

Minutes

Meeting of the District Advisory Council

Thursday, February 6th, 2020

6:00 pm – Auditorium

I. **Welcome & Executive Committee Introductions**

- a. Chairperson Tracey Dent, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and introduced the executive committee. He also recognized elected officials and dignitaries present and announced that interpretation is available in Spanish for participants who need this service.
 - i. Chairperson.....Tracey Dent (Present)
 - ii. Vice Chairperson.....Valerie Lambrecht (Excused)
 - iii. Recording Secretary.....Nonita Stiggers (Present)
 - iv. Corresponding Secretary.....Jenni Hofschulte (Present)
 - v. Parliamentarian.....Terry Longo (Present)
 - vi. Sergeant at Arms.....Andy Kilimann (Excused)
 - vii. Member at Large.....Carrianna Johnson (Excused)
 - viii. Member at Large.....Carrie Bickerstaff (Present)
 - ix. Member at Large.....Celeste Moore (Present)
- b. At the meeting there were 76 DAC delegates representatives, 28 parent coordinators, and 4 community members, representing 80 schools for a total of 108 participants.

II. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Member at Large Carrie Bickerstaff presented the consent agenda which contained the family and community engagement report and the January 2020 meeting minutes. The first motion to approve the minutes was made by Kelly Nelson from Craig Montessori and seconded by Laquanda Johnson from Bethune Academy. The minutes were approved by a majority voice vote.

III. **Positive Notes**

- a. Member at Large Celeste Moore solicited positive notes from the group.
 - Angela Rappl from Fairview Elementary shared that CBS 58 visited the school to highlight a student with autism that created a line of clothing made from recycled water bottles that featured animals. Ms. Rappl also shared that their anti-bullying program has created a peer mediation component allowing students to cool down in a safe space and work through conflict resolution issues. This peer mediation has reduced the number of fighting incidents at the school.

- Gail Drenzik from IDEAL School shared that they had a 1.3% increase in daily attendance this school year, and they are proud of their students.
- Migdalia Diaz from Forest Home Elementary shared that student attendance is up .6% and that the Marquette University basketball players are participating in the reading buddies program at the school. Ms. Diaz also shared that English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are being offered to parents at the school.
- Martha Kimber from Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (WCLL) shared that they won 1st place in the Mad Hot Tap dance competition in the swing division. Ms. Kimber also shared that their Black History Program will feature a praise dance team, cheerleaders, and more. They are proud of the school and how much they are doing for the students and families.
- Tracey Dent from Milwaukee Excellence Charter School shared that the Milwaukee Coalition Against Hate, is creating a song featuring a multiethnic chorus and is being recorded. If folks are interested in being a part of this video they are welcome to take part, and it will feature MPS youth. Contact Tracey Dent on Facebook or email at tracey.e.dent@gmail.com If you are against HATE, then you are part of this coalition.
- Javier and Vicky Cornejo from Bay View High School shared that, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Superintendent-Carolyn Stanford Taylor who is the 1st African American Superintendent in Wisconsin history, will be visiting Bay View High School on February 20th for CTE in our Schools Month. They also shared that they will host the STEAM Showcase on February 26th from 9-11:30am and will be visited by neighborhood schools Parkside, Humboldt Park, Bay View Montessori, and Fernwood Montessori. They also mentioned that in the first semester 120 Bay View HS students achieved Honor Roll Status.
- Winnifred Aitch from Holmes Elementary shared All parents attending the January 16th and 24th School Engagement Council Meetings were very positive about a proposed later start time for next year. Parents were also very interested in more information about the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program after hearing a presentation by Molly McGowan, FAST Director. Ms. Winnifred also shared that over 30 boxes of non-perishable food and hams were distributed to Holmes families after the meetings. Parents have been participating in several exciting field trips. Their African Drums and Dance Troop performed at three different schools on February 5th. She also shared that the Milwaukee Urban League through a partnership with Holmes provided by a Verizon grant, took 15 students on a career exploration field trip to GE Medical Technologies in Pewaukee.

- Rocio Leyva from Longfellow Community school shared that the school is developing a plan for students to increase their reading proficiency.
- Kelly Nelson from Craig Montessori shared that the Craig Comets Chess team went to the all-girls tournament on February 8th and not only did they have the largest group of girls (Ten) but the K-3rd grade group also helped the team get their first trophy (2nd place) of the year!
- Tiffany Byer from Burdick Elementary shared that hats and gloves were provided to the 4th graders from the Milwaukee Bucks and Harley Davidson and that their academic scores are on the rise.

