

REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE TITLE I DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)

October 29, 2020

Submitted by Director Paula Phillips

Meeting of the District Advisory Council 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2020 Central Services Auditorium

Note: There were no subsequent meetings for the 2019-2020 school year due to the pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Tracey Dent called the meeting to order and introduced the Executive Committee.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A 10-second moment of silence was observed for victims of a mass shooting that occurred at the Molson Coors Beverage Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on February 26, 2020,

CONSENT AGENDA

Andy Kilimann introduced the consent agenda, which contained the Family & Community Engagement Report and the February 2020 meeting minutes.

Members of the audience requested that future agendas be provided sooner.

On the motion of Angela Rapl of TMJ4, the consent agenda was approved.

POSITIVE NOTES

Celeste Moore solicited positive notes from the group.

- (1) Celeste Moore shared that attendance had increased from January to February.
- (2) Irma Major stated that Hawthorne School had an excellent Black History program, at which there had been a display regarding the underground railroad.
- (3) Burdick had raised \$2,500 with the Pennies for Patients for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The school surpassed its goal by \$1,500.
- (4) Middy Harmone stated that Elm had a wonderful Black History celebration. Students were so touched to learn about so much history. Students sang "We are the World."
- (5) Whittier is now offering STEM classes, and its staff attendance was the highest in the district last month. "This accomplishment showcases our dedicated staff!"
- (6) Chanesse from Barbee stated, "I could say 1,000 great things about our school. Our student created the *whole* show. My children have special needs, and this is the first school to treat my children like regular children. I just have to say how great of a place it is."

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT BUDGET OVERVIEW

Lynn Ruhl shared updates on the school and district budget overview.

Operations, Nutrition, Extension, Construction and Categorical Funds

The revenue limit, which has been frozen since the 1990s, is going up \$179 per student.

The special education reimbursement of 24.8% is short of the promise of 26%.

Enrollment needs to increase in order to compensate for the gaps between the funds coming in and the increase in expenses, insurance, costs, etc.

MPS has kept all per-pupil allocations the same, and the only staffing changes will come in the spring instead of the start of the year, based on the 3rd-Friday count.

Phase one of the music policy is starting the five-year implementation.

Title I's per-pupil spending has stayed, the same and parent coordinators are still in the budget.

Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) intervention teachers and paras are being used to reduce class size.

School budget reviews happen in a number of ways. One-to-one meetings with the budget analyst happen. The SEC will review those budgets, and the final budget then will be reviewed by Administration, Human Resources, and the Office of Academics.

Getting more parents involved is a goal of ours — Become part of the SEC, work with your PC, and attend board meetings.

School budgets were reviewed, and staffing changes were finalized in February. FY21 office budgets have been prepared, and staff exchanges have begun.

Questions

Q: *When you say "made whole," how does that affect a vacant position?*

A: vacancies are "funded," even if they are not filled.

Q: *How does the referendum impact this budget?*

A: It has no impact on this budget.

Q: *Is there a breakdown of Central Office? What is the breakdown here for the past few years?*

A: It is in the budget book by office/department.

Q: *If the referendum passes, how would that strengthen the budget?*

A: It would go to the things the taskforce asked for.

SPRING STATE ASSESSMENTS – DR. NATALIE COLLINS

- a. Spring assessments state and federal requirements are tied to administrative policies.
- b. March 23, Forward exam OPENS.
- c. Administered online in the spring annually.
- d. All 11th-graders in the state of Wisconsin take the ACT plus writing — 70% participation rate for our juniors. We have two more opportunities — on March 17 and an emergency date on March 30.
- e. Scored can be used for scholarships, NCAA eligibility, and more.
- f. 9th- and 10th-graders take the ACT. Aspire scores predict ACT performance, state-required.
- g. Children who are most tested at 8th grade. 1.34% of instructional time is used to test. People are concerned about how much time is spent testing — it is only less than 1.5% of the time.
- h. Assessment calendars by grade are listed on the MPS website.
- i. Opt-out — in grades 4, 8, 9, 10 & 11, written parent-requested opt-out must be granted. The principal is required by law to grant those opt-outs. Student is counted as "Not tested." In other grades, principals do not have to grant the opt-out, but they do have to provide parents with rationale.

Questions:

Q: *Do these assessments directly relate to our funding?*

A: Federal Title I funding is tied to participation rates. They could withhold funds. We have had some situations where staff encourage opting out. That could put our funding at risk. We do not want to encourage a mass opt-out.

Q: *How can we look at how our kids compare with other kids at the state level and the national level?*

A: We no longer take part in that sort of “Smarter Balanced” exam. It didn’t make sense to compare it — the NAEP’s “nation’s report card” published results show where we fall. We can compare the urban districts to compare to as Milwaukee. You can look at how we compare to other districts and schools in the state.

Q: *When the ACT happened last week, due to lack of quiet testing space, we had grades 9, 10 and 12 — we had the school cleared and field trips etc....We had test programs freeze. How is the discussion going to have specialized testing spaces for these things to take place to support the technology?*

A: We work with technology to increase hotspot enhancements — the ACT is paper-pencil We excuse the other grades to allow the schools to have the autonomy for staffing for the environment and resources.

Q: *The state requires these exams. Does the state pay for them?*

A: The state pays for the state exams. PALS is a reimbursed expense, and STAR is at an expense to meet a state law.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee was asked if they would be willing to stay for an *ad hoc* committee on special needs. The Committee agreed to create a special council to discuss these needs and to advocate for more togetherness on this topic.

An invitation will be sent out to survey those who would like to join this *ad hoc*!

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