



# Detroit Public Education Session Results Report by CitizenDetroit (Feb-June 2016)



District 2 participants discuss their individual and consensus priorities for qualifications for the new DPS Superintendent and School Board members.

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**2/11/16 Total attendees: 113**

- Members of public: 64

**3/3/16 Total attendees: 104**

- Members of public: 49

**5/19/16 Total attendees: 64**

- Members of public: 35

**6/9/16 Total attendees: 80**

- Members of public: 56

**6/16/16 Total attendees: 106**

- Members of public: 87

**Total attendees: 467**

- Total members of public: 291
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## About CitizenDetroit

Founded in 2012 by Dr. Irvin D. Reid and Sheila Cockrel, CitizenDetroit (CD) is a voter education initiative housed at Wayne State University. CD held five public Dinner & Dialogue sessions from February to June 2016 with a total of 467 participants including public officials and staff. Seated by council district, participants were asked to discuss and vote (individually and by table consensus) on their top five qualifications for DPS Superintendent and School Board members. Pre- and post-event clicker polls were conducted to gather information about attendee characteristics and opinions about Detroit's public education system. The Feb 11 and March 3 program included expert presentations on the history, finances, academics, and overall landscape of public education in Detroit. The remaining three events featured a boardgame exercise showcasing DPS history and current facts.

# Executive Summary

## Background

Since 2012, CitizenDetroit has convened high performing voter residents to present information about municipal finance, the city budget, city services, and Detroit's Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Education and the state of Detroit Public Schools has come up repeatedly as a subject participants desired to learn more about and discuss with CitizenDetroit.

With the worsening DPS financial crisis, teacher sickouts, possible end to state emergency management and return to an elected School Board, as well as major proposals from the Mayor, Governor, local leaders, and the state legislature, CitizenDetroit recognized a key opportunity to convene Detroit residents on a vital issue that would require informed electoral engagement. This report summarizes the events and the characteristics, preferences and attitudes of the participants regarding Detroit public education.

DPS Superintendent (Individual Votes)			DPS School Board (Individual Votes)		
<b>CRITERIA:</b> DPS superintendent should demonstrate success in or as		<b>VOTES</b>	<b>CRITERIA:</b> DPS School Board members must have or demonstrate		<b>VOTES</b>
<b>1</b>	Implementing best practice educational reforms that put children first	219	<b>1</b>	Commitment to public accountability and transparency	195
<b>2</b>	An administrator, raising academic achievement scores in a K-12 public school environment	190	<b>2</b>	A college degree or post high school certificate	157
<b>3</b>	Financial management of a large, complex organization	147	<b>3</b>	Evidence of community engagement	149
<b>4</b>	An administrator, teacher, or other leader in an urban public school district (traditional or charter)	139	<b>4</b>	Knowledge of academic best practices	132
<b>4</b>	Public accountability and transparency in decision making	138	<b>5</b>	Commitment to re-establishing the arts, PE and extracurriculars	125
Summarized by Category			Summarized by Category		
<b>1</b>	Academics	548	<b>1</b>	Professional Qualifications	431
<b>2</b>	Administration	497	<b>2</b>	Transparency & Engagement	344
<b>3</b>	Transparency & Engagement	394	<b>3</b>	Interrelational Skills	289
<b>4</b>	Commitment to Support Services	204	<b>4</b>	Student achievement	257
<b>5</b>	Miscellaneous (Residency & Other)	75	<b>5</b>	Personal Experience with DPS	91
			<b>6</b>	Miscellaneous (Other)	11

# Executive Summary

## Opinions on DPS

1. What is the top challenge facing Detroit Public Schools? (n=307)

- **EM/State oversight - 122 (40%)**
- Student poverty 57 (19%)
- Enrollment decline 50 (16%)
- Local corruption 49 (16%)
- Other 29 (9%)

2. The new DPS Superintendent's top priority should be... (n=119)

- **High academic achievement - 118 (39%)**
- Safe, clean schools - 62 (20%)
- Closing the achievement gap - 62 (20%)
- Building positive relationships with teachers and administrators - 38 (13%)
- Excellent financial management - 23 (8%)

3. The new DPS School Board should be... (n=315)

- **Elected - 202 (64%)**
- Doesn't matter as long as candidate is qualified - 100 (32%)
- Appointed - 13 (4%)

