

Resolution 2223R-002

By Director Garcia

WHEREAS, Our mission is that Milwaukee Public Schools is a diverse district that welcomes all students and prepares them for success in higher education, post-educational opportunities, work, and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The vision for MPS is that all district staff will be committed to providing an equitable educational environment that is child-centered, supports achievement, and respects and embraces diversity and that schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers that meet the needs of all; and

WHEREAS, Through Administrative Policy 1.06, Equity, the Board affirmed its commitment to the success of every student, regardless of, among other things, race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, and initial proficiencies; and

WHEREAS, For over a decade, the district has operated a Newcomer Center located at Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language (MACL); and

WHEREAS, The Newcomer Center has gained national attention for its focus on the whole child, earning recognition for going beyond ensuring that our newcomers develop English proficiency, but also for ensuring that children learn about how to be a student in American school; American culture and how it compares and contrasts to their culture of origin; American rules of etiquette and other social norms, and personal hygiene standards – all so that newcomers are better equipped to immerse themselves in their new communities; and

WHEREAS, The program and the standards set by the Newcomer Center at MACL are worthy of being replicated within the MPS system; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, approximately 400 Afghan refugees were settled in Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, South Division High School is currently home to 87 students who are identified as immigrants and/or refugees, as defined by the Department of Instruction's definition of these terms; and

WHEREAS, There are a plethora of languages spoken by students at South Division and their families, including, but not limited to, Spanish, Castilian, Burmese, Karen Languages, Swahili, Kayah, Eastern Karenni, Malay, Somali, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Cushitic languages, Sino-Tibetan languages, Hmong languages, Maay, and Urdu; and

WHEREAS, South Division High School would be an ideal location to house an additional Newcomer Center, using the framework already established at the MACL location; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration explore establishing a Newcomer Center that is centrally funded to be located at South Division and report back to the Board by the August 2022 Board cycle.

May 26, 2022