

**REGULAR MEETING  
EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY**

X **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

— **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Date:** August 11, 2011  
**Time:** 12:30pm  
**Location:** McGregor Conference Center, Wayne State University  
495 West Ferry Mall  
Detroit, MI 48202

**MINUTES**

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Roy Roberts at 12:35pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Chairperson Roberts requested that, in the absence of a Board Secretary, DPS Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Hamann act as Temporary Secretary. Ms. Hamann called the roll.

Board Member Attendance:

Roy Roberts, Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Carol Goss, Vice Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Judith Kaye Berry, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Sharlonda Buckman, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Duggan, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Jordan, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Morris*, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mark Murray, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
William Pickard, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Shirley Stancato, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
James Stapleton, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

A quorum of the Board of Directors was determined.

\*Member Morris joined the beginning of the meeting via conference call and arrived in person at 12:45pm.

**III. Administration of Oath of Office**

Chairperson Roberts welcomed Janice Winfrey, the honorable Clerk for the City of Detroit. Ms. Winfrey administered the Oath of Office to the Education Achievement Authority Board of Directors and subsequently to the Education Achievement Authority Executive Committee.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Member Duggan

Support: Member Pickard

Ayes: 11                      Nays: 0

The motion was unanimously carried.

## **V. Chairperson's Remarks**

Chairperson Roberts addressed fellow Board members and guests. He spoke of the historic nature of the day and the sense of urgency with which the EAA Board must proceed. Chairperson Roberts also spoke of the talent on the Board of Directors, noting the appointments by Detroit Public Schools (Chairperson Roberts and Member Buckman), Eastern Michigan University (Members Morris and Stapleton), and by the Governor of Michigan (Members Berry, Duggan, Goss, Jordan, Pickard, and Stancato).

Chairperson Roberts further went on to outline some of the goals for the Education Achievement Authority:

- 100% college and career-ready graduates
- 100% reading by 3rd grade
- As much as 95% of resources going directly to schools
- Attracting and retaining students and families
- Wide range of innovative choices
- Safe and secure schools
- Financial sustainability
- Lean and supportive central administration
- Rewarding and flexible teacher career paths

Chairperson Roberts indicated that the Board of Directors must oversee the creation of a new "system of schools" to achieve these goals. Underforming schools from across the state will be placed under the umbrella of this more autonomous system, beginning with schools in Detroit. In addition to providing principals, teachers, and school staff with greater autonomy, the EAA system will also place great emphasis on empowering parents and community members to become engaged.

Finally, Chairperson Roberts noted that the Board would be reviewing a number of organizational items during the meeting, including policies and a proposed meeting calendar. He also noted that the EAA may consider interim office space within the Cadillac Center Building in Detroit.

## **VI. Introduction of EAA Board Members**

Chairperson Roberts thanked Board Members for their commitment to the work and willingness to serve. He then invited all Board Members to provide a brief opening statement, beginning with Vice Chairperson Carol Goss. Board Members spoke of the importance of the work of the Education Achievement Authority and their collective belief that every child can succeed. Board members also spoke of the roles of parents, students, employees, and community members in helping to create conditions for schools to succeed, and indicated that a key role for the Education Achievement Authority is to create systems that support school success.

## **VII. Items for Review and Discussion**

### **a. Review of Draft Board Policies**

Chairperson Roberts indicated that Board Members would be reviewing and recommending actions to the Executive Committee around several governing documents. All documents were made available to both Board Members and the public prior to the meeting. Chairperson Roberts also noted that some of the language that appears in the policies follows directly from the Interlocal Agreement that was signed by Detroit Public Schools, Eastern Michigan University, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

### **a. Interim Bylaws**

Chairperson Roberts provided a brief overview of the interim bylaws. Key points raised were as follows:

- Types of meetings that can be held by the full Board: An annual full Board meeting is required under the Interlocal Agreement. The Board may hold special meetings as necessary and will provide advance notice to the public when such meetings are called. All meetings of the Board of Directors will be open to the public and any member of the public is permitted to attend and provide public comment at the

meetings. Any decision made by the Board must be made in an open, public meeting. From time to time, the Board may hold closed meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Minutes of the meetings will be kept by a Secretary of the Board for both open and closed meetings. No voting can take place without a quorum of the board.

- Officers appointed by the Governor: Two officers of the full Board have been appointed by the Governor – Mr. Roberts as Chairperson, and Carol Goss as Vice Chairperson. Other officers of the Board will be selected by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement that was signed between Detroit Public Schools, Eastern Michigan University, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.
- Committees: The Board may from time to time designate committees to focus on particular issues. The Interlocal Agreement establishes an Executive Committee of the EAA. One of the primary responsibilities of the Executive Committee is to select a Chancellor, and with the full Board, provide oversight of the Education Achievement Authority.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that public funds are handled appropriately by the EAA.
- Public Access and Transparency: The Board has a responsibility to ensure public access to records and reports generated by the EAA, including financial reports, audits of the EAA, and to ensure compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act. The Board also has a significant responsibility to be transparent to the public in carrying out its duties and ensuring that its information is available online, on time, and free to the public.
- Roberts Rules of Order: The bylaws indicate that the Board will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Chairperson Roberts pointed out that these bylaws were being put in front of the Board as interim bylaws and that at the next Board meeting, Board Members will have opportunities to provide amendments to the bylaws.

