

Resolution 2122R-007

By Director Leonard

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin charter school program was created in 1993 to provide educational alternatives; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools authorized its first charter school in 1996 and has consistently authorized charter schools ever since, and

WHEREAS, Historically, Milwaukee Public Schools' contracts with both instrumentality and non-instrumentality charter schools have had mutually understood benefits, and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the Board adopted Resolution 0708R-005, which directed that the Milwaukee Public Schools system perform a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of its charter schools and directed the Administration to conduct a third-party evaluation of the overall effectiveness of charter schools within MPS as an improvement strategy; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the Wisconsin Center for Education Research presented an independent evaluation of the district's charter schools in response to Resolution 0708R-005; and

WHEREAS, This independent evaluation of the district's charter schools examined some, but not all, of the mutually understood benefits of charter school contracts; and

WHEREAS, In order to ensure these contractual agreements remain mutually beneficial, it is necessary to re-examine the effectiveness of charter schools and the impact of charter schools on the Milwaukee Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The public should know how charter schools have helped and/or hurt the Milwaukee Public Schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration, in collaboration with the Office of Board Governance and the Office of Accountability and Efficiency, perform a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of each of its charter schools and the impact of charter schools on the Milwaukee Public Schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the evaluation include an analysis of the impact of charter schools on the District's academic, financial, and organizational performance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the evaluation include an analysis of the impact of the number of charter school seats on district solvency, which may include recommendations as to the optimal number of charter school seats and/or a limit to the number of charter school seats that should be designated in Milwaukee Public Schools to ensure academic, financial, and organizational performance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the evaluation be completed and provided to the Board, through the appropriate committee, no later than the September 2021 Board cycle.

Introduced June 24, 2021