

## **DPSCD Board of Education April Meeting Highlights**

*Pandemic Status, Need to Keep Students Engaged and Come Home highlights with recognition to our Excellent Students and Staff for their fine work in the District*

During the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Board of Education April Board Meeting, the Board Chair updated the community on the District's plan for summer learning, the facilities master plan engagement process, and she welcomed the community to celebrate and learn about Arab American Heritage Month. We then celebrated the outstanding work performed by students and staff during the monthly board recognitions. Dr. Vitti included a pandemic update and reviewed attendance and curriculum data. He also encouraged the community to continue to support students as we navigate through this time of recovery.

Among the honorees during the board meeting are Adult Education teacher Christian Young who was lauded for being named the Adult Educator of the Year by the Michigan Reading Association. Carl Brownlee, a teacher at Fisher Upper Academy, was recognized for his work as the 2022-23 Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Regional 10 Teacher of the Year. Davison Elementary-Middle School Dragons academic games team were also recognized for excellence. The Dragons captured a state championship at the recent 47<sup>th</sup> annual Academic Games Super Tournament. The Davison team members recognized were: Adnan Siddiq, Zahid Saeed, Fahima Ali, Iffath Namira and Jannathul Rafa. The Davison team is coached by school educators Richard Vanacker and Akiva Woods.

### **Board Notes**

During Board President Angelique Peterson-Mayberry report, she also spotlighted the District's plan for Summer Learning Experiences 2022. Registration is set to open on **May 9** with classes in DPSCD's air-conditioned schools beginning on **July 11**. President Peterson-Mayberry also noted the ongoing community engagement with the District's [Facility Master Plan \(FMP\)](#), highlighting how the District has connected with more than 2,000 stakeholders through a series of online and in-person meetings in March and April. In conjunction with FMP, plans are being made for a vendor fair on **April 21**. To learn more about the plan and to take the survey, visit [detroitk12.org/fmp](http://detroitk12.org/fmp).

The Board recognized Arab American Heritage Month, being celebrated in April, highlighting how the Arab American culture adds richness to the diversity of DPSCD and our city.

### **Superintendent's Report**

In his monthly report to the Board and the community, Dr. Vitti said the District's COVID-19 infection rate the last four weeks was below one percent, continuing evidence that DPSCD's comprehensive safety mitigation measures are keeping students and staff as safe as possible. He noted that if infection rates continue to trend downward, DPSCD could invoke a masks optional indoor policy in the coming weeks.

Dr. Vitti also said that the daily attendance rate of students is higher as compared to the 2020-21 school year, while also recognizing an ongoing need for the community to help combat chronic absenteeism so the attendance rate could improve even more. Dr. Vitti closed his report by highlighting the upcoming DPS/DPSCD Come Home Alumni Gala weekend **May 19-May 22**. He invited the community to go to [detroitk12.org/comehome](http://detroitk12.org/comehome) to get details on planned activities that includes an Evening of Fine Arts featuring student performances; school tours, a bike stroll; block party on the Livernois Avenue of

Fashion and the culminating event, DPS/DPSCD Alumni Hall of Fame induction gala dinner. About 300 tickets remain for the dinner.