4. I do not want to see... (n=306)

- **More state oversight - 79 (26%)**
- More charters - 69 (23%)
- More DPS closings 53 (17%)
- State appointed superintendent - 49 (16%)
- More EAA\* - 37 (12%)
- Other - 19 (6%)

5. What is your opinion on the recent teacher sickouts? (n=310)

- **Strongly support - 151 (49%)**
- Support - 79 (25%)
- Neutral - 35 (11%)
- Oppose - 23 (7%)
- Strongly oppose - 22 (7%)

## Participant Characteristics



68% Female



31% Male



58% are 56 or older



73% have lived in Detroit since 1980 or earlier



36% are/have been teachers



28% have children in school



51% went to Detroit Public Schools



89% say they always vote in primary elections





## Session Agenda & Speakers (2-11 & 3-3 events)

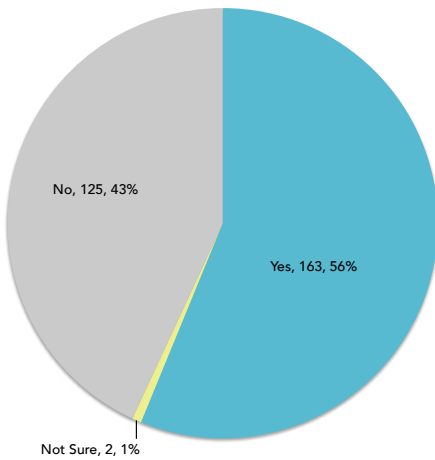
- Welcome & Introduction - Dr. Irvin D. Reid
  - Detroit Public Schools Early History and Current Context - Sheila Cockrel
  - Pre-event Clicker Poll
  
  - Guest Speakers:
    - DPS: An Educator's Perspective - Karen Ridgeway, DPS
    - Detroit Public Education: The Landscape - Dan Varner, Excellent Schools Detroit
    - DPS Finances - Tony Saunders, Wayne County & State Financial Review Commission
    - DPS History 1965 to Today - Penny Bailer, DPS School Board 1990-94
    - DPS Proposals & Recommendations - Dr. Geneva Williams, DPS School Board 2003-5
  
  - Facilitated Table Activity:
    - Individual & Consensus votes on DPS Superintendent & School Board selection criteria
  
  - Post-event Clicker Poll
  - Wrap
- 



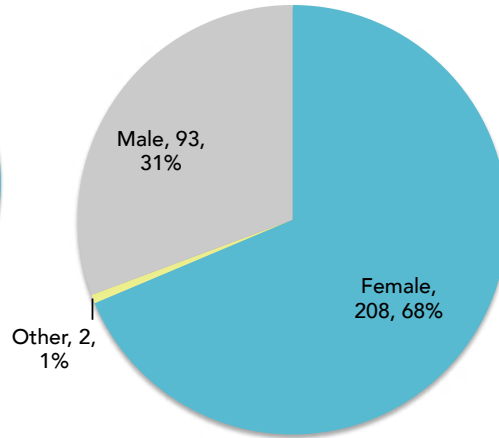
Guest presenters (L-R): Penny Bailer, Dr. Geneva Williams, Dan Varner, Karen Ridgeway, and Tony Saunders.

# About the participants (2-11 & 3-3 combined clicker results)

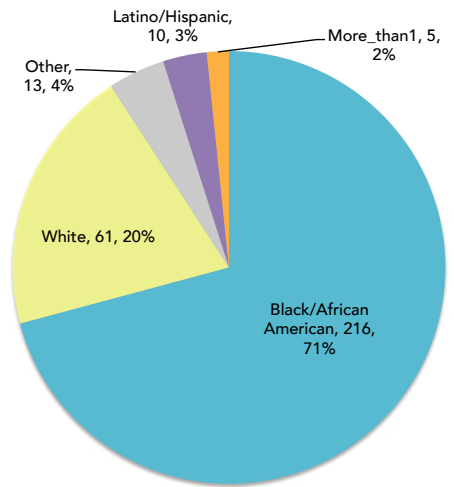
Previous CitizenDetroit participant? (n=290)



