End the racist attempt to drive out Spanish-speaking and undocumented students

Restore All Bilingual Staff in Southwest Detroit

Whereas: This is a *racist* attack against the rapidly growing Latina/o community in Southwest Detroit, especially those *undocumented students & their families* who don't know English. For these students & their families, the secretaries & other staff who are bilingual mean ***everything***.

Whereas: These staff, going far & above the call of duty for ordinary secretaries, *serve as vital translators* on the phone, at the front desk, for councilors, teachers; ***everything***. The Emergency Manager is well aware of this, and is trying to ***push the undocumented youth to out of Detroit Public Schools*** by denying them access to translators.

Whereas: Western is already ***overcrowded & utterly fails*** to meet the needs of its growing Spanish speaking population by not providing ELA, science, math and history taught in ***Spanish***, which is what is ***truly needed***. Therefore, bilingual secretaries and other staff are literally the ***only pathway to learning*** for Spanish-speaking students.

Whereas: Our futures, and the futures of our classmates, brothers, sisters, & the many thousands yet to arrive in Detroit, from Mexico or Central America, are ***depending on us to act now.***

Whereas: This attack ***would never even be attempted*** if Southwest & the rest of Detroit had full democratic and political control of our city; even more so if voting were extended to those with & without papers- who live, work & attend school in Detroit- ***people who should, in a just society, already be considered citizens.***

Therefore: We the undersigned demand:

- *Re-hire all bilingual staff across Southwest Detroit*
- *All classes must be available in English AND Spanish*
- *Reduce class size at Western International High School to 25*
- *No retaliation against students or teachers who organize and/or take action to save their staff*
- *Restore the democratic rights to the people Southwest & the rest of Detroit.*
- *Extend the right to vote to include those with and without papers- anyone who lives, works, or goes to school here should be considered a Detroit citizen, and should be able to determine how their city is run.*

Name (print)	Phone	Email	School/Org