DINNER & DIALOGUE
DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT
CANDIDATES FORUM

INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT.

AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2018

- Welcome & Context
- Sizing Up Candidate Speech
- Determine Table Questions
- 1 Minute Candidate Introductions
- Speed Dating with Candidates, Table Activities

In Partnership With:

Chalkbeat DETROIT
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DETROIT
OUR PARTNERS

CHALKBEAT DETROIT

Chalkbeat is an award-winning non-profit news organization that provides deep, local coverage of education policy and practice in Detroit, New York, Denver, Memphis, Indianapolis, Newark and across the nation. With a focus on issues of equity, Chalkbeat aims to inform the decisions and actions that lead to better outcomes for children and families, especially those in the low-income communities where improvement can have the largest impact.

chalkbeat.org/detroit

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Detroit (LWV) is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not endorse candidates or political parties. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We invite you to join us as we make democracy work in our communities. The LWV of Detroit is open to new members who share our ideals. Our League registers new voters, educates voters on upcoming elections and advocates for local issues. We work to engage Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park citizens in local governance, decision-making, and issues of interest.

www.lwvdetroit.org

GO TO INFORMDETROIT.ORG SO YOU CAN STAY INFORMED. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES. THEN VOTE!

CitizenDetroit has interviewed candidates running for office in 2018.

For candidate videos and questionnaires, visit InformDetroit.org
For judicial candidate evaluations, visit DetroitLawyer.org/judges/
To find your polling location and districts, visit Michigan.gov/vote

General Election is Tuesday, November 6th, 2018
SIZING UP CANDIDATE SPEECH (THE 5 P’S)

1. PLATITUDES/PANDERING

General moral statements that don’t say anything new.

Plays to people’s existing biases.

Doesn’t offer specific actions the candidate will take.

2. PANTS ON FIRE

A false claim or statement, whether intentionally so or not.

Can sound good, but requires research or follow up to verify.

3. PIVOT

Briefly responds, but shifts to a different topic.

Can be a strategy to keep the focus on the candidate’s priorities...

or can be a strategy to avoid certain topics.

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR WHEN HEARING A POLITICIAN TALK

4. PERTINENT

✔ Directly responds to the question.

✔ Demonstrates understanding about the role of the office.

✔ Demonstrates accurate knowledge about the issue.

5. POTSHOT

An unfounded or irrelevant criticism of an opponent’s character that doesn’t impact job performance (like gender or religion), when the target doesn’t have a chance to defend him/herself.

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 пенсе  (313) 334-3131
UNITED STATES

US Senate
(100 national total; 33 nationally up for election; 2 Mi total; 1 seat up for election in Mi)
2 Senators from each of the 50 states are elected to pass laws and adopt the budget for the whole country.

US House of Reps.
(435 national total; 14 Mi total; 2 Detroit)
Lawmakers who are elected from all 50 states who come together to make laws and pass the budget for the whole country.

DETROIT

36th District Court
(31 total; 11 seats up for election)
District court judges deal with traffic violations, landlord/tenant issues, lawsuits up to $25,000 and money disputes up to $6,000.

3rd Circuit Court
(58 total; 19 seats up for election)
Circuit Court judges deal with larger civil cases, criminal cases (eg. drugs, violence), and family cases (eg. child custody, domestic violence, divorce).

WAYNE COUNTY

County Executive
Top executive for Wayne County. Responsible for delivering county services, implementing county laws.

Probate Court
(8 total; 3 seats up for election)
Probate judges deal with wills and estates – such as what happens when a homeowner dies without a will and there is a question about who now owns the house.

Wayne County Comm. College Board of Trustees
(9 total; 5 Detroit; 3 seats up for election)

County Commissioners
(16 total; 7 Detroit)
Legislators for Wayne County: adopts the budget and enacts ordinances.

Detroit City Charter Revision Commission
(9 seats up for election)
The Detroit City Charter is Detroit’s constitution and governing document for how the City’s government is structured and operates. The Commission will review and may revise as determined.

2018 ELECTIONS

COLOR GUIDE
- Legislative
  Makes & changes laws
- Executive
  Puts laws into action
- Judicial
  Interprets the law
- Other

DPSCD School Board
(7 total; 2 seats up for election)
Hires the Superintendent, establishes policies for the district, approves the budget, and determines facility needs.

