

# THE DETROIT teacher

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## Detroit School Unions Rally and Draw Thousands

A rally of a coalition of Detroit Public School unions drew thousands of supporters on a balmy Aug. 25 day.

"There is not one union member out here who does not support the classroom," said Ruby Newbold, president of DEAOE Local 4168, the educational office workers union.

"We are not going back to 1950 ways, to the 1950s working conditions, when the rest of the country is moving forward," said Keith January, president of AFSCME Local 345.

"Let's be aware that the DFT fight is every unions' fight when Robert Bobb

wants to take away everything members fought for in the last 30 years," said Lenora Starks, president of Detroit Federation of Paraprofessionals, AFT Local 2350, about the district's emergency financial manager.

DFT President Keith Johnson said nothing great happens in the classroom without teachers. "We are the ones who wipe their teary eyes," Johnson said.

The huge turnout helped propel the agreement the next day to extend the DFT contract until Oct. 31.

Looking at the massive crowd that wrapped around the Fisher Building, Johnson said: "I've never been more proud to be a DFT member."





# DFT ANSWERS THE BELL FOR DETROIT STUDENTS

## President's Report



**Keith Johnson**

From the day I became president of this great union I made a commitment to this membership and this community that the DFT would exhaust every effort to ensure that school started on time. On Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, more than 7,000 members welcomed more than 90,000 students to a new school year. This happened because this membership recognized that it was of paramount importance for our students to be in school on day one!

As contract negotiations lagged far behind where they needed to be in order for us to have an agreement reached in time for school, I insisted that it was in the best interest of Detroit's children for the DFT and the Detroit school district to extend the 2005-09 collective bargaining agreement for 60 days, while negotiations on a long-term agreement continued.

After some prodding and an unbelievable show of strength and solidar-

ity by our members, members of the other unions that comprise the DPS Coalition of Unions, as well as support from other city and state unions, Mr. Bobb agreed.

But we are neither comfortable nor satisfied with just the 60-day extension; there is still much work to be done. We must and will negotiate revolutionary reform initiatives that will help to drive student achievement, and our discussions on those issues at the bargaining table have been productive. These reforms

will not harm teachers, but will increase accountability. They will not cast blame but rather provide support. They are reforms that will be driven by teachers, with teachers, and for teachers. Reform must be done WITH US NOT TO US!

However, that must not be the sole focus on reform. Reform must include increased accountability on the part of the school district to have books and supplies in school, in class, on time. Reform must include providing teachers with much needed support on mat-

ters of discipline. Reform must include providing a safe and secure environment for staff to work and for students to learn.

Reform must include a comprehensive plan to reduce class size in grades 6-12 and provide the supplemental instructional support from school social workers, attendance agents, nurses and others that are critical to a child's ability to learn.

Finally, although not a contractual issue, reform must include an established and enforced ATTENDANCE STANDARD FOR ALL DPS STUDENTS! It is unconscionable to accept or believe that a child who is not in school can learn.

It is unreasonable to expect a teacher to issue a passing grade to a student who is seldom in class. If our suburban neighbors can establish and enforce such a standard, why can't DPS?

This school year is going to bring unprecedented changes in how we deliver education. The one thing that will not change is our unwavering commitment to the children whose education and futures have been placed in our hands.

To borrow a line from Ray Charles; OK DFT, let's "make it do what it do." Have a great and productive school year.



**DFT President Keith Johnson basks in the success of the August 25 rally.**

## NAACP Official Visits the DFT

You have to know the forms of racism in order to fight them. Executive Director Heaster Wheeler, of the NAACP Detroit Branch, told students in the MSU-DPS Urban Immersion Teaching Fellow program that there are many forms of racism.

For starters, he named institutional racism, individualized racism, spacial racism and internalized racism. Institutional racism, for example, occurs when policies lock out minorities from opportunities.

Wheeler derided the many racial myths we hear every day. Myth number one: there are more black teens in jail than in college. The truth is, Wheeler says, that there are 2.5 times



**Heaster Wheeler  
Detroit NAACP Executive Director**

more black men between the ages of 18 and 24 in college than in jail.

That there are a disproportional number of black men in jail is a fact.

The number one crime in America, however, is drunk driving, of which 85 percent is committed by white men.

"The primary reason blacks fill up jails has to do with police activity, not criminal activity."

"We've racialized crime," Wheeler said. "If jail cells reflected that they would look different."

The truth is that racism divides Americans when we all want the same thing, Wheeler said.

"Everybody wants the exact same thing," Wheeler said. "I want the absolute best education for my children."

**THE DETROIT**  
teacher

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Editor — Margaret Weertz



# Updates...

## HOODIE AWARD WINNERS



Nadonya Muslim, a teacher at Southeastern High School, was honored at this year's Hoodie Awards, sponsored by radio personality Steve Harvey. The awards ceremony, held Aug. 15 in Las Vegas, honors local business, religious and community members for their contributions to their neighborhoods. Muslim was honored for "Best High School Teacher" for the second year in a row. Cass Technical High School was honored "Best High School" for the third year in a row.

