

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

November 21, 2019

Submitted by Director Paula Phillips

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Larry McAdoo called the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Title I District Advisory Council to order at 6:11 p.m. on Thursday, October 3, 2019, in the auditorium of the MPS Central Services Building, 5225 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Seventy-six DAC delegates and seven parent coordinators, representing 57 schools, were present for the meeting.

Dr. Keith Posley, Superintendent of Schools, and Marva Herndon, Director of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors' District One, were on hand to greet DAC representatives and to introduce Paula Phillips, Director of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors' District Seven, as the Board's liaison to the DAC.

POSITIVE NOTES

Carriena Johnson, Member at Large, solicited positive notes from the group. Robert Perron from Allen Field shared that the Lego League has started for students in K5 through fifth grade. Students from MSOE came and showed how to integrate robotics and Legos. Students will be able to build their own robots and to compete in November. Arts @ large will be integrated into classrooms as well.

DAC MEMBERS' ORIENTATION

Jenni Hofschulte, Communications Secretary, facilitated the new-member orientation covering DAC's mission statement, the structure of MPS's DAC, meeting dates, *Robert's Rules of Order*, DAC's by-laws, and the Council's contact list.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Jenni Hofschulte talked about the upcoming vacancies on the Executive Committee for the 2019-20 school year. Nominations for chairman, recording secretary, sargeant at arms, and two members at large had been due in October: Position descriptions were on the nomination forms which had been included in members' materials.

MPS SMARTPHONE APP PREVIEW

Tim Remshak of the MPS Department of Technology and Communications has been working to develop an app for MPS which will convert the MPS website to a more mobile and user-friendly application for smart devices. It will have a homepage which will provide easy access to the most sought-after information in the district, such as transportation contact information, the school lunch menus, activities of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, highlights of happenings across the district, and more. No additional resources have been invested in the project so far — it has been built using platforms which the district already has purchased or leased. The app features easy, new search tools for school selection and for the enrollment application process. There will be the option to opt in to push notifications for school closures and district alerts and more. DAC representatives will be able to test-drive the app prior to roll out.

Mr. Remshak also encouraged parents and school communities to share with the district when they are planning great community events or after such events have taken place. The district would like to play a larger role in highlighting the great things that take place in MPS every day. Schools and parents are encouraged to share their stories at:

<https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/District/About-MPS/District-News/Share-Your-Story.htm>

IMPORTANT MPS WEB LINKS

Jenni Hofschulte led the DAC representatives through some important links within the MPS website. This follow-up information was shared with DAC representatives via email on October 4, 2019.

- (1) Any questions or concerns may be emailed to the DAC at dac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.
- (2) The handouts and minutes of DAC's meetings may be accessed online at:

<https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/Families/Family-Involvement/Advisory-Committee.htm>

- (3) An overview of the work and a list of the elected members of the Milwaukee School Board of Directors may be accessed online at:

<https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/District/About-MPS/School-Board.htm>

Besides information about the members of the Board, this includes notices of the Board's upcoming meetings, minutes of the Board's special and regular meetings, audio recordings of the Board's meetings, the MPS Rules and Policies Manual, and much, much more..

- (4) The agendas of meetings of the Board and its committees may be found at:

<https://esb.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/>

- (5) Interested parties may sign up for the City of Milwaukee's e-notify system to receive email regarding news about MPS and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors. The online address is:

<http://city.milwaukee.gov/enotify>

Just follow the instructions on screen. The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is listed under "City Agency Meetings."

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

David Solik Fifarek, Senior Director of Business & Transportation Services, shared with the members the possibility of modifying the transportation system to maximize efficiency. The Administration has put together a long-term school-bell re-tiering strategy that will restructure transportation service delivery and increases the use of buses beyond what is available under our current transportation model.

MPS currently operates under a two-tier transportation system whereby a school's bell schedule is either a first tier (i.e., 7:35 a.m.-2:35 p.m.); or a second tier (i.e., 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.). This model requires approximately the same number of first-tier and second-tier schools to maximize efficiency. Contracted vendors use the same drivers and school buses to service both the first-tier and second-tier runs.

Under this model MPS contracts for approximately 1,050 buses. About 90% of the buses contracted operate cover a first and second tier each day. The remaining 10% of the buses contracted operate only a single tier daily — either due to the imbalance in first- and second-tier schools or because the routes run too long and are not able to be paired with two tiers.

Under the two-tier model for MPS, the average cost of a bus is approximately \$60,000 for roughly five hours of transportation services — 2.5 hours in the morning between 6:00 and 9:00, and another 2.5 hours in the afternoon between 2:00 and 5:00. Of that, roughly 65% of the total cost is fixed and attributed to drivers' benefits and equipment, whereas the remaining 35% is variable costs attributed to hourly and mileage costs for the runs.

If MPS were to move to a three-tier transportation model, fewer buses would equate directly to higher efficiency. shorter bus routes for students. improved service. and more stable employment for contracted drivers. Some indirect benefits would be better attendance for students; reduction in traffic congestion for the city due a redistribution of school transit of 80,000 city families over a three-hour period, as opposed to a two-hour period; and improved behavior management on buses.

The same 2,200 routes that operate with 1,050 buses under a two-tier system can be serviced with approximately 750 buses under a three-tier system. The three-tier model assumes there would be three school times for all of the district's schools. For purposes of the model, the assumption is Tier 1 would be

7:15 a.m. to 2:20 p.m., Tier 2 would be 8:15 a.m. to 3:20 p.m., and Tier 3 would be 9:15 a.m. to 4:20 p.m., although those times could shift for all schools if desired.

Due to the shape of Milwaukee and to the fact that MPS will continue to have citywide schools with students enrolled from long distances, it is not practical to assume a true three-tier model with equal distribution of schools on each tier (33%, 33%, 33%). Instead, it would be likely that MPS would operate under a hybrid model in which the proportion of schools on each tier would be 40%, Tier 1; 20%, Tier 2; and 40%, Tier 3. This hybrid model would allow Tier-1 and Tier-3 packaging scenarios when bus routes are required to run extreme distances due to enrollment demographics.

It is estimated that for every 100 buses reduced in the contracted fleet, the cost for services would decline by approximately \$2,000,000. Therefore, the district could realize upwards of \$6-7 million dollars annually with limited service impacts simply by restructuring the district's 160 schools into a three-tier model as opposed to its current two-tier system.

DAC members were asked to gather parental feedback from their schools regarding the proposed modifications to transportation:

1. Specifically at middle- and high-school grades, would you prefer a school schedule that is:
 - a. 7:10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
 - b. 9:10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
2. Specifically at the Elementary School grades (K-5), would you prefer a school bell schedule that is:
 - a. 7:10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
 - b. 8:10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - c. 9:10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
3. Currently MPS utilizes a two-tier school bell schedule (7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.). Would you support a three-tier bell schedule (7:15 a.m. start time, elementary; 8:15 a.m. start time, elementary; and 9:15 a.m. start time, middle & high schools) — which may impact your school's start time — if it resulted in:
 - a. shorter ride times for all students who use school bus service,
 - b. the ability for middle- and high-school students to start school later,
 - c. the opportunity to significantly cut district transportation costs and redirect those resources elsewhere in the district?
 YES NO
4. How impactful overall would a one-hour change in your child's current start and end time at school be?
 - a. I could make the necessary changes relatively easily
 - b. I would not be able to make the necessary changes
5. What would be the most significant impacts of such a schedule change?

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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