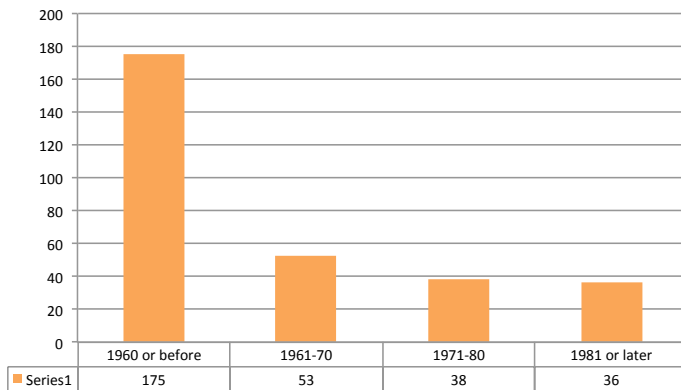
Gender (n=303)



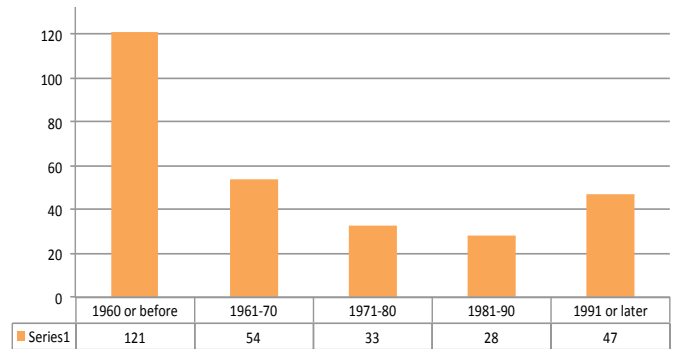
Race/ethnicity (n=305)



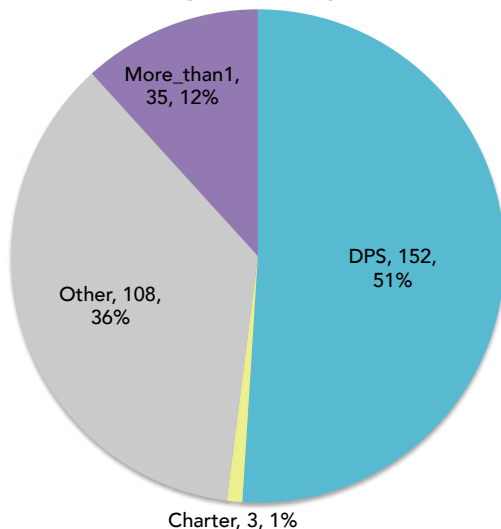
Was born in... (n=302)



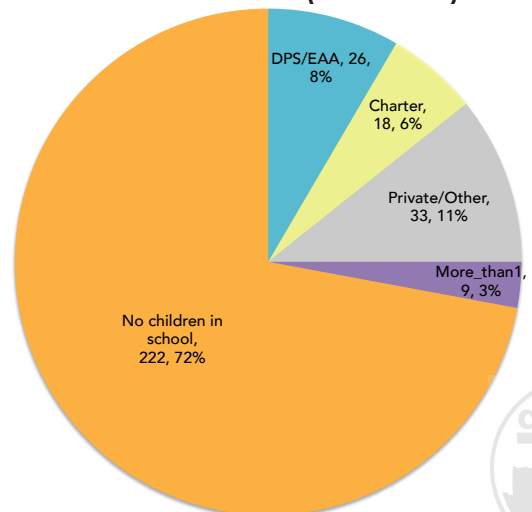
Lived in Detroit since... (n=283)



Participant was educated in... (n=298)

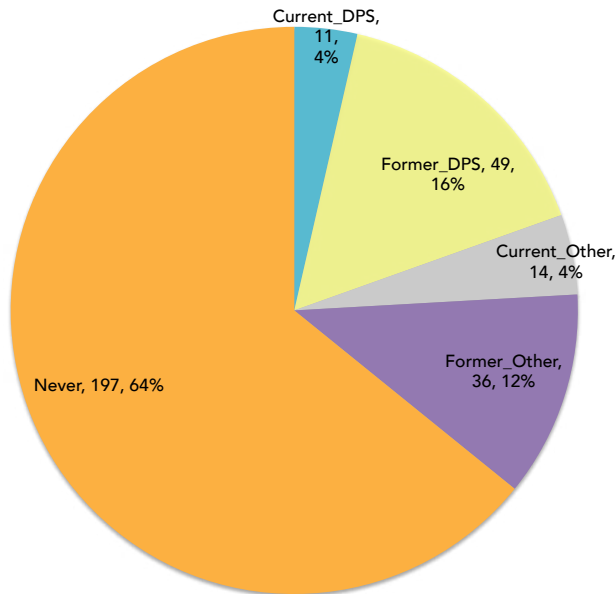


Currently parent/guardian of child in... (n=308)