## Teen & Parent Conference

The Mobilizing African American Families organization is holding its fifth annual conference Oct. 16 and 17 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History for teens and parents. The conference aims to empower young people to make good choices, give them opportunities to talk, cooperate and grow. Kim Travis-Ewing, a Detroit school social worker and

CEO of the organization, says the conference is free and will address peer pressure, leadership skills, relationships, subliminal messages, among other topics. For info, call 313-544-6689 or email ktidet@peoplepc.com.

## Retirements Announced

The following DFT members have announced their retirements: Nancy Danley, Patricia Hardy, Carol Scheffels, Deborah Le-Sane, Linda Maurant, Brenda Frazier, Judy Travis, Elaine Riley, Bettye Robinson, Jean Marie Gailliard and Dyrene Penn-Saulsberry. If you have retired in the last six months and would like it announced, please call the editor at 313-875-3500 ext. 776.

## 40-Year Teacher, Judy Reid, Dies

Judith Reid, a 40-year Detroit teacher at McFarland, Marsh and George Ford elementary schools, passed away on July 5. She was 71. Reid attended the Detroit Public Schools and was inspired by her favorite teacher at Moore Elementary School to pursue education. She entertained a career as a cartoonist and fell in love with theater at Wayne State University. Reid became a math lab instructor and curriculum coordinator. "She always stressed that you are the most important person to your success," her son Jay Reid said. After retiring in 2005, she and her husband, Bill, became "poetry writing retreat junkies." Reid is survived by her husband Bill, and sons Jay and William.



Judy Reid

## DFT Marches in Labor Day Parade



Once again DFT members walked the Detroit Labor Day Parade in muggy weather. For the first time, the Michigan Education Association joined the dozens of unions present in honor of unity and solidarity. Above is DFT President Keith Johnson with Detroit teachers Gloria Davis and Linda Sims and DFT retiree Clyde Lewers.



## GETTING ORGANIZED

The DFT's Work Action Committee hustled for the past six weeks organizing the Aug. 25 Mass Rally, running phone banks, and coordinating a Special General Membership meeting on Aug. 30 at Calihan Hall on the campus of the University of Detroit Mercy. "You have worked so hard," DFT President Keith Johnson told the committee members. Pictured above are (standing) Sandra Ambrose, Jackie Ross, Diane Smith, Anita Daly and (seated) Samele Ambrose and Sidney Lee.

# Saving Money with American Federation of Teachers

By Mark O'Keefe  
DFT Executive Vice President

**H**ow do you get a rental car for \$19 a day including all taxes?

This summer I paid \$38 for a two-day rental of a Chevrolet HHR through the AFT website. Clicking on the links took me directly to the rental site and even allowed me to use a coupon for a free upgrade.

The American Federation of Teachers offers a number of programs that save money for its members. One of my favorites is the AFT Plus Mastercard. This is a no fee credit card that earns you cash rewards. You earn up to 2 percent on every purchase and up to 4 percent on purchases at gas stations, grocery stores and pharmacies.

I like to collect my rewards every August when the regular paychecks have stopped. Last year, my wife and I earned over \$700. To learn more or apply for a

card, visit <http://www.aft.org/aftplus/financial/credit-card.htm>.

Another of my favorite AFT benefits is the subscription program. I now order all of my magazines through the AFT program.

When you visit the website, if you don't see the magazine you are looking for, email them, and they will quote you a rate. I have not found a better rate anywhere. Start saving today at: <http://www.aft.org/aftplus/discounts/magazines.htm>

How would you like to save 20 percent on flowers every time you order? Just check out: [www.aft.org/aftplus/discounts/flowers.htm](http://www.aft.org/aftplus/discounts/flowers.htm).



Mark O'Keefe  
DFT Vice President

Visit the New DFT Web site

[www.DFT231.com](http://www.DFT231.com)



# DETROIT TEACHER GETS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

**P**aul Weertz doesn't much like all the publicity over his heralded program. The science teacher has been featured in the New York Times, Oprah and Time magazines.

Google his name and you'll find countless entries about his farming and agri-science program at a Detroit school.

Now he and his fellow teachers at Catherine Ferguson Academy are the focus of an award-winning documentary that airs on Channel 56 WTVS on Sept. 22 at 9 p.m.