Wayne County Probate Court
(8 total; 3 seats up for election)
Probate judges deal with wills and estates – such as what happens when a homeowner dies without a will and there is a question about who now owns the house.
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DPSCD School Board

• Appoint, oversee and evaluate the Superintendent
• Review and approve the district budget
• Approve recommended curriculum
• Adopt all district policies including student discipline, academics, collective bargaining agreements and employee structure

School boards should create a shared vision and ensure a structure that supports it, be accountable to that vision and advocate for the shared vision and resources needed to achieve it.

DPSCD Superintendent

• Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of district
• Manages district finances and day-to-day operations
• Implements policies adopted by the School Board
• Makes budget and policy recommendations

Detroit Financial Review Commission (FRC)

• Reviews and approves all DPSCD and collective bargaining agreements
• Reviews financial revenue estimates
• Approves or terminates contract of the Superintendent
• Approves CFO appointment
• Reports and details of the FRC can be found on the Michigan Treasury’s webpage. Here is a shortened link, https://tinyurl.com/yct97ssq
COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION – DETROIT

The Community Education Commission (CEC) is a non-profit created in May of 2018 by Mayor Mike Duggan. The board of directors is mainly comprised of DPSCD and Charter school administrations, the Skillman Foundation, teachers, unions and parents appointed by the Mayor.

The CEC creates quality education initiatives for city students by developing joint initiatives across Detroit schools.

Commission Chair
Monique Marks

Executive Director
Stephanie Young

DETOITSCHOOLSGUIDE.COM

DetroitSchoolsGuide.com is the website that coincides with the printed book, Detroit Parents’ Guide to Schools, created by the CEC. The Guide covers citywide K–12 schools, and identifies all schools available to parents and children whether their geographical area (district and charter), with characteristics such as school leader, enrollment waitlist and if before or after school care is offered.

You can search citywide by programs available (i.e.: National Honor Society, Montessori or Chess), school category (Middle School, Adult Education) or your address.

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You can search citywide by programs available (i.e.: National Honor Society, Montessori or Chess), school category (Middle School, Adult Education) or your address.
The GOAL Line is a free bus route that services 10 schools and the Northwest Activities Center for students within the area and began operating in August of 2018.

Managed by the CEC, the GOAL Line emphasizes access to “great schools, free transportation, and after-school programs” for families in Northwest Detroit.

More information at:
GOALDETROIT.ORG
(313) 224-1222
**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN DPSCD?**

**DPSCD Enrollment**

The health of a school district is heavily dependent on its enrollment. In the Fall of 2017, DPSCD Superintendent Dr. Vitti announced a significant increase in student enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. Preliminary reports captured an increase of 1,808 students, but the final audited report shows that the district gained 5,155 students since the 2016-2017 school year. This was the district’s first enrollment increase since the 2002-2003 school year. DPSCD also saw a reduced number of students leave for surrounding districts, and saw an increase in the number of students returning. Today, more than 50,000 students are enrolled in DPSCD.

The increase in per pupil funding potentially helps to ensure financial stability for DPSCD and begin the process of realigning its organization and budget to the new Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on expanding school programming, increasing teacher salaries, and enhancing training for all employees.

DPSCD prides itself on being an innovative school district that has built upon the foundation of DPS and provides a quality education to its students in a safe environment.

The newly formed school district has its schools divided into several categories to make the enrollment process easier for parents and allow students to choose schools geared towards their interests and unique learning styles.


**SCHOOLS WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT INCREASE**

- Ronald Brown Academy
- Mumford
- Noble Elementary-Middle School
- John R. King Academy of Performing Arts
- Western International High School

**DPSCD School Highlight ★★★★★★★**

**Academy of The Americas Elementary-Middle School**

More than half of Detroit children live in poverty, and the school system has had to contend with unrelenting instability for decades, yet the students at The Academy of The Americas Elementary-Middle School have been able to defy this odds. With the support from educators and parents, the students at the dual-language school has seen its English pass rates rise from 5.5% to 17.6% in just 3 years.

