

Resolution 2021R-022

By Director Taylor

1. WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors has declared that, as part of the vision of the Milwaukee Public Schools (Board Governance Policy BG 1.01 and Administrative Policy 1.01), “Schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers meeting the needs of all. Relevant, rigorous, and successful instructional programs will be recognized and replicated. The district and its schools will collaborate with students, families, and the community for the benefit of all”; and
2. WHEREAS, For schools to be safe and welcoming and benefit the community at-large, they must be free of systems that support and perpetuate the school-to-prison pipeline; and
3. WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors has acted to revise policies and practices within the Milwaukee Public Schools system to address the school-to-prison pipeline including:
 - the May 2015 adoption of Resolution 1516R-001, otherwise known as the Black Lives Matter Resolution, which directed that:
 - our district and schools and classrooms create safe spaces for dialog and support on issues faced in communities and schools related to policing, the educational process, and improving school safety;
 - the district create an advisory council comprising community, parents, educators, and students to assist in reviewing, strengthening, and creating curriculum and policy related to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, the efforts to derail the school-to-prison pipeline, the broader historical experience of the Black community, and present schooling experience;
 - the June 2020 adoption of Resolution 2021R-003, which terminated all contracts with the Milwaukee Police Department for School Resource Officers and all contracts for the purchasing of criminalizing equipment including metal detectors, facial recognition software, and social media monitoring; and
 - the September 2020 action to direct the MPS Administration to develop a monthly report to the Board on referrals, demarcating suspensions and expulsions, resulting from those referrals with an overall district summary and a breakdown for each school; and
4. WHEREAS, In order to truly dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, changes to policies and practices within the Milwaukee Public Schools system must be accompanied by changes to the juvenile justice system and other systems that impact the school-to-prison pipeline; and
5. WHEREAS, The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County have jurisdiction over other systems that should be explored in addressing the school-to-prison pipeline including, but not limited to, the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office, and the Vel R. Phillips Youth & Family Justice Center; and

6. WHEREAS, In March 2020, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors adopted Resolution 1920R-014 by Directors Miller and Taylor regarding the One Milwaukee Initiative, which created the One Milwaukee Taskforce on the premise that Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public Schools have a common interest to improve the lives and conditions of Milwaukee residents; and
7. WHEREAS, the One Milwaukee Taskforce names as one of its members the Milwaukee Board of School Directors President or their designee; and
8. WHEREAS, Dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline would improve the lives and conditions of Milwaukee residents now and for generations to come; now, therefore, be it
9. RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors authorize the Board President or their designee, in consultation with the Black Lives Matter Advisory Council and with the support of the Office of Board Governance, the MPS Administration, and the Office of Accountability and Efficiency, to engage community and government partners under the One Milwaukee Initiative to explore and address the systems that support and perpetuate the pipeline to prison; and be it
10. FURTHER RESOLVED, That this exploration include the identification of infrastructure coordination, resource-leveraging opportunities, and other potential opportunities for coordination and collaboration to improve outcomes for Milwaukee communities; and be it
11. FURTHER RESOLVED, That consideration be given to barriers to re-entry, alternatives to youth incarceration, mental health supports, and other best practices to address the school-to-prison pipeline; and be it
12. FURTHER RESOLVED, That regular reports on the progress of any related agreements be brought to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors as appropriate.

January 28, 2021