Weertz started his agri-science program 18 years ago. Teaching

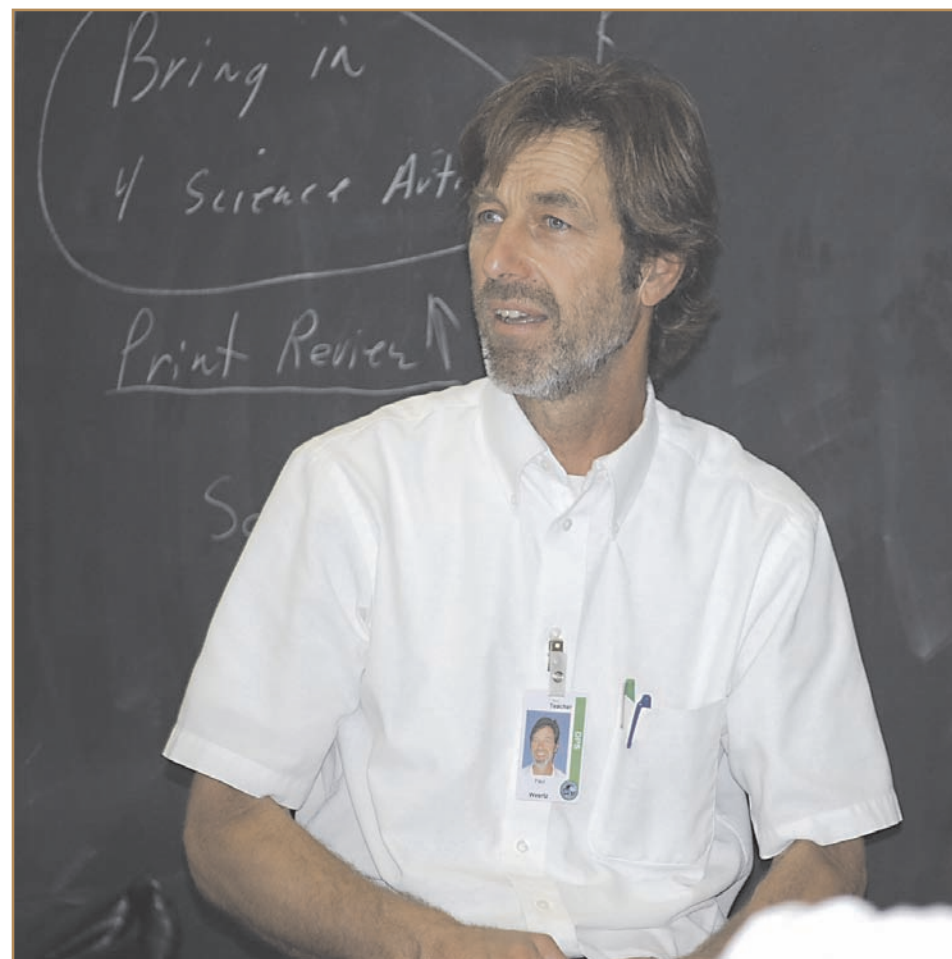
in an economically depressed environment with few resources, he did what scores of Detroit teachers do. He saw the resources he did have, and started making peach cobbler out of peaches.

That is, Weertz saw the

resources of the earth, and the vast land that is vacant around the school and started to farm it, bring in farm animals, goats that produce milk, bees that make honey, and planted peach, apple and pear trees. Through all of this, he could teach science and agriculture to his

students.

Ironically, he doesn't feel all that optimistic after 18 years of a successful program. He sees the



**Teacher Paul Weertz uses agriculture to teach science at Catherine Ferguson Academy.**

reconstitution of schools as shuffling veteran teachers around, teachers who should be considered at the peak of wisdom and expertise in teaching. Instead they are told to abandon their

buildings and many of the programs they built.

"Some of us can't pack up our programs in a box," Weertz said. "How do I pack up my farm? What does the drama teacher do with all the costumes she's made over the years?"

After 22 years of teaching, Weertz said he had to "interview" to keep his position. He was "chosen" for his reconstituted school but the team was disrupt-

ed, something Weertz says is very stressful.

Veteran teacher and best-selling author Rafe Esquith questions these practices common today in urban schools. Esquith says the beauty of education is teachers' ability to expose their different skills, personalities and interests to their students.

"Education is so much more than a textbook," Weertz said. "Kids come to school because of the relationships, not because the door is painted blue. It's all about labor; it's not about materials and supplies.

"Education is for the long haul, he said. "You may have a curriculum that's built and modified for 100 years."

Weertz sees hypocrisy at DPS, endlessly talking about materials, textbooks and budgets.

"These are the easy things to accomplish," he said. "You want us to teach these difficult math concepts and you can't even balance the budget."





# ROIT teacher MAKERS

## *Dutch Filmmakers Focus on Ferguson Academy Award-Winning Film Airs on Channel 56 Sept. 22*

One of only three high schools in the country for pregnant and parenting teens, Catherine Ferguson Academy and its teachers are the subject of a new award-winning documentary.

Three Dutch filmmakers visited Detroit last summer and spent four months trying to understand the once-wealthy city and its decline. They ended up focusing on Ferguson Academy and came away with a 52-minute documentary that will make viewers gasp, cry and see Detroit teachers in a new light.



**Filmmakers Mascha and Manfred Poppenk**

“What I find so fascinating about Detroit is I believe it is a city of tomorrow,” said filmmaker Mascha Poppenk. Because of the open land and the city’s inability to demolish architecturally significant structures like the magnificent train depot, Poppenk believes there are rich opportunities to preserve the buildings.

“In Holland, there’s no space whatsoever,” she said. “Everybody’s doing things on rooftops.”

“Grown in Detroit: Teen Moms Become Urban Farmers” will broadcast on Channel 56 WTVS on Sept. 22 at 9 p.m. The film was produced for Dutch public television’s Green Channel and is being shown by WTVS.

The film centers on the teen mothers at Catherine Ferguson in an agri-science program, started 18 years ago by science teacher Paul Weertz (see related article). The students learn to farm and sell products at the school and the Eastern Market. A large component of the program is to learn through animals how to look at food differently. Ferguson teachers advocate for breast feeding their children.

“They show the girls there’s another way to live your life,” Poppenk said. “You can buy milk powder to feed your baby, but you can breast feed as well. Most of the girls don’t know that it could be normal and cheaper and healthier to breast feed too.”

