

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMBERS OF THE DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



DPS IN CRISIS

*Our Fight for
Legislative Solutions*

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My mother always said, nothing good
ever happens after midnight....

-Rep. Sam Singh

Speech to the Michigan House of Representatives before the Vote on House Bill 5384, May 5, 2016

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HOUSE REPUBLICANS PASS BILLS TO #ENDDPS

- Written by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies and the DeVos-funded Great Lakes Education Project
- Rammed through the House in the early morning on Thursday, May 5
- These bills:
 - Do NOT provide enough money to pay down the debt or get the district moving forward
 - Strips workers of their job security and collective bargaining rights by busting their unions and voiding their contracts
 - Puts in a state-appointed board with a majority of members chosen by Republicans with no requirement that members be Detroiters
 - Allow anyone to serve as a teacher in Detroit, with no requirements for certification, education, or experience
 - Require teacher pay be tied to standardized test scores

HOW WE GOT HERE

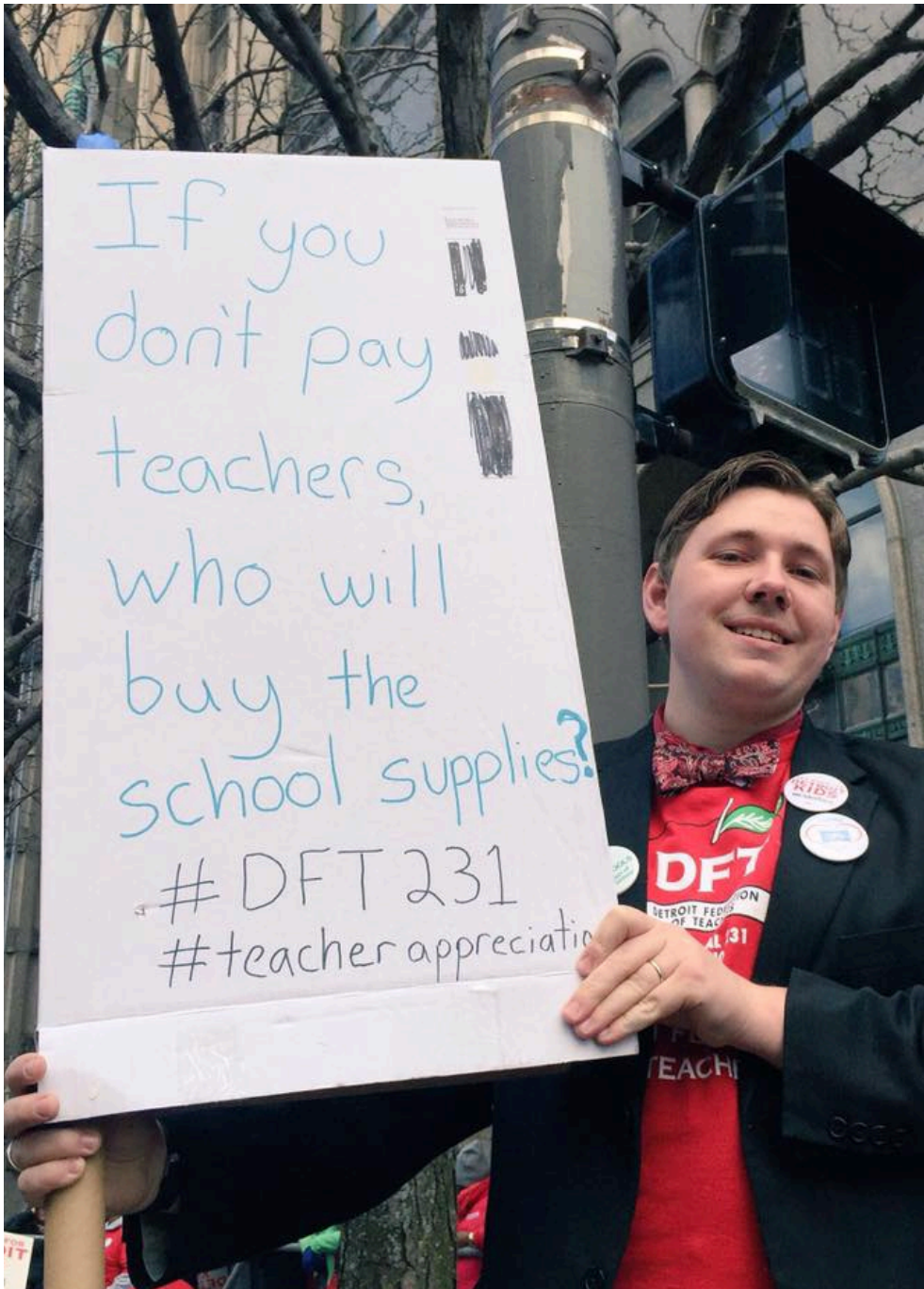
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Since 1999, 14 years spent under state-appointed board or emergency management, undercutting democracy
- Since 2009, 95 school buildings have closed
- In 2009, 87,877 students attended DPS. In 2015, 46,331 students were enrolled

