

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Roy S. Roberts

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Dear Detroit Public Schools Staff,

There is a saying that has guided me throughout my life, “There is more opportunity ahead of us than behind us.” I strongly believe this to be the case with Detroit Public Schools.

With Public Act 436 having reinstated me as Emergency Manager of the district as of 12:01 a.m. today, I want to reassure everyone that I remain committed to the two goals I was given when I first began this journey: fixing a broken system so that Detroit’s children can be provided with the best education possible, and eliminating the crippling deficit that has for too long prevented much needed funds from going into the classroom.

As I’ve reported to you at other times, when we have worked together we have shown great progress on both fronts, as evidenced by unprecedented increases in MEAP scores and graduation rates, and a sharp reduction in the district’s legacy deficit. Given the magnitude of the job remaining to be done, it is going to take all of us, working together as a team, to continue to move this district forward where we successfully compete and begin to regain market share in terms of student enrollment. Everyone - teacher, principal, support staff, parent, supplier, community partner - has an important role to play in ensuring that DPS doesn’t just survive, but becomes a stronger, sustainable district.

I do not take the authority that Public Act 436 has granted me lightly. I know that with this authority comes great responsibility; responsibility to all of you as employees, to our 50,000 students and their parent and to the citizens of Detroit. On the academic side, we have a strong academic plan in place with highly capable leadership overseeing both centrally-managed and self-governed schools, and we must have the stability that has been lacking for far too long to successfully reach our goals.

To ensure this academic stability, supported by financial stability, the district today begins operations under Public Act 436. To clear up any confusion that may exist due to the dual leadership created by the repeal of Public Act 4, I want to inform you of several immediate actions that I am taking as Emergency Manager:

Entering of an Executive Order authorizing the rescinding or reversal of several Detroit Board of Education actions or attempted actions taken while Public Act 72 was in effect, which will include:

- Ratification and confirmation of employment contracts for all district staff, cabinet members

employed prior to the repeal of Public Act 4

- Reversal of actions taken by the Board of Education in attempts to create, maintain, contract for

and/or appoint persons to serve in positions in the district, including, but not limited to:

- Wesley Ganson
- Sherry Gay-Dagnogo
- Claude Tiller
- Jason Patton

▪ Keith Owens

- Termination of Dr. John Telford as Interim Superintendent and reappointment of Karen Ridgeway as Superintendent of Academics;

- Reconfirmation of school names in effect under Public Act 4;

Establishment of the scope of activity and budget for the Detroit Board of Education, including the

authorization of one regular board meeting per month at the district's expense;

Establishment of one monthly district-wide public meeting to be held and conducted by the Office of the

Emergency Manager, with the Detroit Board of Education being invited to report out to the community

at appropriate points throughout the year.

While Public Act 436 clearly gives me full authority over both fiscal and academic matters, I understand the importance of allowing the voice of the citizenry to be heard. I therefore intend to seek input from Board Members who wish to offer constructive ideas geared toward our ultimate goal of growing the district.

I know that these last few months have been filled with confusion and uncertainty. However, we have made it through those difficult times and can now focus on the future. As I've said before, if there is anything that I am certain of, it's that strength comes from everyone working together to get the job done.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Detroit's children. I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our goals.

Sincerely, Roy S. Roberts