Poppenk says she fell in love with Detroit and is looking to visit again. She praised the friendliness of Detroiters and the Catherine Ferguson arena.

“The teachers I find amazing,” she said, “how much work and love they put into it. I hope my children get involved with teachers like that.”

## Blue Doors Bring ‘Em In



From preliminary reports, the blue-door “I’m In” campaign was successful in bringing students back to the Detroit Public Schools for the fall of 2009. Some schools were at capacity and had to start waiting lists. Harding students and teacher Shani Hinton, above, were some of the thousands who marched in the Back to School Parade up Woodward Avenue on Aug. 27. DFT President Keith Johnson said there’s no better place in the city to get educated than the Detroit Public Schools. “I’m in because you can go to Detroit Public Schools and learn French, German or Chinese while you’re learning English,” he said. “I’m in because you can go to the Davis Aerospace Academy and get a pilot’s license while you’re getting a driver’s license. These blue doors represent an opportunity of a lifetime but you can only take that opportunity once in a lifetime.”

## Detroiter Wins School Social Worker of the Year Award

The school’s “point store” is a hit. The array of items from games to footballs, to book bags and small electronics really excites the kids. But they have to earn good behavior points toward their purchases. And the students at Turning Point Academy are motivated to do it.

This is just one of the interesting programs school social worker Leonard Zabawski initiated over his 10 years with the district and at Turning Point, a school for middle school students with emotional and behavioral issues on the northeast side.

Now Zabawski is being honored by the Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW) as the 2009 School Social Worker of the Year for Region D (Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe).

Zabawski lobbies in Lansing, trains Detroit teachers how to differentiate between socially maladjusted and emotionally impaired students, runs inservices, and guides student behavior at Turning Point. For all this he is being honored as one of the state’s best.

“He deserves it, he’s great,” says Dr. Roger Manela, another school social worker at Turning Point and the MASSW state winner in 2004. “He’s very experienced as a social worker in community mental health. He put together a manual on how to work with kids who are emotionally impaired.”

Zabawski is consistently at the forefront of talking to people in Lansing or running a phone bank to protect the interests of emotionally impaired students in Detroit and the people who serve them.

“I cannot ever remember requesting Leonard to be involved and him refusing,” said Mauritta Gardner, a supervisor in the Office of School Social Work, in a letter to the MASSW. “He actively participates in collaborative efforts with parents, teachers, principal and other support staff.” Zabawski says he loves his work, even though the cuts to social workers means living on the edge.

“The kids are needy immediately,” he said.

To wind down, Zabawski is an established ink and watercolor artist, just completing a 10-year study of lighthouses. His work is featured in a juried exhibit until Sept. 26 at the Grosse Pointe Art Center.

“You learn to measure progress that’s small and appreciate it.”



**Leonard Zabawski**



# Grants...

## Math and Science

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has partnered with others to offer an award to preK-12 science teachers. The Delta Education/Frey-Neo/CPO Science Awards for Excellence in Inquiry-Based Science Teaching will go to three teachers with \$1,500 cash awards and attendance at the NSTA conference. Deadline: Nov. 30, 2009. For info, visit [www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#delta](http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#delta).

## Arts and Humanities

The Dirksen Congressional Center is sponsoring the Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants which support work to enhance the understanding of the U.S. Congress. Funding for these special projects is awarded to history, social studies and political science teachers in an ongoing basis and range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. For info, visit [www.dirksencenter.org/print\\_grants\\_special\\_projects.htm](http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_special_projects.htm).

## Early Childhood

The A.L. Mailman Foundation supports projects that serve very young children and their families. The foundation provides grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for programs with effective practices that have a national focus. Letters of inquiry are accepted on a rolling basis. For info, visit [www.mailman.org/index.html](http://www.mailman.org/index.html).

## K-12 Education

The Braitmayer Foundation supports innovative programs in K-12 education, particularly curricular and school-reform initiatives and professional development that attracts and retains high-quality teachers. Deadline: Nov. 15, 2009. Grants up to \$10,000 are awarded. For info, visit [www.braitmayerfoundation.org](http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org).

## Environment

The Student Conservation Association is sponsoring a contest for high school students who want to improve, conserve and beautify their schools. The Green Your School contest is accepting applications for school conservation projects that began before Aug. 1, 2008. Projects must be student-led. A grand prize of \$5,000 and two prizes of \$2,500 will be awarded. Deadline: Oct. 9, 2009. For info, visit [www.thesca.org/green-your-school](http://www.thesca.org/green-your-school).

## Literacy

The International Reading Association honors middle and secondary school classrooms or reading teachers with the \$1,000 Nila Banton Award for a teacher who has shown leadership in translating theory and current research into practice for developing content area literacy. Deadline: Nov. 15, 2009. For information, visit [www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/teachers\\_smith\\_award.aspx](http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/teachers_smith_award.aspx).



**A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS** — Ruby Newbold, (top left) president of DEAOE Local 4168, the educational office employees, and her colleagues held their meeting at the DFT last month. Newbold and the DEAOE have been a consistent support to the DFT in negotiations for a contract. “They were certainly with us on Aug. 25 for the coalition rally,” said DFT President Keith Johnson. “As always they continue to be supportive of the DFT and we will continue to be supportive of them in their cause.”

