

DPSCD Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Student COVID Testing and Consent Form Use Among December Meeting Topics

At December's Board meeting, the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti reported that COVID-19 testing rates among students are well above medical best practices percentages and that the District plans to further ramp up the push for families to consent to testing as well as getting vaccinated when school resumes on January 3, 2022, after holiday break.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Vitti said that a return of Teens for Vaccines, the initiative last school year where DPSCD students advocated for COVID-19 vaccinations, along with spotlighting parents who have already been vaccinated, were among the plans anticipated for January. In addition, he said further steps to urge families to complete COVID-19 testing consent forms for their students were in the works.

"We know the quarantining process disrupts learning, creates frustration because families need to go to work and it is difficult for teachers to teach in person and online," said Dr. Vitti. "We need to move to attaining higher rate of vaccinated students, we know the testing is temporary."

While detailing those future actions, indicating there is preliminary discussion between the board and the Supt., Dr. Vitti also reminded the community of COVID-19 vaccination opportunities this week of December 13, 2021, in partnership with the Detroit Health Department (DHD) and other healthcare providers. Families are encouraged to [Get the Vax](#) at select school locations as well as through [DHD](#) while on holiday break.

As it relates to current events, Dr. Vitti acknowledged the Oxford incident and noted how all DPSCD schools review their active shooter plans at the start of the school year and conduct multiple drills. In addition, he shared a strong message about the importance of relationships, and trust building between school staff, teachers, and students. He emphasized the need for students to feel loved and supported. For more on this, please tune into the latest episode of, [On The Rise Podcast](#).

As part of the Superintendent's report, Dr. Vitti shared how DPSCD's average daily attendance rate for school was 10% higher than it was during the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Vitti also noted that the District had reached agreement on two-year deals with all its unions except one.

Robotics Teams and King Football Champs Recognized:

On behalf of the entire board, President Angelique Peterson-Mayberry saluted the efforts of the following DPSCD middle school robotics teams that will participate in state competition the weekend of December 17 and 18 at Macomb Community College:

- Techno Phoenix – FLICS
- The Robotic Bulldogs – Durfee Middle School
- Robo Potatoes – Earhart Middle School
- Robo Eagles – Clippert Magnet Academy
- Davison Dragons – Davison Middle School
- Neinas Dual Language Academy

- Astrobots - Bates Academy

President Peterson-Mayberry added that the teams earning a spot in state competition reflected the strong robotics programs DPSCD provides district wide. She also congratulated the Martin Luther King, Jr. Sr. High School football team on winning the Division 3 state football championship last month.