

Resolution 1819R-005

By Director Voss

WHEREAS, The vision of the Milwaukee Public Schools states, “Schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers that meet the needs of all”; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes, §118.305(1)(i), define *seclusion* as “the involuntary confinement of a student apart from other students, in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving”; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statutes, §118.305(1)(g), define *physical restraint* as “a restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to freely move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head”; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes, §118.305(2)(a) and §118.305(3)(a), provide that seclusion and physical restraint be used on a student in a school only if the student’s behavior “...presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of the pupil or others and it is the least-restrictive intervention feasible”; and

WHEREAS, The number of instances in which seclusion or physical restraint has been used in the Milwaukee Public Schools has increased from the 2016-17 school year to the 2017-18 school year; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 8.17, Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline, states, “The Board believes that student rights should be recognized and respected”; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 8.28, Student Discipline, states “The Board believes that students have a right to learn and that educators have a right to teach in a safe and orderly environment that fosters mutual respect for all individuals”; and

WHEREAS, Seclusion and physical restraint are only two strategies in which the district’s staff are trained to use as de-escalatory or protective mechanisms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Administration to develop a systemic, district-wide plan to maintain safe and orderly environments in our schools and classrooms, inclusive of the tiered interventions and strategies whose use is to be documented prior to the use of seclusion or restraint; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in developing the plan, consideration be given to strategies that make use of trauma-informed alternatives to interventions, to include, but not be limited to, research-based use of mindfulness, de-escalatory techniques, social-emotional learning practices, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in developing the plan, the Administration work to ensure that families of the Milwaukee Public Schools are involved and informed about the varying strategies to be used prior to consideration and use of seclusion or physical restraint; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the plan be provided to the Board no later than the ~~November~~ December 2018 board cycle.

August 30, 2018