IV. **New Business**

- a. Family & Community Engagement Associate Jorge Mayorga, explained the new DAC delegate feedback form which serves to streamline communication between the DAC and MPS administration. He also gave an overview of the new DAC live site which makes the DAC meetings more interactive. By using the tiny URL or QR Code from the agenda, delegates can submit positive notes and complete their meeting evaluations which are used by the executive committee to plan for future meetings. Mr. Mayorga also explained the Q&A feature where delegates can submit questions from the meeting, so no one walks away from the meeting without having the opportunity of their question being asked. The questions will be deferred to a subject matter expert and responded to within 7 days from the meeting. The DAC executive committee is working towards continuous improvement of the meetings. The meetings are becoming more interactive to meet the needs of our families and address their concerns.

V. **New Business**

- a. Department of Nutrition Services, Renee Dudley along with her team provided information on the nutrition services program.

- **Background:**

Milwaukee Public School (MPS) and the Department of Nutrition Services feed students all year long. MPS participates in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This provision allows all MPS schools, including contracted schools, to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. CEP allows MPS to provide these meals to families without having to complete an application. Well-fed students are ready to learn and stay focused in the classroom.

While all schools do serve breakfast and lunch, many schools also serve an afternoon snack or dinner. Meals are also provided at many school locations during summer months. In addition, many schools participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The primary funder for school meal programs is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

USDA has strict guidelines for menu planning - this is called *Meal Pattern*. MPS follows the USDA *Meal Pattern* for both breakfast and lunch. All meals must meet USDA *Meal Pattern* requirements. This includes many considerations such as daily calories, daily sodium levels, and daily saturate fat. In addition, each meal has required food components. For example, lunch has five meal components: meat/meat alternates, grains, fruits, vegetables, and milk. While fruits and vegetables are served at every lunch, MPS continues to expand its lunch offerings of a *fresh* fruit or *fresh* vegetable daily. All foods, including condiments are considered when menu planning. In addition, school districts are required to collect all manufacture's product formulation statements to ensure compliance.

One tool used by schools to reduce food waste is Offer Versus Serve (OVS). Students must be offered all five components at lunch; however, students do have the option to decline two components. Under OVS all students much select at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable or a combination of fruits and vegetables.

MPS and the Department of Nutrition Services is committed to serving the highest quality food to our students. We have begun our clean label initiative to serve only clean food items to students of MPS. We believe it is important not only to nourish our children today, but for their future health also. We are working to remove: trans fats & hydrogenated oils, high-fructose corn syrup, hormones & antibiotics, processed & artificial Sweeteners, artificial colors & flavors, artificial preservatives, and bleached flour.

This process will take approximately three years to complete. We have partnered with the Life Time Foundation, which is a public charity of Life Time Fitness to help us expedite this process. They are reviewing all our food labels and we will work to identify replacements or remove the menu item.

- **Action Steps for DAC Representatives:**

Department of Nutrition Services - School Meal Service will be the topic for discussion at our March DAC meeting. Today you will receive handouts to take back to your schools.

Please take this information back to your school and gather feedback from families. Ask to present to your School Engagement Council or PTO and get answers on the following questions. Bring your notes and thoughts back to our group for discussion at next month's meeting, where we will provide feedback directly to MPS personnel in the Department of Nutrition Services.

- **Questions for Next Meeting's Discussion:**

1. Many changes have been made to the breakfast in the classroom menu. What feedback do you have to new menu options? What recommendations would you like to provide?
 2. Fruits and vegetables are offered every day at lunch and fruit is offered every day at breakfast. Do your students eat fruits and vegetables? What can MPS do to help increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables?
 3. What prevents your students from participating in either school breakfast or school lunch: food options, quality, temperature, customer service, peer pressure, other? What recommendation to you have to encourage your students to eat school breakfast and/or lunch? Please be specific.
 4. Are you aware many schools offer dinner or snack afterschool, as part of afterschool programing? Do your students participate? What prevents your students from participating?
- b. Family & Community Engagement Associate Jorge Mayorga dismissed the participants into discussion groups.

VI. **MPS Breakout Discussion Groups**

- a. Department of Student Services, Discipline Manager Jonathan Jagemann and his team facilitated the breakout sessions where DAC delegate members finalized the discussion on MPS Discipline Practices.

VII. **Evaluation**

- a. Evaluations were collected from the breakout sessions.

VIII. **Adjourn**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.