SOURCE: [https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/detroit/2018/09/05/this-detroit-school-is-the-citys-most-improved/](https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/detroit/2018/09/05/this-detroit-school-is-the-citys-most-improved/)

**Dates to Remember**

**2018-2019 School Year**

- **10.3.18** COUNT DAY
- **11.21.18 - 11.23.18** Thanksgiving Break
- **12.25.18 - 01.04.19** Christmas Break
- **01.21.19** MLK, Jr Holiday Break
- **02.18.19 - 02.22.19** Presidents’ Day Holiday Break
- **04.01.19 - 04.05.19** Easter Break
- **04.19.19** School Closed
- **05.27.19** Memorial Day, School Closed
- **06.20.19** Last Day of School for Students
DPSCD’s Strategic Plan for Rebuilding Detroit’s Public Schools

MISSION
We educate and empower every student, in every community, every day, to build a stronger Detroit.

VISION
All students will have the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to thrive in our city, our nation, our world.

CORE VALUES

STUDENTS FIRST
Make decisions that are in the best interest of students. Use every resource strategically so that we can meet students’ individual needs.

EXCELLENCE
Be relentless in your pursuit of greatness. Be bold and innovate. Learn from your mistakes. Hold yourself and others to high standards.

INTEGRITY
Do the right thing, even when no one is looking. Be honest. Be trustworthy. Be accountable.

EQUITY
Diversity is an asset that makes us stronger. Advocate for the needs of others. Ensure that all members of our community have access to the tools and resources they need to be successful.

SERVICE
Listen. Empathize. Respond. Own problems and help to solve them.

TENACITY
Embrace hard work and persevere in the face of challenges. Follow through on your commitments and strive to do your best, no matter what.

PRIORITY

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
Dramatically improve the academic experience of all students to ensure they are college and career ready.

TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE
Transform our culture so that students, families, community members, and staff feel safe, respected, and connected.

WHOLE CHILD COMMITMENT
Champion a whole child approach that unlocks students’ full potential.

EXCEPTIONAL TALENT
Build an excellent team of dedicated staff to serve our students.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP
Manage and deploy our resources responsibly, transparently, and equitably to support our students’ success.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT
This past August, the DPSCD Superintendent ordered the drinking water to be turned off at all of the DPSCD schools indefinitely after the early 2018 testing results for 16 schools showed high levels of copper and/or lead found in more than one water source.

The assessment of 100+ DPSCD school buildings declared:

- 25% of DPSCD schools are in unfavorable conditions.
- 20% of DPSCD schools are in poor condition.

There are no reports of any students, parents, faculty or staff being harmed by drinking the water in any of the 100+ DPSCD buildings, but out of caution and concern for the safety of everyone, Dr. Vitti made the executive decision to cut off the drinking water until a deeper and broader analysis can be conducted to determine the long-term solutions for all of the schools. Dr. Vitti is working with city and state officials to determine the cause of elevated lead and copper levels as well as propose solutions, however research suggests that aging infrastructure is the cause of it.

The cost to address widespread, poor building condition across Detroit Public Schools Community District is $500 million. DPSCD cannot afford to wait to address the building conditions, because the buildings will continue to deteriorate forcing more schools to close. Waiting another five years to fix the problems would drive the price up to $1.4 billion, according to OHM, an architecture and engineering firm.


**DPSCD Schools**

Images courtesy of detroitk12.org

Cass Technical High School

Harms Elementary School

Mark Twain School for Scholars
City Year is a mentorship program that works with youth from Detroit’s public school system that are at-risk of low academic performance or dropping out of school. City Year’s programing intervenes in situations of poor student attendance, disruptive student behavior, and student failure in course work.

City Year Detroit’s partnership with DPSCD serves to provide additional capacity to school personnel to help students achieve at high levels and become productive members of the community. By providing tutors that are young, diverse, and well trained, City Year Detroit enables students to get the most from their learning experience. These City Year team members function as mentors and role models who work alongside teachers to support student success. This partnership helps to alleviate the issue of teacher shortages that is plaguing the district right now.

Additionally, City Year works in schools on four other fronts.

- Data based research to monitor the progress of students. This data provides City Year tutors with the relevant information to better meet student needs.
- One-on-one and small group instruction in ELA and math, with a focus on embedding social-emotional supports.
- Facilitates after school activities that help students and families with work management and community building.
- Provides activities that involve the entirety of a school to create an environment that improves conditions for learning, engaging families, and increased civic engagement.

INFORMDETROIT.ORG

STAY INFORMED.
KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES.
VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018.