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion. Member Morris asked how and when the Board should go about forming various committees. Chairperson Roberts replied that committees would be formed in subsequent meetings. There was no additional discussion.

#### **b. Ethics Policy**

Chairperson Roberts provided a brief overview of the Ethics Policy. He noted that the Ethics Policy is designed to govern the ethical conduct of this Board, the Executive Committee, and any and all employees of the EAA. The draft policy contains information about:

- what constitutes a conflict of interest and improper outside income;
- what constitutes a gift, and what makes that gift inappropriate;
- the improper influence of family members and associates;
- procurement and the contracting process;
- future employment;
- proper use of a public position and public resources;
- proper use of authority, personnel, and time.

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion. There was no additional discussion.

#### **c. Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy**

No summary was provided at the meeting. Board members received a copy of the policy to review in advance of the meeting. The policy includes information on what constitutes a conflict of interest for the Board, Executive Committee, and any officer or employee of the Authority, and includes information on how to properly disclose of the conflict of interest.

#### **d. Interim Transparency Policy**

Chairperson Roberts provided a brief overview of the Interim Transparency Policy, noting that the Interlocal Agreement requires that the Executive Committee adopt a set of transparency policies and procedures. The document put before the Board was a proposed Interim Transparency Policy that is reflective of the transparency provisions in the Interlocal Agreement that was signed between DPS, EMU, and the Governor. Chairperson Roberts remarked that over the next several weeks, and once a Chancellor is in place, a permanent set of policies and procedures will be drafted and will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Key points of the Interim Transparency Policy include the following:

- The organization will make every single attempt to be open and transparent about its business to the public.
- The EAA will post information on the internet. For the time being, EAA is using the website of Detroit Public Schools to do so. However, in short order, the Board will develop a website for the EAA that will be the warehouse of all information.
- The EAA is committed to ensuring that the public is notified about meetings and that they are involved in the process in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion. There was no additional discussion.

#### **e. Non-Discrimination Policy**

Chairperson Roberts provided a brief overview of the Non-Discrimination Policy. He noted that the Non-Discrimination Policy is reflective of the requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the education amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Federal and State laws and orders pertaining to civil rights. The policy states that this Authority will prohibit discrimination in education and employment, and the provision of services regardless of age, ancestry, color, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, sexual preference, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era, physical or mental disability or record thereof, or mental incapacitation.

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion. There was no additional discussion.

#### **b. Review of Proposed Format for Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Public Notices**

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion on the proposed formats for meeting agendas, minutes, and public notices. There was no additional discussion.

#### **c. Review of Proposed EAA Board Meeting Calendar**

Chairperson Roberts indicated that the proposed EAA Board meeting calendar includes quarterly meetings in locations throughout Michigan, with each proposed meeting of the Executive Committee to immediately follow a meeting of the full Board. He also suggested that a meeting in Grand Rapids be added to either the fiscal year 2012 or fiscal year 2013 calendar.

Chairperson Roberts opened the floor to discussion on the proposed meeting calendar. There was no additional discussion.

#### **d. Other Discussions**

There were no additional discussions.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

The board heard comments from the following individuals:

Monica Smith: Ms. Smith indicated that she is a member of The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). She expressed concerns about the EAA's leadership and plan, stating that the plan is based on the New Orleans model and is not appropriate for Detroit. She expressed support for a tri-county school district to drive economies of scale and avoid further segregation and concentration of poverty. She expressed concern about charter schools and the privatization of schools.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Smith for her remarks.*

Tabrian Joe: Mr. Joe indicated that he is a member of The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). As a student at University High School in Ferndale, he indicated that most students in his school had left Detroit Public Schools. He expressed support for integrated schools and noted that all schools need equal resources to support students' learning. He expressed concern about possible budget cuts to schools that desire these necessary resources.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Joe for his remarks.*

Joyce Schon: Ms. Schon indicated that she is a member of The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). She remarked that as an appointed rather than elected Board, the EAA Board has no legitimacy and accountability. She remarked that the EAA's plan is based on failed plans in New Orleans and New York, and expressed concern that Excellent Schools Detroit is advancing an agenda based on charter schools and privatization. She supported plans for integration in Detroit's schools, drawing students in from suburbs to close the gap. She also wanted to know from the board the source of funding for the EAA.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Schon for her remarks.*

