

April 2023 DPSCD Board of Education Meeting

During the regular scheduled April Board meeting, students from Renaissance High School provided an overview of their trip to Japan through the Board President's report. Students created a video of their eight-day trip through still photography and video. They demonstrated how traveling abroad opened them to new and exciting experiences.

Board reports:

Board Members provided their committee reports placing an emphasis on students first, Board Member Bishop Vaughn reported on engagement sessions with the clergy and faith-based partners to support students and families who are homeless and seeking volunteers for Let's Read.

Board Member McClendon reported on the Michigan Association of School Boards, "During my next meeting, I'll gain an understanding of the budget and funding. We will do a deep dive into the legislation and discuss teacher evaluations... I'm looking forward to advocating for our students in Detroit to continue to lobby for equitable funding."

Board Member Dr. Iris Taylor highlighted the Parents are Superheroes conference and the powerful convening and collaboration.

Board Chair Angelique Peterson-Mayberry highlighted that the Summer Literacy program at the Detroit Public Library is back with mobile libraries. The libraries have a partnership with the Science Center and Legos, they are planning for events, supplies and toys. The Board Chair also attended the Council of Great Cities Schools Legislative Conference.

Student Board Member report (no voting rights):

Lauren Hatten, a senior at Cass Technical High School and Amara Small, a junior at The School of Marygrove brought positive highlights and congratulated their student peers on their wins, from the Michigan Youth and Government Conference, Academic Games, Sports, Chess and Robotics. They put a special emphasis on the FLICS team for advancing to Worlds. They also addressed some student concerns regarding the end of federal funding, teacher engagement, and training. They also encouraged students to attend an upcoming student conference, SEE on May 5, 2023, designed to engage in student empowerment. If students are interested in attending the SEE Conference, please contact your school's principal.

The Board approved the Finance Report followed by student recognition.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Nikolai Vitti addressed the student's concerns. He also reviewed the State funding model to explain how the district is funded and to further provide context that the district is not equitably funded.

The Superintendent also reviewed the April metrics in his report before the opening of public comment.

The public commentators voiced concerns about employee cuts and budget concerns. Also, commentators highlighted the Davis Aerospace Space Station Connection.

The board will address process changes around employee positions that will not be funded next year. The Board Study session will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 5:30 PM.