

Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting May 18, 2021

Update as of May 19, 2021: With a unanimous vote, the Board of Education approved the Continuity of Learning Plan on Tuesday (May 18) at its regular meeting. The vote means:

- Those students and teachers who decide to go back to classrooms for in-person learning as of **Monday, May 24, 2021**, can do so.
- It also means the District is honoring the current Letter of Understanding (LOU) between DPSCD and its teacher's union, the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT).
- The LOU between DPSCD and DFT recognizes that teachers can choose whether to teach in-person or online, given the pandemic, until June 30, 2021.

The Board of Education reminds you, that all DPSCD schools remain available to students and families through the Learning Centers. In the Learning Centers, students can do their online schoolwork under the guidance of school staff while also receiving breakfast and lunch. Check with your school for further details.

Other Board Meeting Highlights

The Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Regular Board meeting on May 18, 2021 included sharing district updates, Board and Superintendent recognitions, the monthly finance update and Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti's district report that reviewed key metrics as well as spotlighting an ongoing vaccination awareness campaign being led DPSCD students.

Please see highlights below.

Superintendent's Report-Vaccines and Testing

Dr. Vitti and the Board of Education hailed the efforts of the student led Teens for Vaccines information and accessibility campaign that is now underway. Highlights for the Teens for Vaccine campaign since the meeting, has included students led online information sessions as well as a successful district wide vaccination event on Saturday (May 22) that drew more than 200 people.

Dr. Vitti also spotlighted the District's high compliance rate for COVID-19 safety protocols (just under 97%), based on DPSCD's extensive safety mitigation plan. The plan now includes universal testing in all DPSCD schools and buildings as well as mandatory mask wearing for students, teachers and staff, social distancing, safety signage and deep cleaning of classrooms and school buses.

Superintendent's Report-Recognition

Dr. Vitti opened his report by recognizing Cass Technical High School senior Mohammad Muntakim with a Certificate of Excellence for his relentless pursuit of achievement, one of the District's priorities. Dr. Vitti hailed Mohammad's academic prowess that has resulted in his earning of an eight-year full ride scholarship to Wayne State University, where he intends to study medicine. He also saluted Mohammad's advocacy on district issues, his ability to address problems with solutions and his overall leadership.

Along with Mohammad, Dr. Vitti recognized the excellence of Renaissance High School. In a recent U.S. News and World Report survey, the school ranked as the number one high school in DPSCD, #16 among metro Detroit area high schools, #37 among state of Michigan high schools and among the top 1, 250 high schools in the country!

Superintendent's Report-Summer Learning Experiences and Mental Health Expansion

Dr. Vitti detailed highlights from the upcoming Summer Learning Experience, scheduled for July 12, 2021-August 5, 2021. He noted the enrichment facet of the program which will include opportunities for students to participate in the arts, music, and athletics along with academics. Dr. Vitti said high school students will have the opportunity for course recovery work. Literacy and math expansion will be available for K-8 students this summer. Dr. Vitti said the District will also expand mental health services to students, families, teachers, and staff to help combat emotional weariness brought on by the pandemic.

Upcoming Board Parent Listening Session and Community Meeting

The Board of Education reminded the community of its next Parent Listening Session, that was held on Tuesday, May 25. In addition, a Board Community meeting will be held Thursday, June 3, 2021 starting at 5:30 p.m. Check the DPSCD website and social media pages for more information on these and other Board of Education activities with the community.