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MOUNTING DEBT

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- Since 2009, EMs have racked up deficits every year
- Total operating debt: \$515 million
- Debt payments per student = \$1,384

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NO CHARTER COORDINATION OR OVERSIGHT

- 95 Charter Schools in Detroit, 31.5% of Michigan charter schools are in Detroit
- 12 different entities authorize charter schools, more than 30 different entities operate schools, both for- and non-profit
- Since 2009, DPS credit rating downgraded from Ba2 to Caa1, specifically because of the lack of authorizing oversight of charter schools
- 8 in 10 Michigan charter schools academic achievement metrics below the state average in reading and math (Stanford Univ. CREO)
- Wraparound services for students are uncoordinated and inefficient in providing resources to students and families, if provided by charter schools at all.

IRRATIONAL SCHOOL SITING

	MIDTOWN	NORTHEAST
HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS	1,894	6,018
HIGH SCHOOLS	11	2

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COALITION FOR THE FUTURE OF DETROIT SCHOOL CHILDREN

- Work begun in January 2015 to bring together Detroit education stakeholders, including Detroit community, education, faith, business, labor, and philanthropic organizations.
- Many members and leaders of Detroit Public Schools unions participated in the work of the Coalition.
- Principles
 1. The state must pay the debt accumulated under state control so children do not.
 2. A locally elected school board must be empowered to operate the district.
 3. Employees must be respected for their dedication and continue to have their jobs, their contracts, and their unions.
 4. EAA schools must be returned to the public school district.
 5. The chaotic and irrational educational landscape must be coordinated to serve the needs of students and families.



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WHERE WE ARE

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SENATE PASSED LEGISLATION

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- Michigan Senate: 27
Republicans, 10
Democrats=Republican
supermajority
 - Governor proposed legislation in
July 2015- CFDS, AFT/DFT
rejected it.
 - January 2015: Senate introduces
legislation, AFT/DFT testify on
improvements needed
 - March 22, 2015: Senate passed
legislation which achieves the
key principles of the coalition
and our union
 - Bipartisan Support: 21 yes votes,
16 nay votes
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HOUSE PASSED LEGISLATION

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- 63 Republicans, 46 Democrats
 - House introduced bills in February
 - These bills hurt students, assault public education and school employees
 - AFT Michigan/DFT testified against these bills during House Approps. Committee hearing
 - Written by the right-wing, DeVos funded Great Lakes Education Project and the Michigan Association of Public School Academies
 - After the lockout, House committee made them worse, with only one hearing in the Appropriations Committee before they were approved.
 - AFT Michigan was the only organization to testify, though others indicated they were opposed
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KEY DIFFERENCES

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ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR DETROIT SCHOOLS

HOUSE

- No. Provides up to \$500 million in appropriations and a \$33 million loan for transition costs. This is simply not sufficient.
- DPS Transition Costs are \$200 million

SENATE

- Yes. Provides \$515 million in appropriations to pay DPS debt and \$200 million for transition costs. This gives our schools a chance to move forward.

DEMOCRACY FOR DETROIT SCHOOLS

HOUSE

- No. A board picked mostly by Republicans who aren't from Detroit will serve at least one year. Another appointed commission will select the superintendent.

SENATE

- Yes. A return to local governance through a school board elected in August 2016. That board can select the superintendent

RESPECT FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR CONTRACTS

HOUSE

- Your jobs are not secured, you have no contract and no union representation.
- Employees can be outsourced and privatized.

SENATE

- Your jobs are secured in the new school district and your collective bargaining agreement continues to cover them.
- Does not allow for the privatization of instructional staff.

MANAGING OUR OUT-OF-CONTROL CHARTER SYSTEM

HOUSE

- No. Allows the current system of unchecked charter expansion to continue to erode the stability of DPS.

SENATE

- Yes. Creates a “Detroit Education Commission” of a majority Detroit residents, appointed by the mayor, who is accountable to us unlike the State School Reform Officer to bring some common sense to the system of charter and traditional school opening and a common accountability framework.

PUNISHMENT FOR STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

HOUSE

- Yes. You would be fined 1 day's pay for every day you engage in a strike. You lose the right to an individual appeal, and as a group you are not given adequate time to prepare a case.

SENATE

- No.

EXPERIMENTING ON DETROIT CHILDREN

HOUSE

- Requires teacher pay tied to test scores
- Allows non-certified people to teach with no requirements for education or experience.

SENATE

- Does not interfere with academic or operational decision-making of an elected school board.

ENDING THE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY

HOUSE

- Allows the EAA to continue, including privatizing instructional staff.