# Protecting Students from Violence

By Ron Seigel

Several years ago on a TV program a Detroit student made a horrifying prophecy. She warned that the policy of closing schools would lead to violence because it would push kids from rival gang areas into the same school.

After the tragic drive-by shooting last spring, the Detroit Police Department stated this was exactly what happened.

This summer there has been a second drive-by shooting of kids on their way to summer school and more school closings had been planned.

Whether educators can stop the current financial manager from closing schools, they can at least try to help kids deal with the transition from one school to another and reduce hostilities that may exist. It may be helpful for teachers and principals to adapt (to our more drastic conditions) suggestions author and psychologist William Pollack made for dealing with teasing and bullying.

1. Organize special events for students who are new to the school.
2. Have periodic meetings of teachers, students and administrators to discuss pressures on students,

including those that can lead to violence.

3. Create a “buddy system” or mentoring system, where older students can help younger ones, and a general system where students of all ages can help those with academic problems.

4. Bring in guest speakers to talk about issues students face, including substance abuse, racism, sexism, pressures of sexual stereotypes, including homophobia. Have classes that inform students about conflict resolution techniques, mediation, sexual decisions, family problems and family coping skills, and the stress of economic hardship.

5. Pollack urged educators to “communicate that bullying is a violation of human rights.” We must communicate that violence is a violation of civil and human rights because all students have a right to be safe. Stopping violence is following in the steps of those who fought against slavery and the Klan.

6. Give honors to those who have done acts of service to others the same way we honor star athletes or academic achievement.

7. Respect students and show you consider them worth caring about.

*Ron Seigel is a freelance writer living in Highland Park, Michigan.*

## Letter to the Editor...

### More Guidance Counselors Let Go

It is a sad time for the Detroit children who are returning to public schools in Detroit. They will be returning to public schools where there is no guidance counselor to help them with their class schedules.

First, Robert Bobb has chosen to cut the total guidance counselor staff from 216 to 120. Thus, many parents who know the value of the guidance counselor's work will simply take their children to charter schools causing the district to lose badly needed state funding.

On the contrary, guidance counselors provide a critical service to students' well-being and achievement by developing class schedules, coordinating college admissions and scholarship applications, as well as providing individual counseling.

Finally, whatever happens as a result of these destructive cuts in guidance counseling, the resulting pain to the children and to the district rest squarely on Robert Bobb's shoulders.

**Dr. Arthur J. Divers**  
Retired Guidance Counselor  
Detroit

# Is Your Job Worth \$10? More Than 500 Teachers Say Yes!

The COPE committee, and DFT President Keith Johnson, urged members to give \$10 during the last school year. The aim was to beef up the coffers for supporting candidates who are friends of public education. The campaign raised almost \$15,000 toward the \$75,000 mark. Following are the names of those generous contributors. The \$10 campaign will run again this year and contributors will be listed in The Detroit Teacher at the end of the year.

**More than \$250**  
Patrick Falcusan

**\$249-\$200**  
Vida Bonacci  
Doris Flaherty  
Clester Lewis

**\$199-\$150**  
Shirley Berga  
Beverly Dunn  
Peggy McConnell  
Beverly Wilkerson

**\$149-\$100**  
Harriette Ald  
Tracy Arneau  
Janis Barnhart  
Sandra Battle  
Sandra Curd  
Mary Helen D'Angelo  
Evelyn Foreman  
Imani Hines  
Christopher Holstein  
Desisle Horton  
Keith Johnson  
Sidney Lee  
Brigid Odocha  
Mark O'Keefe  
Ronnie Robinson  
Virginia Robinson  
Juanita Sanders  
Shirley Seals  
Sheila Singletary  
Willimam Taulbee  
Donna Taylor  
Ricardo Thomas  
Paula Trilety  
Paula Villa-King  
Margaret Weertz  
Marcy Wells

**\$99-\$50**  
Sandra Ambrose  
Donna Barnes  
Christine Brown  
Yvonne Burks-Lively  
Wanda Colquitt  
Dorothy Cox  
Joann Donahue  
Pamela Ford  
Eva Fortune  
Charise Fulton  
Marie Graham  
Sheryl Greene-Jones  
Evelyn Holmes  
Demetria Hoskins  
Toney Hughes  
Jacob Ishakis  
Will Jackson  
Johnnie Jackson  
Sharronda Jones  
Chevon Kay  
David Koslowsky  
Jacquelyn Krycian  
Sheila LaFreniere  
Mildred Landrum  
Keith Lapointe  
J. Lutzenberger  
Julie Marino-Greene  
Angela McNeil-Chisholm  
Bealer Mitchell  
Connie Mitchell  
Pamela Moss  
Elma Natt  
Vickie Newby  
Cara Nims  
Jacqueline Raymond  
Margaret Redmond-Squires  
Latonya Riddle-Jones  
Debra Ridley  
Sedrick Robinson  
Deirdre Samuel  
Deloris Saulsberry  
Bonnie Simmons  
Phyllis Stallings  
Shalonda Staples  
Janice Stawkey

Bettina Stines  
Vivian Stout-Murphy  
Kim Travis-Ewing  
Yolanda Trust  
Patricia Tyler  
Shirley Walker  
Arshala Washington  
Lynette West  
Yvette Wilburn  
Verona Williams  
Ashaki Zeigler

