

**REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE  
TITLE I DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)**

*Date December 16, 2021*

*Submitted by Submitted by Director Leonard*

**Meeting of the Milwaukee Public School District Advisory Council  
Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:00 pm – Virtual**

**WELCOME –**

---

Mr. Hall welcomed all participants and asked the interpreter to say a few words and gave instructions for those using the services of the interpreter. Instructions for sign-in, questions and comments were given for all participants. Participants are asked to please put their name and school in the chat with comments. If your question or concern is not addressed at this meeting, please feel free to contact the Executive Committee [at dac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:dac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us). The Executive committee has vacancies that hopefully will be filled by some of those participating in tonight's meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA/EXPECTATIONS -**

---

Mr. Hall touched on the family and community engagement report that can be found in the November Consent Agenda and the five priorities of success which can be found on the MPS website.

The minutes from the October meeting are available on your consent agenda that was sent to your email. If you are not receiving the emails, please contact us [through dac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:dac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us) and update your information.

October meeting attendance: 125

**FAMILY FOCUS GROUP RECRUITMENT**

---

John Jagemann came to recruit parents to a focus group that would look at MPS' Code of Conduct and what behaviors are listed in there as acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. Also, what different strategies and disciplinary actions that can be taken on offenses, depending on what was committed. The meeting will happen November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**POSITIVE NOTES – ANDY KILIMANN**

---

**Sarah Bailey:**

About 25 cars drove around Academy of Accelerated Learning for a reversed vocabulary parade on Friday October 15, 2021.

**Jennifer Clark-Ninety Fifth Street Delegate**

95th Street School had a school wide cookie decorating party with PBIS for students who demonstrated our Dragon Do's. We also had a trunk or treat event with about 200 participants!

**Tonya Bracey**

Westside is still doing the after school CLC. Westside also did a Read A long with Smores.

**Angela Rappi**

Fairview PTO is sharing small business focus ideas to encourage families to purchase from school families who run business or have families who run businesses for holiday gifts. Fairview sharing stories for Native American Heritage Month.

**Long-Burbank**

Burbank hosted a Fall fest for all students last Friday. The Milwaukee Mounted Horse Police showed

up. We played games, did arts and crafts, and had a great time. Our PTO is amazing!

**Karen Schoen Alliance HS**

Had a food truck for our Fall Fun Fest. They made amazing caramel apples and the students got to add sprinkles and nuts, etc.

**Leah Cornelius**

200 new hats/gloves donated from area church at Project STAY HS. Staff Turkey drive with all sides donated by area partner-Project STAY-PC. Gift card donation from area restaurant-will be distributed at SEC ,meeting-PC Project STAT HS.

**Shannon Cecil**

A local soccer teams is donating at least 50 Thanksgiving dinner baskets to families at Riverwest!!

**Maria Herrera Albert E KAGEL**

Kagel had a small indoor parade for Harvest Fest where all the children wore a costume. We also had parent-and-teacher conferences where about 90% for each class attended. It was a virtual and phone conference. We had five volunteers help us do a flier for *El Dia de los Muertos* for our Security, Angel, who passed away in May 2021.

**Ms. Lin Hampton Elementary**

We studied chemical change and made cookies decorating at Hampton!

**Brittany Clay- Lancaster**

Lancaster held a book giveaway and invited the community

**Danielle Young**

Kluge has indoor parade with treat stations

**Robin Parker – Honey Creek**

book fair and we let every teacher pick books for their class

**Maritza Rivera Riley PC**

Today we had a community event for families which we donated to all families winter gear and Mexican bread, tamales and hot cocoa. The event was great!

**Jaceena Werk**

The kids aren't able to go on field trips right now so at Whittier the K4 and K5 teachers set up a pumpkin patch for kids in a field next to the school. The kids got to pick a pumpkin. They also had a crafts and ate cold lunch and snack outside. It was a great alternative.

**Yudit's iPhone**

Greenfield Bilingual school new parent Cordinator

**Donnis Haynes Bryant**

shout to Bryant PC book fair was amazing

**Dulce Mora**

Greenfield organized an art exposition of Celebration of Life

**Lea Kyle-Lewis**

I have had great turn out with SEC Meetings & Title 1 Meeting

**Matt Cole**

MFIS book fair went very well!

**Patricia Kline**

RKIMS has a Halloween Event with camel apples, costume contest and prizes awarded for students who qualified with 10 King Bucks and a sign up sheet with the approval of 10 teachers and administrators. A beautifully decorated auxiliary gym made the event an added surprise for the students.

**V. NEW BUSINESS – JENNI HOFSCHULTE**

Jenni encouraged delegates to apply for DAC Executive Committee positions.

Positions open for DAC Executive Board:

Chairman: Direct link from DAC to School Board

Vice Chairman: Step in when Chairman is not available

Communication Secretary: Maintain the webpage and distribute information.

Recording Secretary: Takes notes and keep minutes of each DAC meeting.

Members-at-Large: Representation of membership

There is a form to fill out if you are interested in any positions. The elections are in November. We need all voices engaged, more diversity and more perspectives. If you are interested in attending DAC Executive, [contact DAC@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:contact DAC@milwaukee.k12.wi.us), and you will be emailed an invite.

