

Board of School Directors
Proclamation
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, LUIS ANTONIO (TONY) BÁEZ, who was first elected to the 6th District seat on the Milwaukee Board of School Directors in April 2017, served as Chair of the Board’s Committee on Legislation, Rules and Polices in 2017 and 2018 and of the Board’s Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation in 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has championed bilingual education by proposing that MPS continue with the Bilingual Initiative and ensure that the ongoing annual funds appropriated in the budget for tuition assistance for this program be made available to bilingual employees who wish to pursue bilingual certification and meet the qualifications to receive funding, and that the Board petition the Wisconsin Legislature, Governor, and the Department of Public Instruction to establish a waiver for applicants for licensure as bilingual/immersion teachers similar to the waiver afforded to applicants for licensure as teachers in special education; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has supported a week of action in coordination with the national Black Lives Matter at School movement, including promoting the first day of school on the traditional start calendar as “Black to School,” encouraging dress in BLM attire, and establishing a campaign for the whole year, beginning the first week of school, with the purpose of integrating the demands and actions of the Black Lives Matter at School program into every school and classroom; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has proposed that MPS train all new and current staff and students in anti-racist and anti-bias practices along with restorative practices and that each school will have a lead person trained in the first year who will then assist the school in implementing a school-based anti-racist, anti-bias plan; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has encouraged the Board to condemn the separation of immigrant families and the long-term detainment of families by the federal government and to call on legislative leaders at the federal level to immediately cease the practice of separating children from their families and/or detaining families for extended periods of time and to call on legislative leaders at the state and federal levels to cease providing resources that support any policy that results in such separation; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has asked the Board, in light of the COVID 19 pandemic, to call on the Biden administration and all other appropriate political, health, and educational authorities to promptly invite negotiations with their Cuban counterparts to explore mutually beneficial cooperation, as a step toward normalization of relations between our countries.; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ, in order to ensure that the district’s children have sufficient support in their classrooms, has advocated for the establishment of an MPSU program for paraprofessionals seeking teacher licensure at no cost, to be funded with the \$200,000 allocated by the Board for tuition assistance for up to 50 paraprofessionals; and

WHEREAS, TONY BÁEZ has sought to ensure that suspensions and expulsions shall be tools of last resort in the reduction of disciplinary problems and shall be considered only when all other options have been exhausted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, on this, the occasion of his retirement from the Board, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors extend its sincere appreciation to TONY BÁEZ for his years of dedicated service to the Milwaukee Public Schools, to its students, and to the public; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the permanent proceedings of the Board of School Directors and that the Board instruct the Board Clerk to have an engrossed copy of this document, suitably signed and sealed, prepared and delivered to TONY BÁEZ in tribute to his record of dedicated public service to the citizens of Milwaukee and to the children of the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Adopted this 22nd Day of April, 2021.

Larry Miller, President
Milwaukee Board of School Directors