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By Valerie D. Lockhart SUN EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Attempts to remove the sickening stench spreading around the Detroit Public Schools Community District that stem from an air of impropriety have failed.

Controversy over an \$11.4 million contract awarded to Beyond 17 Basics, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit working to eradicate illiteracy that Superintendent Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti's wife, Rachel, resigned as Director, was intensified by the board's unanimous approval to extend its contract.

"We've done a lot of research on what this board is doing under Dr. Vitti. We also know that after the last meeting when we brought up the problem with Beyond Basics, in which Dr. Vitti's wife works for, that she decided to resign from the company. I

see that it is back on the agenda 11.11 - approval of the contract extension with Beyond Basics," Helen Moore, an attorney and education activist, said. "It has been used for two years by this school system, and most of us didn't even know what they were doing just for a few children and for millions of dollars.'

Plans are underway to clean up the district's alleged corrupt leadership to better improve literacy scores and to achieve greater transparency concerning spending.

"I took this problem not only to the state but also to our national group Journey for Justice. We are going to meet all over the United States in September. And, we will be meeting in Washington, D.C. with 10,000 to 20,000 people that are going through the same things that we are going through in the City of Detroit. And by the way, the City of Detroit is still at the bottom when it comes to learning with our children. There has been no improvement, and don't blame it on the virus. Some of the white districts

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