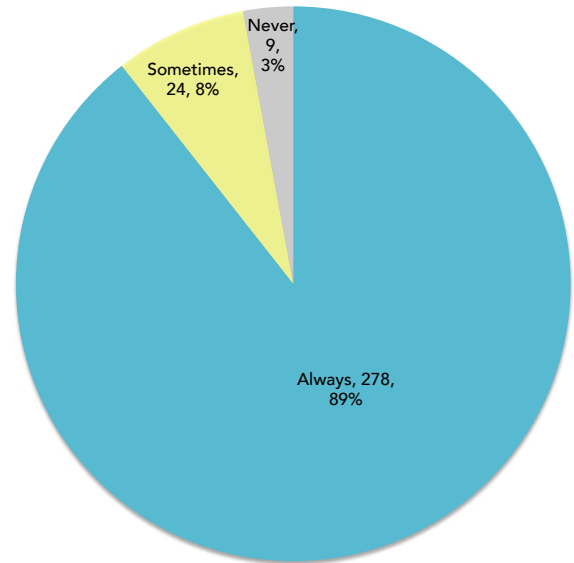


## About the participants (2-11 & 3-3 combined clicker results)

Experience as teacher



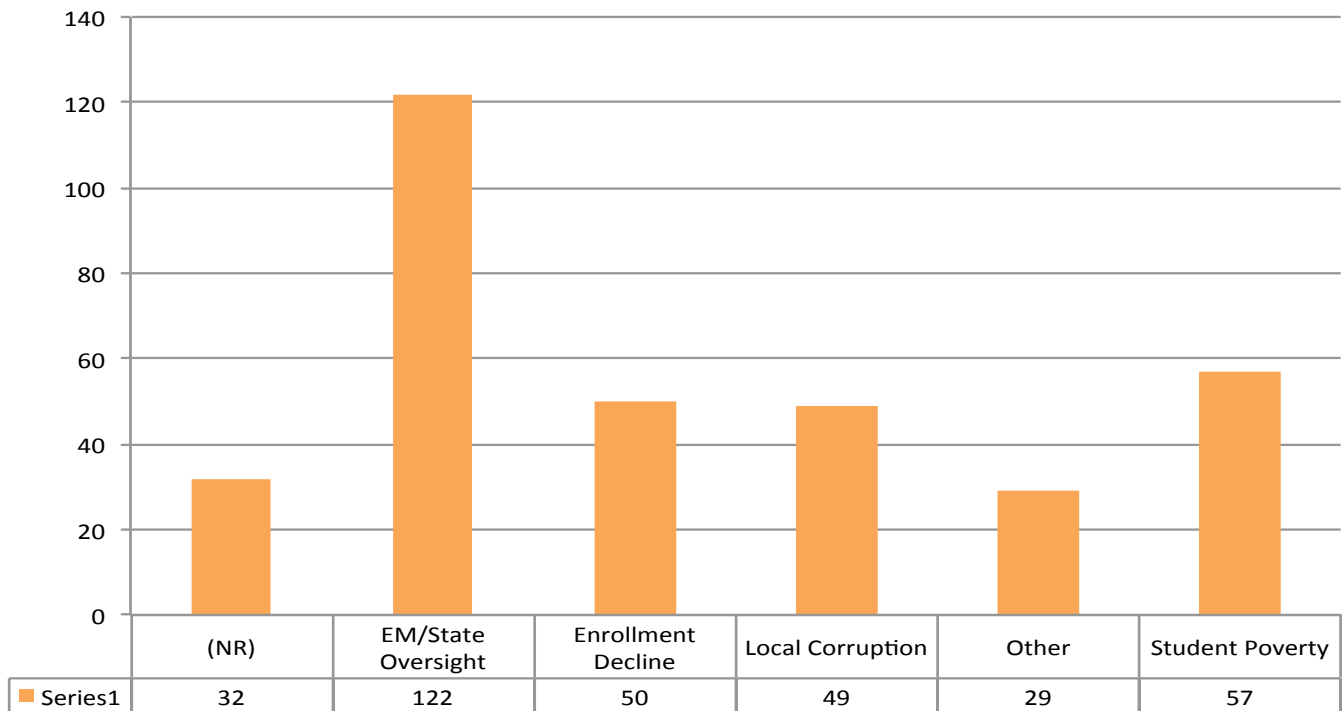
Vote in primaries?