**Under \$50**  
Kathy Aaron  
Tanya Abbott  
Christine Abood  
Stephen Abraham  
Abed Albujoq  
Jamila Al-Essa  
Angela Alexander  
Delores Alexander  
Lisa Almeranti  
Karen Al-Saadi  
Sandra Alsterberg  
Nicole Ames-Powell  
Leanne Andrus  
Beverly Armstrong  
Lory Armstrong  
Kimberly Arseneault  
Francisca Argueta  
Maria Attanasio  
Marcia Auslander  
Brenda Avington  
Zanola Bailey  
Linda Ballard  
Kathleen Ballew  
Nancy Balogh  
Scott Bania  
Leonia Barnes  
Michael Barnett  
Adana Batts  
Julie Beatty  
Pamela Beaudoain  
Gloria Bennett  
Brenda Bernard  
Beverly Bezrutch  
Debra Biernat  
Martha Bills  
Haqqah Bint-Robert  
Kamlesh Bitta  
Laura Black  
Eleanor Blum  
Edith Boatner  
Theresa Bolds  
Rose Bonacci  
Sheryll Bonness  
Frank Booth  
Renee Bouey  
Christine Bourbonais  
William Bowles  
Mattie Boyd  
Meldorae Bracy  
Michelle Bradfield  
Linda Bradlin  
Dionne Brantley  
Patricia Brennan  
Cynthia Bridges  
Irene Brieger  
Charlotte Brooks  
Darlene Brown  
Famata Brown  
Linda Brown  
Marcelle Brown  
Randa Brown  
Sharon Brown  
William Brown, Jr.  
Gail Buck  
Erika Buckhave  
Edward Bugaj  
Dorothy Burk  
Joy Burk  
Mary Butka  
Patrick Butler  
Tyra Butler  
Terrence Butler  
Felicia Byrd  
Crystal Cannon

Margaret Cantrell  
Jill Caprathe  
Audrey Carter  
Donna Castone  
Marvin Chatman  
Ellen Chin  
Alicia Clabon-Lockhart  
Felecia Clark  
James Clark  
Lesa Clark  
Helen Clay-Spotser  
Montee Clay  
Crystal Clemmons  
Jennetta Clark  
Toni Clover  
Laqueline Cobb  
Pamela Consiglio  
Delores Corley  
Ronald Cornish  
Jeanetta Cotman  
Barbara Covill-Hoey  
Dana Coyne  
David Craig  
Crandall Cranshaw  
Debra Crosslin  
Jennifer Crump  
Stacy Crump-Moore  
Marian Cunningham  
Garvella Dabreu  
Elise Daniels  
LaTonya Darling-Cole  
Marianne Darmanin  
Mark Davis  
Reginald Davis  
Kelly Davis  
Kavita Dayal  
Tracey Diebel  
Ramona Dixon  
Diane Dobrski  
Lawanas Doggett  
Monique Dooley  
Vivian Dortch  
Patricia Doty  
Patricia Douglas  
Genevieve Downes  
Johnnie Drain  
Janice Drewek  
Robert Duchene  
Michael Duggan  
Janice Duncan  
Katrina Dunigan  
Anne Dunlap  
Christine Dymek  
Darlene Echols  
Ann Egigian  
Patrice Elem  
Marietta Elliott  
Nicholas Ellis  
Fay Ellison  
Linniedovi Embry  
Karen Epacs  
Suzanne Erbes  
Valerie Evans  
Edythe Fagenson-Rubin  
Mehnaz Fatiwala  
Judith Ferrell  
Mary Findlay  
Patricia Fraser  
Kathleen Frazier  
Marion Frehsee  
Tamara Fresh  
Susan Gallagher  
Mary Gawel-Ensroth  
Anna Geck  
Gregory Geck  
Asata Gettu  
Victor Gibson  
Helen Gilmer  
Lillie Gladney  
Michelle Golden  
A. Cristina Goletz  
Richard Gordon  
Susan Gordon  
Jamell Goss  
Orenda Grady  
Arveta Grady-Fletcher  
Barbara Graham

Deena Graham  
Kristen Gray  
Tonya Gray  
Rachele Green  
Stephen Greenfield  
Lorraine Griffith  
Delores Guye  
Brenda Hall  
Julie Hamburg  
Audrey Hamilton  
Elana Hampton  
Shelley Handren  
Debra Handschumacher  
Marlon Hannah  
John Hardenbergh  
Sharreen Hardy  
Jessica Hardy  
Linda Hargo-Whitted  
Jeana Harper  
Gail Harris  
Gwendolyn Harris  
Sheela Harris  
Donna Harris  
Lysandra Harrison  
Rae Hawkins  
Shirley Hawkins  
Seltman Hayes  
Gwendolyn Haynes-Ross  
Brenda Heath  
Tom Hedblom  
Ronald Heit  
Jeffrey Hendricks  
Patricia Hendry  
Piper Herbert  
Rita Herrera  
Gracie Hightower  
Tamara Hitchye  
Nancy Hodges  
Jerome Hoehn  
Rochelle Hoff  
Barbara Holdridge  
Rhena Holmes  
Shermell Hooper  
William Hoatys  
Elaine Hopgood  
Gwendolyn Horne  
Linda Howard  
Marshall Howard  
Cheryl Howard-Vaden  
Debra Howe  
Gwendolynne Howell  
Susan Howze  
Andrea Hughes  
Linda Hyde  
Evelyn Inempolidis  
Constance Jackson  
Karla Jackson  
Mary Jackson  
Yolonda Jackson  
Annie Jacobs  
Gregory Jacoby  
John Janzaruk  
Corlyss Jenkins  
Veda Jenkins-Sigmon  
Lesley Jennings  
Barbara Johnson  
Dennise Johnson  
Enid Johnson  
Evelyn Johnson  
Gwendolyn Johnson  
Peggy Johnson  
Quintin Johnson  
Richard Johnson  
Shirley Johnson  
Janice Jolly  
Ann Jones  
Faye Jones  
Jerry Jones  
Maria Jones  
Pamela Joy  
Issaaf Kabbani  
Susan Kalczynski  
Mark Karaim  
Madeleine Karcz  
Lynn Kasmer  
Brenda Kendrick-Bowen  
Kelly Kendrick-Potts

