



DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

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Ivy Bailey, Interim President

September 28, 2016

Judge Steven Rhodes
Office of the Transition Manager
Detroit Public Schools Community District
3011 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Judge Rhodes;

I believe we all can agree that ensuring our students and educators have safe, healthy and secure teaching and learning environments in their school buildings must be a top priority. Indeed, the district has statutory obligations to maintain safe environments in its buildings.

This most recent security threat targeting our schools raises serious concerns and questions around the district's current health and safety policies and practices. Specifically, we are troubled that the district did not notify the union of this threat. In the future, there should be a procedure in place for the district to notify the union promptly of any threats to schools so that we can engage our members around issues as they arise.

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Detroit Federation of Teachers—our city's educators—and the children in their care to request that the district work collaboratively and cooperatively with teachers, parents and our union to ensure the safety and well-being of students and school staff. The DFT has raised concerns with the district on numerous occasions, including in a letter to this office in April and during contract negotiations, about the school conditions, safety and security. In fact, our new contract with DPSCD specifically calls for the district and the union to establish a health and safety committee to review health, safety, and other conditions and situations that may impact students and educators.

Now is the time to act to safeguard our students and school staff. We are requesting a meeting with district officials to address this serious issue. Further, we want to discuss an immediate plan for establishing a health and safety committee.

Sincerely,

Ivy Bailey
President

cc: Alycia Meriweather, Interim Superintendent
Lamont Satchel, Chief Innovation Officer
Phyllis Hurks-Hill, Acting General Counsel