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VOKEBOX T-SHIRTS
Buy one to support VokeBox projects.
GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. The School Board is responsible for the vision, policies, and budget oversight for the district, while the Superintendent is responsible for implementation and day-to-day execution of operations. What would you do as a school board member to support and empower the Superintendent to run day-to-day operations effectively?

2. The School Board’s responsibilities include approving curriculum and academic policies, as well as setting budget priorities for the district. Can you share what kind of research you have done or plan to do to get informed about best practices for schools? What are specific policies you would like to see implemented in DPSCD to improve school quality and student learning?

3. A recent district analysis put a $500 million price tag on bringing all district schools up to modern standards, but state law prevents DPSCD from borrowing money for repairs as other districts can. As a school board member, what strategy would you support for improving the condition of deteriorated DPSCD buildings? Do you think some buildings should be closed or consolidated?

4. The State of Michigan has threatened in the past to shutter low-performing schools in Detroit. What can the Detroit’s school board do to represent the interest of Detroit children if this happens again?

5. Starting in the 2019-20 school year, state law will require all schools in Michigan to hold back third graders who are not reading at grade level. What role do you think the school board can play in preparing families and educators for the implementation of this policy?

6. In a city where only about half of the schools are in DPSCD, some civic leaders have pushed for collaboration among district and charter schools including a common enrollment system, joint transportation efforts and unified efforts to recruit teachers. Would you support DPSCD’s participation in joint efforts? What are the pros and cons for the district in collaborating with charters and suburban school districts?

FURTHER TOPICS

Zero-Tolerance School Policies
- Suspension, Expulsion
- Dress Code

Teaching the Code of Conduct

Transportation
# DPSCD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Background Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrell George</td>
<td>• Head Basketball and Football Coach at Paul Robeson/Malcolm X Academy&lt;br&gt;• Attended Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalya A. Henderson</td>
<td>• Sophisticated She; Founder&lt;br&gt;• Business and Finance Student at Western Michigan University&lt;br&gt;• Cass Technical High School Graduate (2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Hunter-Harvill (Incumbent)</td>
<td>• Incumbent DPSCD School Board member&lt;br&gt;• High Priority Schools Process Mentor/Facilitator; Hunter-Harvill Educational Associates Inc.&lt;br&gt;• Ed.D in General Administration and Supervision; Wayne State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Elaine Lemmons</td>
<td>• No information provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Murray</td>
<td>• No information provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend David Murray</td>
<td>• Former Elected DPS School Board Member (16 years)&lt;br&gt;• MA in Criminal Justice; University of Detroit Mercy&lt;br&gt;• MSW in Psychotherapy; University of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney Sharp</td>
<td>• CEO &amp; Founder; GO D.E.A.P&lt;br&gt;• Professional photographer; Apple Lovely Photography LLC&lt;br&gt;• BS in Psychology with Honors; Wayne State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Smith</td>
<td>• Program Officer; JP Morgan Chase &amp; Co.&lt;br&gt;• Former Analyst; Federal Reserve System&lt;br&gt;• BS Political Science and Economics; University of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corletta J. Vaughn</td>
<td>• President and Expansion Catalyst; International Institute of Expansion&lt;br&gt;• Cast-member; Preachers of Detroit-Oxygen Network&lt;br&gt;• Ph.D Psychology &amp; Gender and Ethnic Studies; North Central University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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NOVEMBER 3RD, 2018
Noon - 5PM
Detroit PAL Headquarters
1680 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48216
Made Possible with generous support from the Skillman Foundation
GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION

• Be respectful.
• Participate. Be open, honest, and forthcoming.
• Don’t dominate the discussion. Invite other points of view.
• Listen and try to understand various perspectives.
• Stay on topic and limit side conversations.
• Turn cellphones off or to vibrate.
• Be mindful of time!

STAY INFORMED. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES. VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH!

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ALERT

Straight Party Voting will not be available in this year’s election on November 6th.

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower Federal District Court decision by Judge Gershwin Drain to keep Michigan’s Straight Party Voting system, despite the Michigan Legislature banning it.

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED:
CitizenDetroit is on the move! Join us!

- Visit CitizenDetroit.org to stay up-to-date on events
- Fill out your feedback forms
- Sign up with EngageD
- Follow us on social media

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