

(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON RESOLUTION 1617R-004 BY DIRECTOR BONDS TO WAIVE ALL STUDENT FEES

by Director Bonds

WHEREAS, According to a trend analysis of U.S. census data conducted by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, poverty in Wisconsin reached a 30-year high during the five-year period ending in 2014, with an average of 13% of Wisconsin residents living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau reports that, in 2010-2014, the median household income was only \$35,489; and

WHEREAS, The number of Wisconsin residents living in poverty averaged 13% across that post-recession time frame — the highest since 1984, according to the analysis by UW-Madison's Applied Population Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, A study by the Economic Innovation Group has ranked Milwaukee as the seventh-most distressed city in America, with 52% of the population considered economically distressed; and

WHEREAS, According to the MPS District Fact Sheet, 70% of the more than 75,000 students in MPS are economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is committed to the success of every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or initial proficiencies; and

WHEREAS, Success in school and a well-rounded education is not predicated only on classroom instruction and homework, but also on extracurricular activities such as athletics, art, clubs, etc.; and

WHEREAS, MPS already does not charge our students for certain programs, such as universal free breakfast and lunch to our students, because we recognize both the importance of these programs and the financial adversity which our students and their families face; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the Board shall waive all fees charged to students, including those for student activities (towels, swimsuits, school newspaper, assembly programs, locks for gym lockers, etc.), supplementary subject-area materials, club activities, graduation ceremonies (cap and gown rental, class gift, flowers, graduation programs, etc.), and athletic participation, instrument rental or music lessons, driver education, and work permits; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration be directed to explore partnerships with community-based organizations, residents of Milwaukee, MPS alumni, and governmental entities to the greatest extent possible to help defray these costs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for any outstanding costs that cannot be covered through outside funding sources, schools shall be reimbursed from carryovers of School Operations funds in each fiscal year in which this waiver is in effect; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration is to report back on the implementation of this resolution no later than the December 2016 Board cycle.

October 27, 2016