As a reminder, all issues relating to individual matters raised during public comment, whether personnel or student and family related, will not receive a specific or detailed public response at the following board meeting. Those matters will be addressed by the Human Resources and Talent Department or a district representative immediately after your comment or as a follow up to it. District staff are in the audience to address your issues and concerns.

Academics and Programs

IS THERE ANY SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR STUDENTS WHO TRANSITIONED FROM THE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY WHO ARE NOW GRADUATING FROM THE DISTRICT IN THE CLASS OF 2018?

As we come to the close of the school year, all graduates are honored together recognizing the barriers to achievement they have overcome to reach this important milestone. As one Detroit Public Schools family, we will not differentiate among our talented graduates because they attended an EAA high school.

Talent

WILL THE DREAMKEEPERS PROGRAM CONTINUE?

Yes, we will continue this program as it will assist with our teacher recruitment efforts. This program will also allow us to further support our school communities. However, we are not relying on the program to fill current vacancies.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR FILING A COMPLAINT AGAINST STAFF?

To address staff complaints at the school level objectively, fairly, and expeditiously, please contact or visit your child’s school principal. If issues exist with your school’s principal, then please contact the Principal Leader, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, or the superintendent. For complaints against a District department or staff member, please contact the District help desk at (313) 240-4377. Suspected reports of fraud, waste, and abuse may be reported to the Office of the Inspector General at (313) 870-3436.

WHY WERE SCHOOL LEVEL WINNERS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED AT THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR EVENT?

The District held the 2017-2018 Educator of the Year Gala on May 11, 2018 where educators were recognized for their outstanding service and commitment to students, families and communities. While it would have been desirable to invite all levels of winners, we could not due to the number of nominees at the District level. Therefore, we asked individual work locations to acknowledge building level winners.
WILL SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS BE REPLACED WITH SCHOOL SERVICE ASSISTANTS?

No. Both positions play an important role to support our students but serve different roles.

IS THERE ASSISTANCE FOR BECOMING A CERTIFIED TEACHER?

In Michigan, becoming a certified teacher is guided by law, state administrative rules, and teacher preparation program standards. Michigan law and rules require that all individuals complete an approved preparation program to obtain initial certification or add endorsements to a certificate. An alternative route to teacher certification is a non-traditional preparation program designed for individuals who hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and are seeking to complete an expedited teacher preparation program. More information may be found on the [Michigan Department of Education Website](https://www.michigan.gov).

HOW WILL THE DISTRICT FILL TEACHER VACANCIES?

Next month the Board will consider a districtwide teacher recruitment plan. Please visit our website in July to review that draft document. It will include the already implemented national and state recruitment fairs, local fairs, and the recognition of full teaching experience outside of district, and one stop entry processing.

IS THERE A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY FOR STUDENT PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT BY STAFF?

Yes. The District has established work rules and state law prohibits corporal punishment.

PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5423 AND ITS BENEFIT TO THE DISTRICT

House Bill 5423 will allow the District to submit reimbursements in 2018 for the $6.5 million-dollar payment that was missed in 2017. The bill is available on the [Michigan Legislature website](https://www.legislature.mi.gov).

WHO MONITORS THE ATTENDANCE OF SCHOOL BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS?

Principal Leaders are required to approve leave and payroll for principals. Leave is reviewed with the Deputy Superintendent of Schools and appropriate follow-up is provided based on the findings.

ARE THERE CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AVAILABLE?

Yes. There are available offerings in our summer 2018 professional development catalog.

Facilities and Operations

WILL THERE BE A RENAMING EFFORT FOR CARSON/CROCKETT?

A Board policy regarding the renaming of schools is currently under consideration by the Board of Education. Upon adoption, school renaming may be proposed by appropriate stakeholders in accordance with the terms of the policy.

WERE PARENTS NOTIFIED REGARDING THE PEST ISSUE AT BATES?

Yes, but the communication should have occurred earlier. We have now standardized this expectation to communicate to parents immediately if pest issues arise at a school.
WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR PEST CONTROL AT PAUL ROBESON?

The District implements an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in schools in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Use of chemicals in schools to treat for pests is a last option that is exercised depending on the severity of the sightings.

The District schools are inspected one to two times per month, depending on the square footage of the school building by Eradico Services, a licensed pest control contractor. Sightings of pests are logged in the IPM logbook and maintained in the Main Office for the pest control service technician to address. It is a best practice that all food be properly stored and doors remain tightly closed to prevent the presence of mice.

CAN A COMMUNICATION BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS ON HOW TO HELP THEIR STUDENTS ASSIST WITH BEST PRACTICES IN PEST MANAGEMENT AT THE SCHOOL?

Yes, a communication from the Operations Department will share this information with the parents of students at select school to explain what the District looks for when there are sightings of mice. This communication will have an emphasis on improper storage of food in classrooms, propped doors, lack of door sweeps, and trash collection containers that are too close to the entrance of the building.

This communication will be presented and shared with parents this week.

SEIU REPRESENTATIVES ASKED WILL CUSTODIANS RECEIVE A LIVING WAGE

The national collective bargaining agreement with SEIU has a starting wage for custodians of $9.47 per hour. The new custodial contractors the District is considering are willing to pay above this rate.

WHEN WILL THE ROOF BE FIXED AT ANN ARBOR TRAIL?

The roof at Ann Arbor Trail will be replaced by Quality Roofing on or before the first day school in September 2018.

PROJECT GREENLIGHT IN SCHOOLS – WHY ARE WE CONSIDERING THIS PROGRAM AND WHAT, IF ANY, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT HAS OCCURRED?

Project Greenlight was approved for Randolph to protect a high investment in equipment upgrades to the school after previous theft. We are not considering the expansion of this program at this time at district schools.

Community Engagement

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) DISTRICTWIDE?

We currently have 87 PTA groups which is nearly 80% implementation districtwide. A PTA reception occurred last week. At this event, PTAs evaluated themselves and identified additional support and training needed. Please feel free to share additional areas of support needed with our Senior Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement, Sharlonda Buckman, so that we can continue to develop and support families in this area. We are planning another full training on PTA that will be mandatory of principals and we intend to have PTA leaders join the training.