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## DMPS Update Regarding Today's Events

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**Lewis, Amanda** <Amanda.Lewis@dmschools.org>  
To: "Lewis, Amanda" <Amanda.Lewis@dmschools.org>

Fri, Sep 26, 2025 at 5:46 PM

Dear Members of the News Media:

Thank you, again, for attending or viewing our media briefing this afternoon regarding Superintendent Dr. Ian Roberts' detention today by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As we indicated this afternoon, this is an emerging situation and there is information we do not know and information we have not been able to verify. We also said that we would provide updated information when we are able to do so.

The following provides some additional information in regard to this situation:

- The DMPS Board retained JG Consulting to conduct a search for the DMPS Superintendency. The firm identified Dr. Roberts as a candidate and a third-party comprehensive background check was conducted by Baker-Eubanks. (Information about the Superintendent search process can be located on the [DMPS website](#))
- Employers, including DMPS, are required to verify employment eligibility for all employees. In this case, Dr. Roberts completed the I-9 employment eligibility verification form and submitted the required documentation.
- Dr. Roberts was licensed by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners in July 2023 and has held education leadership positions in the United States for over 20 years.
- The district has not been formally notified by ICE about this matter, nor have we been able to talk with Dr. Roberts since his detention.
- A news release distributed by ICE states Dr. Roberts was issued a final order of removal by an Immigration Judge in May 2024. The district did not have any knowledge of this situation or the order of removal.
- It has been reported that a loaded gun was found in a district vehicle that was provided to Dr. Roberts for his use. DMPS policy states weapons are prohibited on school grounds or at a school sponsored or school related activity.
- Dr. Roberts has a previous firearm charge related to a hunting rifle which he disclosed to the DMPS Board during the hiring process. He provided sufficient context and explanation of the situation to move forward in the hiring process. He has also spoken publicly about this experience.
- The Des Moines School Board has scheduled a special session for Saturday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss this personnel matter in closed session. The Board will also take action regarding Dr. Roberts' administrative leave status following closed session.

We will provide additional information and updates as we are able.

### Phil Roeder

Director of Communications & Public Affairs

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