

MASS RALLY TO SAVE DAY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Thurs, April 5th @ 3pm 4555 John C Lodge Fwy. Detroit, MI 48201, at the Lodge and Forrest

FIGHT TO SAVE OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!

Join BAMN and organize youth-led direct mass action:

KEEP ALL DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN!

Use State Surplus Funding to Restore DPS!

Restore Dr. King's Dream for America in Detroit!

Equal, Quality Education for ALL Black, Latina/o, other minority and poor White Students!

Unite the Black and Latina/o communities in a common struggle to determine our shared destinies. Build the new youth-led independent integrated civil rights movement!

When We Fight We Win!

The students of Detroit have the power to defend our schools and our city from the racist attacks of Roy Roberts, Mayor Dave Bing and Governor Rick Snyder. To do this **we must be more determined to keep our schools open than they are to close them.**

Roy Roberts was sent to Detroit by Gov. Snyder to dismantle what remains of our public school system, level more of our neighborhoods and drive poor black families out of Detroit. To defeat this racist attack on our schools and our city the youth of Detroit must show that we are prepared to organize mass direct actions like the youth of Birmingham, Alabama did in 1963, to break the back of the old Jim Crow segregation. This is our time to take to the streets, to march, sit-in and walk-out; to assert our power and our refusal to be stepped on or pushed back any longer. The bigger, broader and bolder our struggles and confrontations, the more we shift power to our side.

As young people we're told we are too young and inexperienced to make decisions for ourselves and our society, but we are confronted by tough decisions every day and we get through each trial. We learn through each one of our struggles and we've become stronger through each fight, keeping our heads up through it all. No one knows better than us what these schools mean to us, or has more to lose from their closure. The confidence, resourcefulness and optimism that we learn together in our school, side by side, always looking out for one another through the good times and the tough ones, has taught us that we can win. Unlike everyone else, our fear of what our lives will be like if we *don't* fight, is far greater than our fear of fighting to win. This is exactly why it took young people to win the struggles of the last civil rights movement and why it *must* be *us* in the lead if we are to win this time.

To win, a new generation of proud, bold and angry Latina/o and black youth must step forward and lead!

In 2006, Latina/o communities across America announced to this nation that a new and powerful force is poised to lead all of the oppressed in our common struggle for equality and justice. Latina/o youth of Southwest Detroit and the rest of the nation showed the way. When undocumented immigrants were

threatened with a proposed racist anti-immigrant law, students organized mass walkouts and Detroit saw its largest civil rights demonstration since Dr. King came to Detroit in 1963. We won because our enemies were afraid of the organized power of our numbers.

Our only mistake then was that we STOPPED marching. After we won our initial victory, nearly every adult--principals, teachers, parents and priests, urged us to return to school and put our faith in the politicians. That is a failed policy and if we are to win the battle to save our schools we must ignore any advice we hear urging us to be patient, to wait, or to limit our actions to whatever those currently in power would find acceptable.

We desperately need Latina/o and black students to step forward and organize our community to rise up again. All our current so-called self-anointed leaders are fighting to lose. They fear the anger and potential militance of young people more than they fear the destruction of public education or our city. Most say the opposite of the truth. Syrupy patronizing, white liberals who claim they must lead because "people in Southwest are too scared to fight," really mean that they are terrified of unleashing the power of Detroit's Latina/o community. Those that claim Detroit is broke know that there is a large state surplus but that the rich and powerful want to starve Detroit to death. The establishment "community leaders" claiming that the best way we can protect democracy in our city is by instituting the cuts ourselves, are our enemies. BAMN and those who stand with us are the only force in the city prepared to speak the plain truth about racism and fight to win. We must grow and build a new leadership for our city that can be a model for the country.

Unity is the Key to Victory: Divide-and-Conquer is Our Enemies' Best Strategy to Win

Detroit, like every other city now, has large and growing Latina/o and immigrant communities. Black Detroiters should see this development as positive, something like fresh battalions coming to the rescue. We need fresh and energetic new forces in this city to counter the despair and pessimism that is too prevalent. The growth in numbers and power of our Latina/o communities offers the greatest hope for placing Detroit's destiny back in the hands of our city's black and other oppressed communities.