## Opinions on DPS (2/11 & 3/3 combined clicker results)

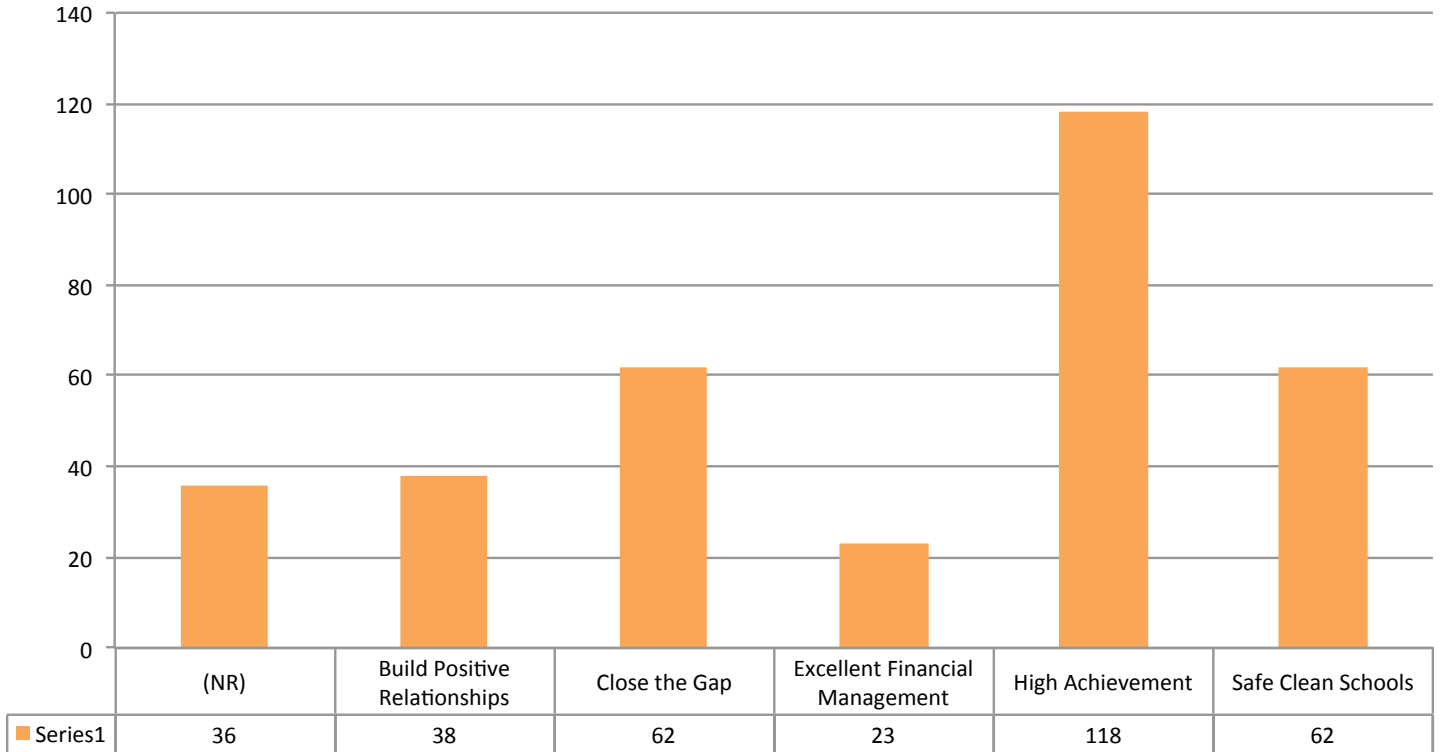
Five opinion questions were presented in both the pre- and post-event surveys. The charts below and on the following pages illustrate combined responses from the 2/11 and 3/3 pre- and post-event clicker surveys.

