

Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting August 10, 2021

The Detroit Public School's Community District (DPSCD) Board of Education approved the 2021-2022 school year Reopening Plan during its August board meeting which also featured Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti's monthly report as well as acknowledgement of the District's newest retirees and summer school students who completed their graduation requirements.

Superintendent's Report

With the start of the new school year less than one month away, Dr. Vitti said "80-90 percent" of DPSCD families contacted during the District's ongoing home visits this summer are ready to return to school this fall. He also noted how excited the District is for the upcoming school year. DPSCD's first day of school is Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Dr. Vitti shared details of DPSCD's comprehensive safety mitigation plan for the new year which is aligned with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and local health guidance and also agreed upon in collaboration with the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) union. The Board approved the fall reopening plan, [linked for review](#). Safety procedures the District will follow include:

- Required mask wearing by all students and adults while inside buildings and buses for both vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- Mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing via non-invasive saliva testing for all employees and students (parental consent required).
- Physical distancing (three feet for student seating).
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Deep cleaning and maintenance of schools, buses, and other facilities.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine as well as dedicated nursing staff at all schools.
- Daily symptom screening and temperature checks for students and staff.

Dr. Vitti noted that DPSCD, as it effectively did during the 2020-2021 school year, will monitor data pertaining to COVID-19 safety commitments in making its decisions concerning student, teacher, and staff. Dr. Vitti added that DPSCD's new Virtual School, set to come online this fall, has revised some of its admission thresholds and is an opportunity for families that are still sensitive to the possible impact of COVID-19.

In addition to the safety guidelines for the fall return, Dr. Vitti highlighted data gathered from Summer Learning Experiences (summer school) that ended on August 5, 2021 noting students are ready to get back to school.

Close to 90% of students said they felt they "learned something" while also noting that mathematics, being with friends and play, were their favorite elements of summer learning. He also detailed how DPSCD plans to further focus on mental health supports for students and families for the 21-22 school year which will include free workshops through Parent Academy, an expansion of parent support groups and using other means to share information on available mental health resources.

New Retirees and Graduates Hailed

The Board and Dr. Vitti acknowledged the dedicated service of the District's newest retirees, who were honored with a breakfast ceremony held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the Music Hall in downtown Detroit, sponsored by the Music Hall and First Independence Bank. In addition, Board President Angelique Peterson Mayberry, on behalf of the entire board, acknowledged the students who completed their high school graduation requirements this summer and became the District's newest alumni during a ceremony at Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School, also on August 10.