

## **Resolution 2324R-009**

### **Resolution to Address MPS Funding Crisis**

#### **By Directors Zombor and Herndon**

WHEREAS, Board Governance Vision and Mission Policy 1.01 states that all district staff will be committed to providing an educational environment that is child-centered, supports achievement; and respects diversity and that schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained; and accessible community centers meeting the needs of all; and

WHEREAS, Quality education is a civil right and public responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Despite the State of Wisconsin having a \$6 billion budget surplus, public school funding has failed to keep pace with inflation for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 20% of all MPS students are students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Students with disabilities are significantly underfunded by the state by at least \$50 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Options to reduce expenditures to fill the funding gap for the FY 2025 budget would have a negative impact on MPS students, families; and education workers; and

WHEREAS, Recent community listening sessions seeking input to address the MPS funding crisis have shown strong initial support for a referendum, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board deems it desirable to seek a referendum to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Administration to bring forward a recommendation for a referendum/ballot question during the January Board cycle; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby authorizes the Administration and Office of Board Governance to take any preliminary steps needed, including seeking outside counsel if necessary, to prepare to take immediate action on a referendum election ballot initiative resolution in order to meet January election transmittal deadlines for the Spring Election.

*Introduced December 21, 2023*