Meeting Adjourned for small group discussion

**INFORMATION FROM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS:**

<b>TRANSPORTATION:</b>		
<b>5 Concerns</b>	<b>5 Questions</b>	<b>3 Recommendations</b>
Social distancing on the school buses, on going effort?	What are bus drivers allowed to do regarding unmasked children?	MPS needs to have a plan when the buses are canceled
Cancelled buses last minute, what are families to do	Why is there not a better way to contact the bus companies? Track buses?	We need to have a better way to get and retain bus drivers
Communication between schools, families, and schools	What is protocol for children being removing from a bus route? If there are problems on the bus, then what happens with the student	Parents/Guardians provides contact information to bus drivers so they can be updated
MPS communication with parents and actions plans	Why is the communication regarding canceled bus come after the fact?	The ability to track buses in real time that can be used by families
Door to door busing issues for SPED Students	Is MPS taking safety into consideration for students at bus stops for extended periods or students going home in Ubers or neighbors	Go back to Neighborhood schools?
Quality of drivers and ability to assist student (SPED Students)		
School are losing families because of busing issues. Schools are now facing staffing issues		
Students are late for school because of busing issues and it feels like MPS isn't do anything		
Late buses causes problems with staffing		

<b>NUTRITION</b>		
5 Concerns	5 Questions	3 Recommendations
No a lot of vegetarian options & lack of protein	food sourcing, where does it come from	Food waste priority content, good to know
No abiding by children's food concerns...	food sourcing?	Love the new and more fresh
So much packaging	Are we running low on food? I know nationally there has been some lunch food scarcity. Is that something we're facing?	Compost crusaders/greening composting
Sugar content and teddy grahams	Drop waste of plastic wrapping	
		School nutrition committees... what the students want and what they will eat
No communication to parents about the vaccine mandate.	Why was there no communication to parents as to why vaccine mandate went into place? What are the consequences?	Consolidate big ticket items that come out of school board meetings and getting that information to the parents.
There has been a lot of cases with teachers contracting COVID. Not feeling safe and the kids not wearing their masks properly.	Will the district at any point in the future a vaccine mandate for the students?	Schools have more autonomy depending how they are handling COVID cases at their schools. So they can become more normal.
Coming to school and seeing children outside in each other faces and their masks are not on. A parent is telling kids to pull their masks up because they are in each other faces on the playground.	Are the masks supposed to be worn outside as well? And why?	
Parents are not masked when they are dropping off and picking up.	Is there assistance for children and how they wear their masks on a daily basis?	
A child tests positive, only some children go home and not every child is tested or told to go home. That child has been around every child. The child has had close contact with the whole classroom.	Why is it not mandatory for parents to sign the consent form for COVID testing?	
The handling of COVID safety is not handled the same at each school.	Why are the parents the last to find out when there is an outbreak?	
The staff is not given enough time from finding out there is a COVID case to being able to communicate with parents that there has been an outbreak.		
<b>ZOOM BREAKOUT</b>		
5 Concerns (preocupaciones)	5 Questions (preguntas)	3 Recommendations (recomendaciones)
Buses are cancelled and not picking up kids to return them home. Can families be notified	MPS Policy about children not being able to bring lunches from home due to COVID-19. Is	Have an alternative food choice for children and student to eat.

earlier of when there will be a cancelled.	that a policy on this? Can we get it in writing because my child doesn't eat the lunch. Is	
Is there an alternative for transportation if you are not in the transportation a bus?	Are students going to be penalized for coming to school late due to the bus?	Contact the school to talk to the lunch person to see if there's an alternative lunch for students.
Why my child can't bring his own lunch to school.	penalized for not running their routes. Are they fined.	Is this something that can be an agenda item for the board? I agree with parents why can't we implement a policy on home lunches.

**DIRECTOR HENRY LEONARD'S RESPONSE TO DAC  
BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

---

**Transportation:** I have had at least 4 full meetings with David Solik-Fifarek the head of transportation. I have also taken the liberty to reach out directly to bus drivers to get their input on this situation. In addition, having been a teacher and administrator over the past 28 years I can answer some of these questions directly.

Re: Bus Driver Authority; Bus drivers must compile a minimum of 3 written complaints that are then given to their supervisor, the school admin. the parents of the child and possibly a Special Ed. teacher and/or supervisor. In most cases teachers and staff have already intervened to hopefully circumvent the problem before it gets to the write up stage. Students can be removed from a bus but not permanently and only after extensive mitigation efforts have been executed. Usually, we try to reach agreements with parents, bus officials and school admin. to change the students' bus to end chronic problems. I have literally, driven on the bus to help my special ed. students in making "right choices." It works at times.