### 1. What is the top challenge facing Detroit Public Schools? (n=307)

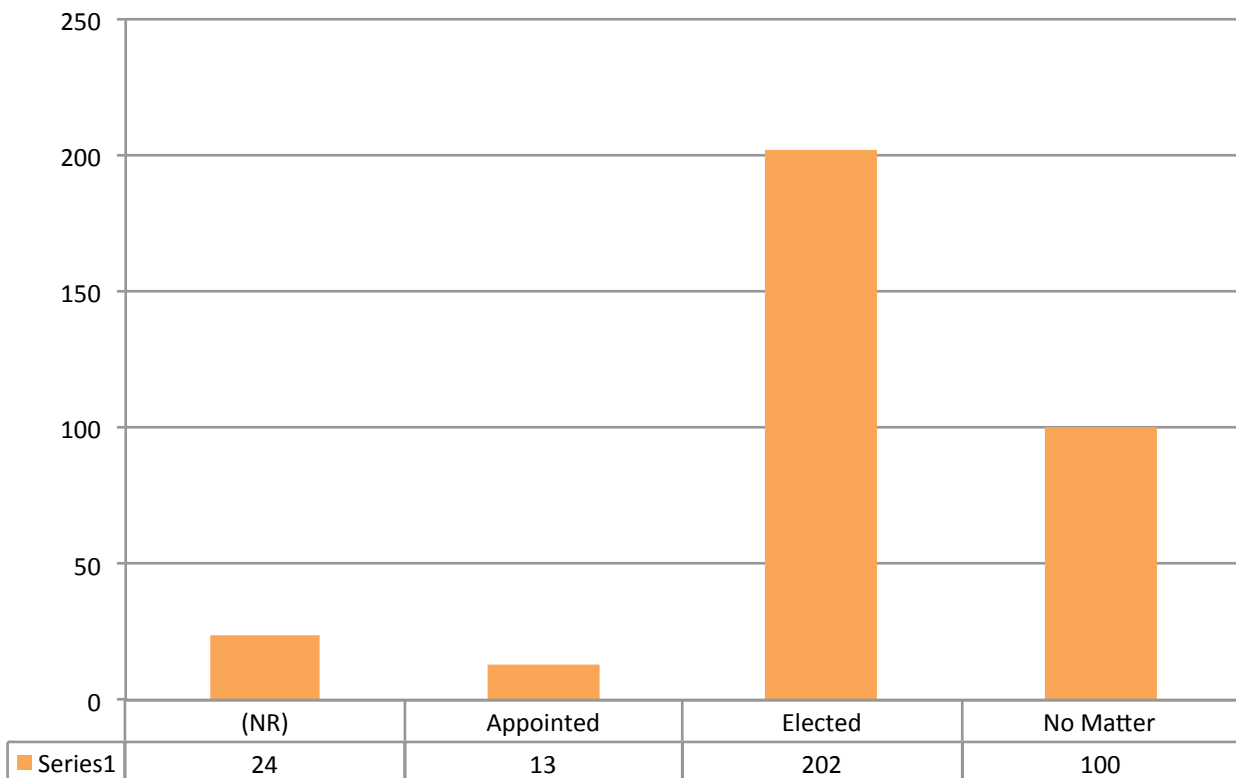


## Opinions on DPS (2/11 & 3/3 combined clicker results)

2. The new DPS Superintendent's top priority should be...  