Marie Thornton: Ms. Thornton expressed concerns that members of the EAA Board may have contracts with DPS and requested that Board members immediately disclose this. She stated that to amend the bylaws you need a 2/3 vote. She stated that she has a serious problem with the EAA planning to meet outside of Detroit and asked whether parents and community members seeking to take part would be transported to the meetings. She asked whether it was true that Doug Ross had been named as EAA Chancellor. She inquired as to the EAA contact for Freedom of Information Act requests and submitted her request in writing to Ms. Hamann.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts indicated that for the time being he would serve as the contact for Freedom of Information Act requests and thanked Ms. Thornton for her comments.*

Steve Conn: Mr. Conn expressed concern about the increasing segregation within Detroit's schools and remarked that the district has been in some form of State takeover since 1999 and has been unsuccessful during that time. He reiterated that the EAA Board made the same promises in their remarks that he has heard since 1999, to no avail. Mr. Conn stated that the future for Detroit schools is in integration and equality.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Conn for his remarks.*

Kellie Lewis: Ms. Lewis indicated that she is a member of The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). She began by stating that the high dropout rate and low performance in Detroit schools is not the fault of students, but rather the leadership. She remarked that the EAA Board, as unelected officers, do not represent Detroit.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Lewis for her remarks.*

Shandria Vaughn: Ms. Vaughn indicated that she is a graduate of Osborn High School and considers the small schools work at Osborn to be a failure. She stated that the plans on which the EAA plan is based – the New

Orleans plan, the Renaissance 2010 plan of Chicago, and DC Plan – all include an overrun of charters and haven't worked. She expressed support for the School Board's original plan as well as support for a metropolitan school district.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Vaughn for her remarks.*

Annie Carter: Ms. Carter is a member of the Detroit Board of Education, District 3, and sought further clarification about her role in addressing parent and community concerns versus the role of the EAA in doing so. She also wanted to know whether the EAA Board is compensated.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts indicated that the EAA Board is a State authority, not a local authority, and does not represent DPS. The two are separate entities. Further, he indicated that the EAA Board is not compensated.*

James Hare: Mr. Hare indicated that he represents Quick to Learn, an educational company working with a number of districts with schools in the bottom 5% of schools, per the State's calculation. He asked whether there was a process or achievement level whereby a school on this list could remove itself from the list.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts indicated that the EAA will follow the State's calculation for the bottom 5%.*

Phillip West: Mr. West expressed concerns as a DPS parent. He wanted to know what the EAA Board will do for DPS, specifically as it relates to violence in schools. He expressed concerns about charter schools. He also remarked that students in DPS get suspended far too often, and that students with mental and emotional challenges need more support.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts indicated that the EAA and DPS are two separate bodies. Mr. Roberts as DPS Emergency Manager has the role of running DPS. The EAA Board has the responsibility for running EAA. The two entities will have different schools. In addition, in response to concerns about DPS, Mr. Roberts indicated that a report would be coming out soon. Finally, he noted that while the EAA is statewide, Detroit has an opportunity to help it take shape since EAA efforts will begin in Detroit.*

Mark O'Keefe: Mr. O'Keefe remarked that there is an inherent conflict for interest for Mr. Roberts in his role as DPS Emergency Manager and Chairperson of the EAA Board, as these two entities will compete for students. Further, he remarked that every time the EAA takes a school from DPS, it is taking it from that school's true owners – the citizens. He inquired as to whether EAA – when it takes a student from DPS – also assumes the debt associated with the current per pupil allocation. He stated that all Detroit schools should be entitled to the same resources, such as the scholarship promise program. Finally, he asked why schools in the EAA will be given five years to improve when schools under the DPS Priority Schools designation have been closed after having been given little time to demonstrate improvement.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts noted that DPS increased the number of priority schools for the coming year, demonstrating its support for the Priority Schools initiative. He also reiterated that there is no conflict of interest in his assumption of both roles.*

Dana Coyne: Ms. Coyne thanked the EAA Board for its commitment to the success of Detroit's schools. As an educator, she expressed what she feels is greatly needed to allow teachers to do their best work – reduced class sizes; positive behavior supports; a strong middle school curriculum; health, nutrition, and sexuality guidance; and career guidance.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Ms. Coyne for her remarks.*

Brian Love: Mr. Love expressed his support of the EAA Board. As a member of the Detroit Parent Network, he indicated that he is looking forward to working with parents to support this work.

*Response: Chairperson Roberts thanked Mr. Love for his remarks.*

Chairperson Roberts thanked the public for their comments and concluded the public comment portion of the meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chairperson Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Member Jordan

Support: Member Pickard

The motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

**MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

*Muhl & Dyer*

August 18, 2011

Secretary / Recording Secretary

Date

Approved by the Authority Board

Secretary

Date