SENATE

- Returns EAA schools to the public school district in 2018.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

- Senate could take action on HOUSE BILLS next week
 - We need to have voters Senators listen to ask for a NO vote on the House bills
- Once the Senate sends bills back to the House
 - We need House members who voted for the HOUSE plan to change their minds
- We need the Governor to commit to VETO the HOUSE bills and any legislation that attacks our main principles
 - By saying he'll veto the legislation, Governor Snyder influences legislators
- The House and Senate will then form a joint committee to resolve their differences
 - We need to advocate for the best version of bills to come out of the conference committee

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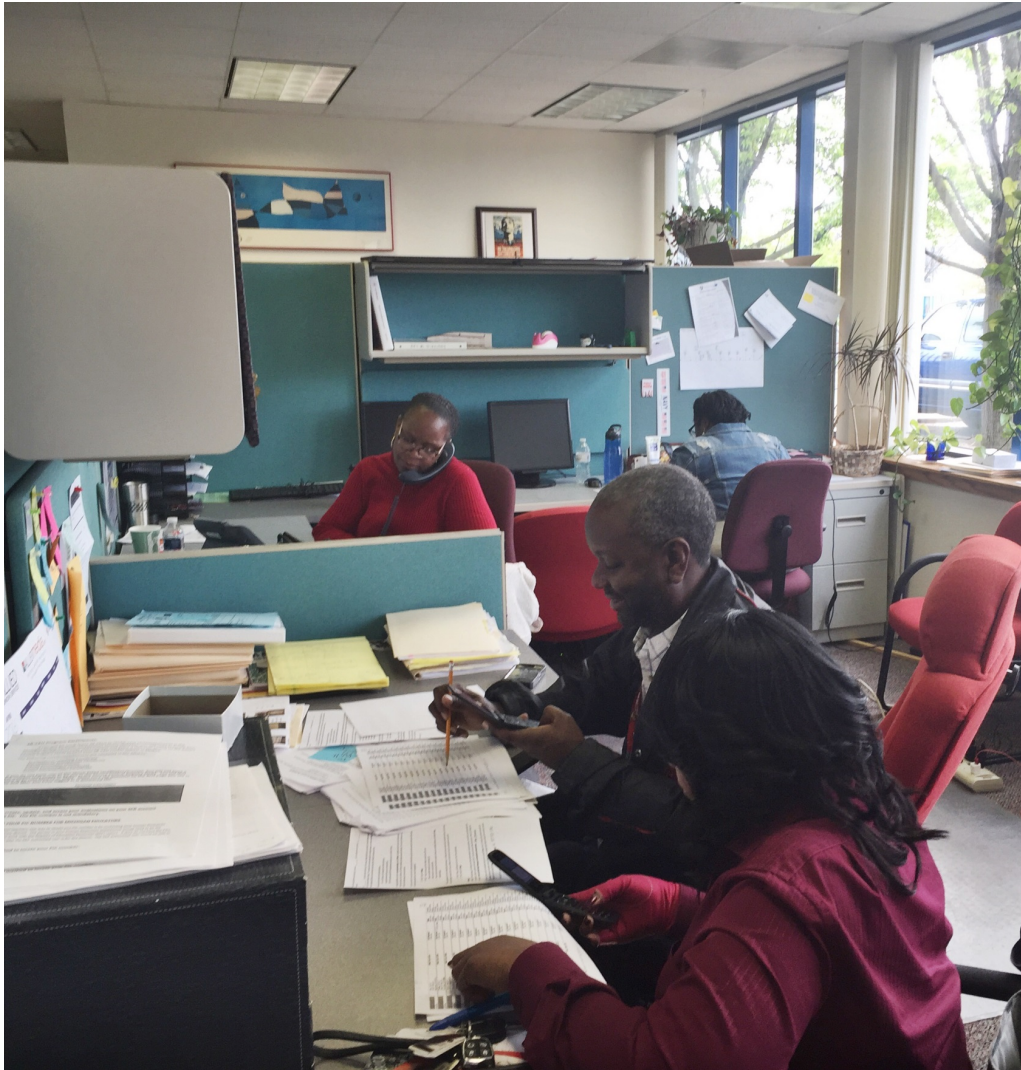


OUR FIGHT BACK

INFLUENCING LEGISLATORS



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DFT MEMBERS FIGHTING BACK

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SINCE 4:30AM ON MAY 5...

➤ Work Done:

	Members Involved	Person-Hours	People Contacted
Labor-to-Neighbor Walks	21	76.5	459
Phone Banking	56	253.3	6,336
Legislator Meetings	16	78	8

➤ Decision-Makers Contacted:

	Governor	State Senators	State Representatives
Hand-written Letters	37	39	39
Phone Calls	219	925	1,544
E-Mails	17,111	1,632	903
In-Person Meetings		6	2

- This work includes efforts from DFT, DFP, DAEOE and AFT Michigan members, along with our allies at AFGE, UNITE HERE, MRCC, AFL-CIO, 482Forward and DPS students.