(n=303)

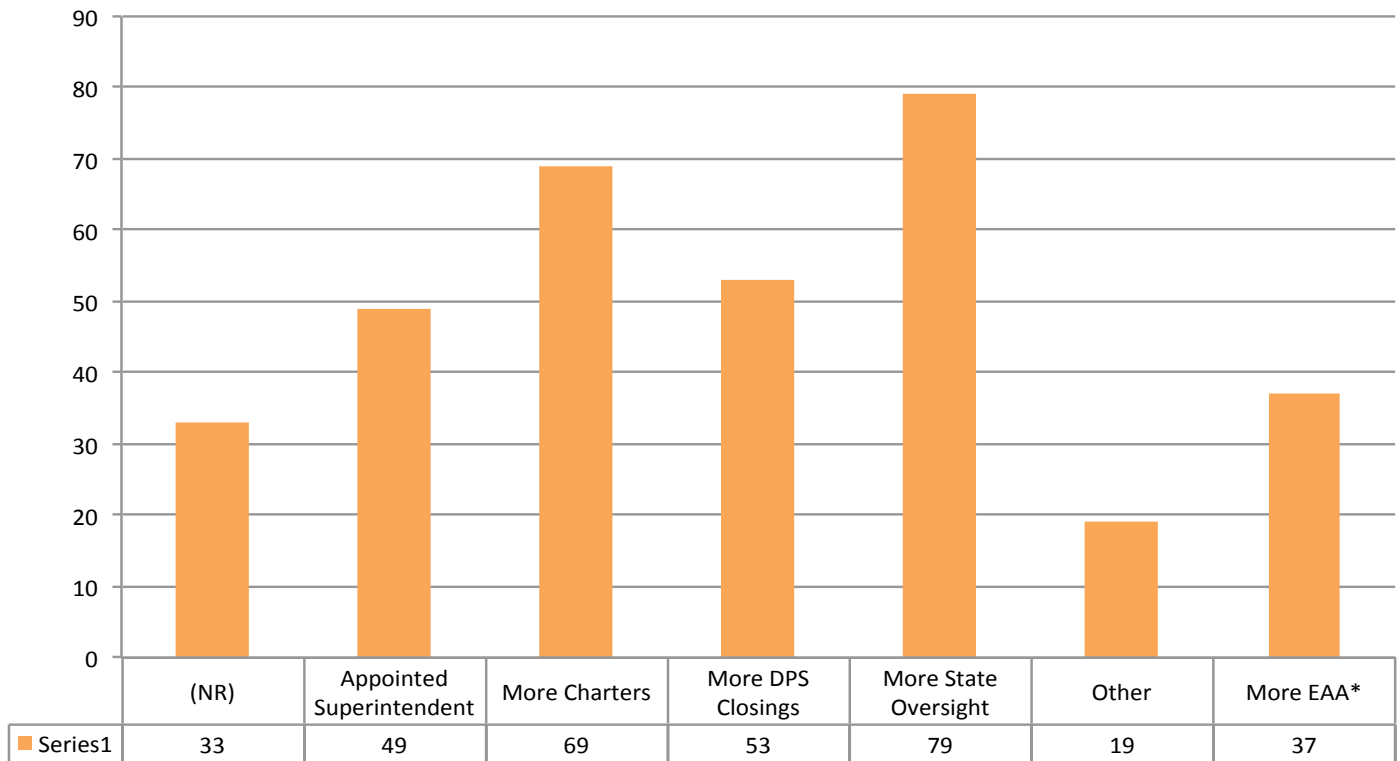


3. The new DPS School Board should be... (n=315)



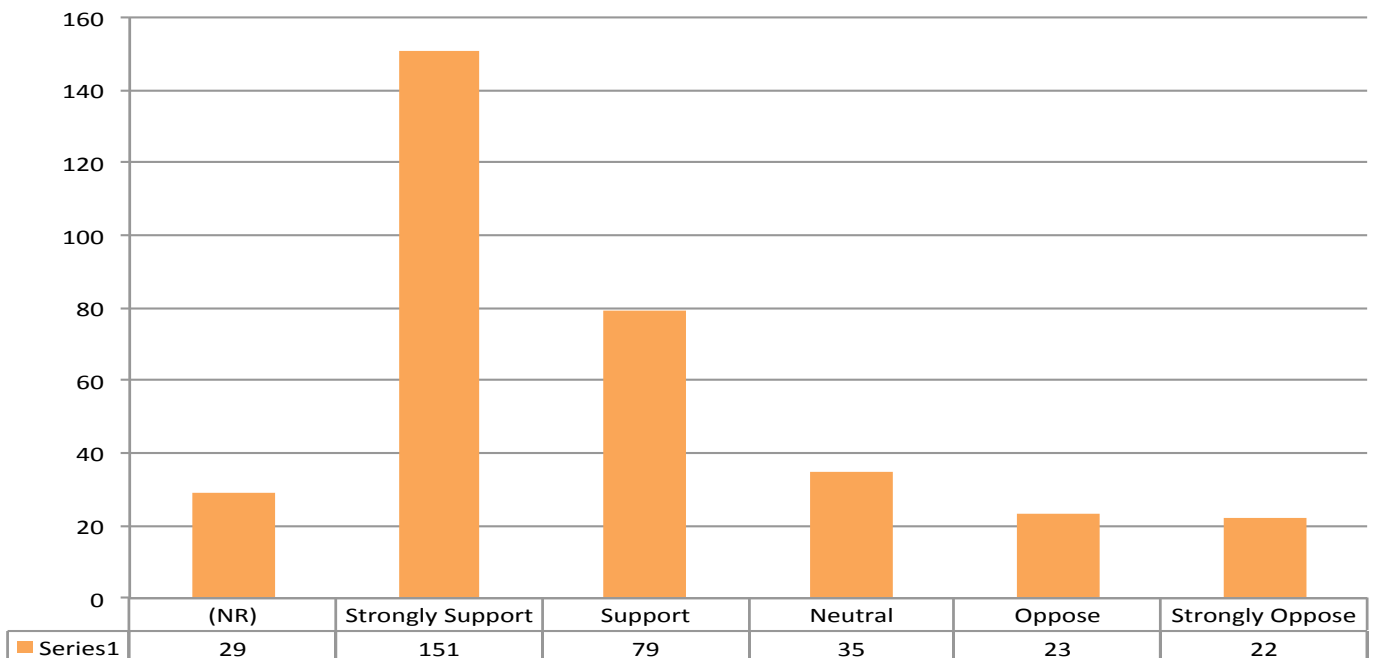
## Opinions on DPS (2/11 & 3/3 combined clicker results)