Patricia Kennebrew  
Roger Killom  
Mary Kimpson  
Lionel King  
Tracy King  
Tricia Kirck  
Winifred Knight  
Marika Kontos  
Mary Kozlowski  
Sherry Kroll  
Rosemary Kruse  
Amy Krzyzanowski  
Dennis Kue  
Heather Kuehneman  
Angela Lang  
Estella Lanier  
Lanell Lasenby  
Pamela Latimore  
Barbara Lauchlan  
Margaret Leahy  
Deborah LeClerc  
Bobbie Lewis  
Carmen Lewis  
Kimberly Liddell-Love  
Marcia Littleton  
Maria Llagas-Porcalla  
Darlene Lloyd  
Lillian Logan  
Barbara Lund  
Gwendolyn Lynch  
Audrey Mabins  
Craig MacBeth  
Steven Machlay  
Jeanette Mack  
Gretchen Madison  
Linda Mangiapane  
Gloria Marley  
John Martin  
Margaret Martin  
Rosemary Martin  
Phillip Mason  
Carolyn Mattison-Wright  
Marilynn Mattison-Wright  
Barbara Matyas  
Dana Mayes  
Jennifer Mays  
Terrance McCabe  
Andrea McCombs  
Earnest McCoy  
Florine McCoy-Williams  
Michelle McDade  
Vivian McGhee  
Mary McGrath  
Pamela McIntosh  
Oveta McKinley  
Rene McKinney  
Tracie McKissie  
Shirley McNeal  
Betty McWhorter  
Sherry Meklir  
Sandra Melnik  
Henry Miga  
Victoria Miller  
Nancy Milligan  
Kenton Mills  
Cynthia Simons  
Jolanta Misteravich  
Carol Moore  
Deborah Moore  
Naomi Moore  
Jacqueline Morant  
Sandra Morgan  
Michelle Morris  
Cynthia Mosley  
Robert Moses  
Willma Muhammad  
Indira Murlidhar  
Stephanie Murria  
Nidhal Naoom  
Orestes Nash  
Gail Nawrock  
Marlene Nessel  
Linda Newhouse  
Elmaree Newson  
Dena Norris  
Gina Norris  
Patricia Norris

Patricia Norris  
Michelle Novo  
Diane Novock  
Fred Nowotny  
Happiness Nwaopara  
Ruth Nye-Hurst  
Mohamed Okdie  
Joy O'Keefe  
Keziah Okoro  
Sharon Olexa  
Mershira Oliver  
John Oliverio  
Karen O'Malley  
Martin O'Neill  
Vickie Orr-Gale  
Daniel Osowski  
Gary Oswell  
Joyce Palmer  
Angela Pardo  
Pamela Parham  
Genola Parker  
Paul Parmentar  
Sherrill Patton  
Linda Peach  
Gloria Peake  
Angela Perdue  
Georgie Peterson  
Glynn Pettus  
Norma Phillips  
Carol Pierce  
Indira Pierce  
Gerald Piontek  
Laverne Pirtle  
Ermelda Polk  
Diane Porter  
Steven Portnoy  
Wanda Preuss  
Gwendolyn Primous  
Vilanda Prograis  
Paige Pruden  
Natalie Prytula  
Joseph Quesnelle  
Janis Quinn  
Patience Raiford  
Ronald Ramsey  
Josephine Raupp  
Donna Ray  
Gregory Redmond  
Earlene Richardson  
Cynthia Richardson  
Dikea Riley  
Edgardo Rivera  
Gregg Robinson  
Lorri Robinson  
Michael Robinson  
Stephanie Roderick  
Rafael Rodriguez-Alvarado  
Elizabeth Roman  
Arlene Rosemond  
Jacqueline Ross  
Carmen Royster  
Bobbie Rush  
Loretta Ryder  
Pushpinder Sachdeva  
Deborah Samokyszyn  
Salud Sample  
Alan Santoni  
Jacqueline Sapp  
Kendra Sargent  
Vonshelton Sargent  
Britta Scheibel  
Ralph Schick  
Diane Scott  
Lisa Scott  
Gary Servais  
Larry Shlom  
Majidah Sharif  
Linda Shelton  
Lisa Shepherd  
N.A.M. Shepherd  
Carol Shiver  
Francois Simon  
Naima Singh  
Doris Dixon  
Mary Skipp  
Martha Skoglund

