

Report of Milwaukee Board of School Directors President, Marva Herndon – August 29, 2024

I'm delighted to share the highlights of our activities and achievements for the month of August. It's been a busy and productive time, and I'm proud of the progress we've made together.

Effective and Efficient Operations

We've been working hard to ensure everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

We had a very productive meeting of the Committee on Accountability, Finance and Personnel this month, where we discussed our financial strategies and personnel updates. It was good to see that we are meeting many of our key metrics for staffing and have far fewer vacancies than we had last year at this time. Thank you to our Human Resources teams for all of your efforts to get us here.

I attended four detailed audit status meetings this month. These meetings are essential for keeping on track with our compliance activities and goals and ensuring that the Board stays updated on our audit work.

I also had four strategic meetings with our Kane Communications partners. These discussions were focused on how we can take proactive steps to keep the public informed.

I had several engaging discussions with our Superintendent. We addressed some critical issues and aligned on priorities for the coming months.

We also reviewed our long-range facilities master plan and discussed the updates to our website. I encourage you to take a look at the new "Places" page to learn more about our facilities and infrastructure needs.

I participated in three meetings with our Executive Officers from the Office of Board Governance, the Office of the Superintendent, and the Office of Accountability and Efficiency. Each week, we are using these meetings to coordinate our efforts and enhance our operational effectiveness.

At this month's meeting of the Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation we had some good discussions about student achievement, data and other support initiatives.

One of the most important things we did as a Board this month is to convene a special board meeting to select a firm to assist us with our search for our next superintendent. We expect to be able to begin our work after tonight's Board meeting, pending approval of that contract.

Student, Family, and Community Engagement

I had a planning meeting with the James Madison Academic Campus Advisory Board and got to see the building and program improvements there. I was just amazed by all that has been done and all we have to offer.

It was an honor for me to deliver a keynote speech at the New Educator Institute. It was wonderful to welcome our new educators and share insights on our district's goals and expectations.

Lastly, I participated in the annual Run Back to School event. It was fantastic to engage with students, parents, and community members, promoting school spirit and wellness. A special thank you to all of the district staff who contributed to putting on another great event.

I am grateful to everyone for the continued support and dedication. Together, we are making great strides in our mission to provide the best education and support for our students.