

Resolution 2021R-009

By Directors Herndon and Siemsen

WHEREAS, Each year, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors has the fiduciary responsibility to approve "...sound, realistic budgets as developed and recommended by its Administration and provides the financial resources necessary for executing its district policies." (Board Governance Policy 2.03(2)(c)); and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 3.01, Annual Operating Budget, paragraph (e), states, "The Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget shall consider and make recommendations to the Board on all matters pertaining to budget development and control"; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 9.04, Community Involvement in Decision Making, declares

The Board recognizes the value of broad citizen involvement with the program and operations of the Milwaukee Public Schools. This policy statement reflects the intent of the Board to encourage the voluntary involvement of citizens, both as individuals and in groups, to act as advisors and resource people as one significant means in the unending quest to achieve the goal of quality education for all children within the Milwaukee Public Schools.

and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes, §119.16(8)(a), directs

Annually before adopting its budget for the ensuing school year and at least 5 days before transmitting its completed budget...the board shall hold a public hearing on the proposed school budget at a time and place fixed by the board. At least 45 days before the public hearing, the board shall notify the superintendent of schools and the commissioner of the date, time, and place of the hearing. At least one week before the public hearing, the board shall publish a class 1 notice...of the public hearing.

and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 3.01, Annual Operating Budget, section (2)(c), states

The Administration shall consider budget preparation a year-round process and shall establish a budget calendar which shall present a plan of action for estimating and completing preparation of the annual budget in a fixed period. The calendar shall also be used as a guide for coordinating the budgetary activities, collecting budget data, and making budget decisions.

and

WHEREAS, Upon the release of the Superintendent's proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, the Board does give reasonable opportunity for initial public input, not only through the public hearing required under §119.16(8)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes, but also through multiple hearings held by its Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget, which include an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the proposed budget, as well as on the first round of amendments to the proposed budget that members of the Board may submit; and

WHEREAS, The Board is currently allowed to submit additional proposed amendments to the proposed budget at the meeting at which the Board adopts the preliminary budget, but these amendments do not go through committee for discussion and public hearing and many times have had no public input; and

WHEREAS, By allowing these amendments to come to a vote without ample opportunity for either the Administration to conduct a thorough analysis or for the Board and the public to discuss them, the Board is compelled to act and may not be completely informed about the impact of the amendment on the district as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The need to have in-depth discussions of these previously unvetted amendments on the floor during a meeting that, because of its gravity and importance, already tends to last many hours, often past midnight, puts a mental and physical strain not only on the Board and its staff, but also on the public who may wish to monitor the proceedings, but who have jobs to attend or children to care for; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, except under exigent circumstances an – no amendments to the Superintendent's proposed budget may be submitted directly to the Board, without first having gone through committee for public hearing and recommendation by the committee, for consideration at the meeting at which the budget is to be approved; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, when developing the budget calendar under Administrative Policy 3.01, Annual Operating Budget, section (2)(c), the Administration is to schedule an additional meeting of the Board's Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget, which is to be held at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the Board is to adopt the budget, to give public hearing and to formulate recommendations on any final amendments to the proposed budget that members of the Board may have; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution is to be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board.

July 30, 2020