

From: Tonya Allen

Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 2:02 PM

To: Betsy DeVos

Cc: Tina Lubben, Donna Groce

Subject: Congratulations

Hi Betsy,

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of Education. As a woman, I am so impressed with your leadership and ascension to this absolute important role for our country and for our children. I am wishing you the best of luck and hope your tenure sets us on a path toward equity and prosperity for our economy and our people.

Despite our disagreements regarding policy with the Detroit Education Commission, I am writing to implore you to focus on both *education reforms* (disruptions to improve education) and *education restorations* (investments to strengthen the aspects of our public education system that work). President-elect Trump bills himself as a practical leader. This is a time for us to focus on practical solutions, not necessarily ideological ones. I am eager to support your leadership in promoting and executing strategies that work.

As you know, Detroit is ground zero. We have so much work to do to ensure that children have a shot at America's promise. I personally stand ready to work with you to figure a path forward for our beloved city. Maybe your appointment, our political differences and Detroit's unique challenges create an opportunity to do something unexpected, outside of the box, and successful. I am ready to take something on like this that is both big and bold. So please know that I stand ready to help and to facilitate efforts such as this if you have interest.

Lastly, I want to again congratulate you on your appointment. I am so happy for you. I am happy for Michigan. I am happy for our country. I am happy for our kids.

Best, Tonya