workshop is a result of a joint meeting earlier this month between the leadership of DPS and Detroit Federation of Teachers with Randi Weingarten, national president of the American Federation of Teachers. A commitment was made for Ms. Weingarten to address all Detroit teachers and for our teachers to hear about educational innovations currently being implemented in other large urban districts. Presenters will discuss and answer questions about such topics as peer assistance and review, differentiated compensation, collaborative school-based decision-making, teacher centers, and school redesign.

**As a result, all Detroit Public Schools will be closed for students.** Furthermore, all principals, assistant principals, curriculum and instructional staff, assistant superintendents and other district leadership are expected to join with the entire DFT membership to attend this exciting event at Cobo Arena (details on parking will be forthcoming). The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. Registration will take place at Cobo Hall. You will then make your way to the arena for the Opening Session which begins at 9:00 a.m. The morning program is scheduled to end at approximately 11:30 a.m. At this time, DFT building representatives, principals, and assistant principals will go to Cobo Hall to attend break-out sessions that will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. The rest of the teaching and building-level curriculum staff will make their way to one of seven building sites scheduled to host afternoon break-out sessions that begin at 1:30 p.m. **Please see the attached chart**, and notify staff accordingly.

As we move toward “Building Centers of Excellence in Every School for Every Child in Every Neighborhood,” we are committed to working together, not only to reform the district but to transform it into one that creates an environment for 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning, and reforms the central and administrative functions of the district in the way we support teachers.

Directions regarding assignments to afternoon break-out sessions will be provided to staff as they sign in at Cobo Arena. Other details about the day will be forthcoming; however, if you have any questions, please direct them to your assistant superintendent.

Attachment: Chart for Staff Assignments for Professional Development Day, *Building Centers of Excellence in Every School for Every Child in Every Neighborhood*

cc: Ms. Teresa N. Gueyser, Esq., Acting General Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendents  
Ms. Veronica Brown, Associate Superintendent, Professional Development  
Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Chief Academic and Accountability Auditor  
Dr. June C. Green Rivers, Executive Director, Department of Literacy  
Ms. Sanual Mixon, Executive Director, Specialized Student Services  
and Pupil Personnel Services