Vickie Slaughter  
Cedric Small  
Kathryn Smith  
Carol Smuk  
Brenda Snow  
Kathleen Snow  
Cadey Sontag  
Joey Stamper  
Carol Steiner  
Sandra Stempien  
Deborah Stephens  
Joyce Stewart  
Danielle Stoetzer  
Tracy Summers  
Charles Sutton  
Harilyn Swain  
Rupinder Syal  
Kim Tack  
Ernestine Tamomo  
Mae Tansil  
Kathryn Tarnow  
Martha Taylor  
Solon Terrell  
Linda Thomas  
Robert Thomas  
Keesha Thompson  
Diane Thurman  
Lois Tilly  
Ronald Todd  
Carol Todd  
Jennifer Tregembo  
Michelle Tripp  
Michael Turinsky  
Belinda Turnbow  
Robin Turner  
Michele Twymon  
Doretha Tyson  
LaTonya Underwood  
Deborah Vidmar  
Julie Wagner  
Janice Wais  
Teresa Walker  
Mary Walker-Pringle  
Cecilia Wallace  
Denise Wallace  
Madeline Wallace  
Mattie Wallace  
Amos Walls  
William Ward  
Kay Warren  
Virginia Watkins  
Marianne Watson  
Laura Watt  
Barbara Watts  
Gwendolyn Wee  
Bonita Wells  
Raymond Velthuysen  
Patricia Wesley  
Sharon West  
Patricia Westcott  
Kim White  
Lula White  
Paula White  
Barbara Whitney-Askew  
Karen Wilkinson  
Shirley Willett  
Kathy Willey  
Cadance Williams  
Gail Williams  
Kathleen Williams  
Pamela Williams  
Carolyn Williams  
Hendrean Williams  
Cornelius Williams  
Victoria Wilson  
Janis Wilson  
James I Windfield Jr.  
Sylvia Wise  
Maryann Wojtkowiak  
Loretta Wood  
Lulu Woods  
Gayle Wooten  
Lisa Wykes  
Phaer Wynn  
Ning Yan  
Linda Yousif  
Sabrina Zakolski



# Decision to Extend Contract Gets Applause

A march of thousands in front of DPS offices. A tough email from DFT President Keith Johnson to Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb. Then an agreement to extend the current contract until Oct. 31 with wages and step increases in place.

That was how back-to-school played out this year and DFT members were pleased to start school on time. The membership learned the specifics at a meeting Aug. 30 at the University of Detroit Mercy where



one surprise took down the house with applause.

"I support the 60-day extension," said activist DFT member Steve Conn.

Back to school, however, was not without huge flaws. The closing of 30 schools and

reconstitution of dozens others, tiers of layoffs and recalls, and massive shuffling of employees led to a chaotic start up.

Still, the contract extension allows the bargaining teams more time to iron out the big ticket issues.

"Keith is an aggressive and dogged advocate for his membership and I respect that," Bobb said at the signing of the contract extension.



Johnson said the lack of intense bargaining sessions this summer prevented securing a serious contract before the start of school. He said the extension sent a message to the community that school will start on time. Community support was something he didn't want to squander.

"From the moment I became president of the DFT, I made a commitment that we would exhaust every effort to ensure that school would start on time," Johnson said, however, that he would not agree to day-to-day bargaining without a contract.

A two-month extension will enable the bargaining team to see firm enrollment numbers and budget figures, possibly reducing the \$45 million needed in concessions.

"I'm not asking you to trust Robert Bobb, I'm asking you to trust me," Johnson said. "I'm certainly going to bring you something that is fair and equitable."



**By Vivian Johnson**  
Detroit middle school teacher

I am a 17-year educator, enjoying the teaching experience, remaining optimistic like my colleagues. We are concerned that Detroit teachers are going to be made the "scapegoat for our school district's money problems."

For seasons, we teach!

We may have nothing or everything to lose,  
depending on how you, Robert Bobb, choose.

When it comes to our pockets,  
teachers spend money faster than rockets!

So students fit every educational socket!

We harmonize students' notions; with all their mental and physical emotions,

And Communities living under a squeeze if you please!

School is the place we welcome all to come  
even those recommended by the police at some.

We passed student's fiery tests,  
because they are the best.

The Big Four came, saw and went.

## TEACHER BAIL OUT!

### *The New Stimulus Package Provided by Detroit Teachers?*

Now we must pay what's spent?

Not gloat,

just be quiet and except that we are the "highly qualified" scapegoat.

Why Mr. Bobb, should we be robbed?

Since the money was spent under the eyes of those sent,

why not ask them to fix what is bent?

These are all questions we ask as we go,

because asking questions are what teachers do you know.

We applaud what you have done finding the funds,

while on the run,

dismissing teachers who feel like they are looking down the barrel  
of a gun.

As you navigate from the shores of DPS,

We operate in its deep waters and quest.

Looking out at us,

join us

in the water and see,

you must!

I guarantee that your fulcrum will bust.

*Humbly submitted by one called to teach for excellence in education*

*To read the entire article Google my blog: [The Johnson Jotters](#)*