Re: Lack of drivers etc. This gets detailed but keep in mind we are down to having to find only 18 more bus drivers for a total of 54 routes as of 2 weeks back. That is still a lot but considering we lost the services of a transportation company due to them dropping a contract with MPS we are making gains on this situation. We also have the domino effect of bus drivers contracting COVID or being quarantined due to close contact with a student that has a confirmed COVID case. Many of the bus drivers I spoke with say that their companies are not yet requiring vaccinations.(from Oct. conversations). Also, we simply do not know why we can't get more drivers, safeties and teachers. This is country wide. They are starting to apply but must go through the training and safety/background checks. As of this week Dr. Posley informed me that we have found a way to expedite the process so this should also help improve services. I will stay on top of this and offer parents any updates they want.

Re: Solutions: We are starting to hire smaller carriers which was suggested by many of the directors and other staff. It works well but it is a new system that will require safety checks and logistical corrections. When it comes to your recommendations-thank you. The neighborhood school idea is something that many of us would like to see revisited. Due to us being a district that is under an open enrollment requirement we cannot mandate a neighborhood school enrollment policy as the only option. I have been looking at ways to make our neighborhood schools more enrollment ready for neighborhood parents. This includes more K3-K5 classrooms, after-school programs and overall classroom availability. I am willing to speak to this with the DAC and any other parent groups. The idea of real time tracking is great. I can't think that this would be too difficult, and I am going to offer this suggestion to Mr. Solik-Fifarek to get his input

Frustrations: Yes, I concur with the lack of ready communication when a driver is not showing up or the dispatchers will not answer calls. I have relayed this to transportation and will ask again for an explanation. In fact, I will relay or ask that this information be sent to transportation. I am speaking of your "grow and glow"

**Nutrition:** I will state from the start that this area is a weakness for me. I remember when every school cooked their own food in their own kitchens. I also remember when we started cutting budgets and re-directing that process. I never liked it because the difference in many schools was stark or even shocking.

Too much plastic, and waste. Food committees based on age groups would give us a better idea of what students will and will not eat. We are working towards more fresh choices but I will talk with the head of Nutrition to get his ideas and concerns. I will relay your questions and recommendations and get back with you.

**COVID:** I will preface this by saying that I have sent many if not all these questions and concerns to board governance and administration both verbally and in writing. I coauthored the mandate and stand by the need to mandate in an environment where children and adults are in close proximity to each other for extended periods of time. As a board director who must make our school environments as safe as possible, the only sure way to contain and eventually overcome a SARS type virus requires herd immunity. This infers that vaccination rates exceed 80%. This may include those who have retained natural immunity, but studies have been inconclusive so far. Milwaukee is at 53%? I started my education hoping to go into medicine and have kept up certain aspects of my studies for nearly 45 years. I am not an expert but I do study the research including peer reviews and have a running contact with Froedtert and other health dept. personnel to stay up to date on data that I am not sure about. I say all this because I agree with these concerns, and I have visited every building in the 7th district to get a firsthand look at how we are working on these protocols. 1) I clearly see inconsistencies from building to building with protocols. It appears that letters are going home informing parents in many cases but when I check the dashboard it may take more than 24 hours to present. 2) Students are not required to wear masks outside and the CDC data shows very little spread when students are spaced out and being active. This condition works only when students display no symptoms or low levels of symptoms. This is the reason we should be calling and sending a student home with required testing if their symptoms are clearly present. In most of the 7th district schools I have observed this happening. Outside spikes of COVID have been in environments where, people are very close together and someone or a number of individuals is symptomatic with a large viral load. 3) #7 on questions concerns me and I asked MHD this question directly. They did acknowledge that it would require extensive testing and may be problematic BUT, they suggested that the letter home "strongly" recommend that they get their child tested. In honesty, we have had about 10(Ball park guess) MPS schools go virtual due to reaching the 3% confirmed infection rate. Considering our size, we, (parents and staff) must be doing a safe enough job to keep our numbers low. Keep in mind, we are being warned that the holiday spike potential is high if we do not reach the 80% vaccination rate.

Re: being informed of mandatory vaccinations. All staff were required to submit proof by Nov. 1st. The community was informed through the media but I am unsure if parents were given a specific letter regarding staff vaccinations. We cannot require non staff adults to be vaccinated and up to this point the federal govt. will not ask schools to require vaccinations. As a board we have not considered a student vaccine mandate yet. I can only speak for myself on this. If it proves to be highly effective and safe, as so far it appears so with nearly 1M vaccines administered, I would propose that we mandate vaccines. This is well down the road due to several factors.

Re: Signing the form, I will ask.

Re: Recommendations; I have approached this dept., numerous parent coordinators and dozens of parents regarding a much more receptive communication system that keeps parents informed directly with their board directors. Your dept. is working on this and I am excited about developing a method that is both more parent inclusive and timely. The idea of big ticket items is a great idea and could be done by board directors on a weekly basis. Imagine having access to 1,000's of parents that opt in and keeping them informed on a timely basis. Our rapport and parent interactions would improve significantly. Regarding giving buildings more autonomy. I would not agree with that when it comes to how we handle COVID. The responses I am seeing would appear that most people want more consistency. I will add that I think we should be allowing parents who wear their masks to enter our schools and CO with mitigations in place on numbers of people in the office or building at a time. We need to rebuild some trust and this would be a good starting point. I am aware that some buildings are practicing this to some degree.