### 4. I do NOT want to see... (n=306)



\*After the pre-vote, it was announced at the event that the EAA would likely not continue.

### 5. What is your opinion on the recent teacher sickouts? (n=310)





## Table Exercises

At each event, facilitators led participants in a discussion and vote on selection criteria for DPS Superintendent and DPS School Board members. Seated by council district in small groups, participants used dot stickers to cast votes for their top five criteria for each position.



At the 5/19, 6/9, and 6/16 events, participants also played a boardgame featuring historical facts and current statistics about public education in Detroit.



# Selection Criteria Voting Exercise

<b>SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
<b>ACADEMICS</b>	<b>548</b>
Success in implementing best practice educational reforms that put children first	219 (1)
Success as an administrator, raising academic achievement scores in a K-12 public school environment	190 (2)
Success as an administrator, teacher, or other leader in an urban public school district (traditional or charter)	139 (4)
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>497</b>
Success in financial management of a large, complex organization	147 (3)
Success managing legal issues, labor contracts, school-related finances, etc.	114
Success navigating complex educational policy at national, state, and local levels	84
Success using data to identify and solve problems	118
Success and familiarity with the operation of charter schools and internet-learning public schools	34
<b>TRANSPARENCY &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>394</b>
Success in facilitating family and community engagement with schools	132
Success working well with political leaders, unions, administrators, and teachers	124
Success demonstrating public accountability and transparency in decision making	138 (5)
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>204</b>
Success integrating health, social and other support systems in a public school environment	103
Success in Special Education policy and law, inclusion and diversity	101
<b>MISC</b>	<b>75</b>
Detroit residency (though it is not legal to require it)	68
Other*	7

\*Other write-in responses:

“Integrity”

“Elected”

“Transparency”

“Moral staff”



# Selection Criteria Voting Exercise

<b>SCHOOL BOARD SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>431</b>
Must have a college degree or post high school certificate	157 (2)
Must have Board level experience in policy and budgeting	107
Must have experience with complex policy and legal issues	79
Must have at least one member be an attorney and Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	88
<b>TRANSPARENCY &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>344</b>
Must have commitment to public accountability and transparency	195 (1)
Must demonstrate evidence of community engagement	149 (3)
<b>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<b>257</b>
Must demonstrate knowledge of academic best practices	132 (4)
Must commit to reestablishing the arts, physical education and extracurricular activities	125 (5)
<b>INTERRELATIONAL SKILLS</b>	<b>289</b>
Must communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders	123
Must demonstrate mediation or conflict-resolution success	118
Must have established and maintained effective working relationships with elected officials at the state or local levels	48
<b>PERSONAL FAMILIARITY WITH DPS</b>	<b>91</b>
Must demonstrate understanding of the history of DPS	68
Must have/had a child in DPS	3
Must have attended DPS	6
Must have DPS board experience	14
<b>MISC</b>	<b>11</b>
Other*	11

- \*Other write-in responses:
- “Textbook evaluation/Ability to take home textbooks”
  - “Elected”
  - “Talent”
  - “DPS teaching or admin experience”
  - “At least 1 teacher with 15+ years experience”
  - “Integrity”

