May 5, 2020

Dear DPSCD Teachers,

We hope this note finds you well and in good health. The Detroit Public Schools Community District Board of Education would like to personally express our deep appreciation for your work and dedication to our students. The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has tested the integrity and tenacity of our staff and we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the work during this time. We understand there is no way of knowing all the things you are doing to support our students and families during the pandemic, but we do know you are making a tremendous impact district-wide.

We will look back on this time and feel proud of how we pivoted to distance learning and continued to place our students first. In case you need to hear it, we are making progress and look forward to continuing this transformation work.

As a moment of reflection, we started the 2019-2020 school year with good news indicating our students are making progress. DPSCD schools demonstrated improvement across all M-STEP tested grade levels (grades 3-7), outperforming the state average. This good news was a direct reflection of your work and reinforced that our transformation strategy is working. Students are positively responding and know this is just one of many examples of your work.

We are committed to continuing to invest in professional development and increasing salaries. These decisions are dependent on federal and state funding models and we will continue to advocate on your behalf to address the funding disparities when compared to surrounding districts. This is an important national presidential election year; we encourage you to vote for change. It’s time our nation and federal government understands the importance and power of public education and the important role teachers play in the lives of our children in Detroit.
We look forward to a time when we can all meet again. We are proud to serve our students alongside the best teachers in the nation.

Sincerely,
DPSCD Board of Education

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Students Rise. We all Rise

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