

(ATTACHMENT 1) MONTHLY REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Submitted by President Bonds

During the month of March 2012, the President's activities included:

- (1) meeting with various members of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors on MPS issues;
- (2) meeting with Dr. Thornton on various MPS issues;
- (3) meeting with several individuals regarding possible partnerships with MPS on various issues;
- (4) talking with other elected officials regarding MPS issues;
- (5) meeting with numerous community leaders on MPS issues;
- (6) meeting with MTEA leadership and Dr. Thornton on several issues related to the 30-day window for changes to the teachers' contract;
- (7) traveling to the State Capitol with Dr. Thornton and Chris Thiel to lobby state senators in Madison to oppose granting students with disabilities \$13,000 vouchers;
- (8) attending the Council of Great Schools Conference from March 16, 2012, to March 20, 2012, in Washington, D.C., A summary of major issues follows:
 1. Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
 - a. The U.S. House of Representatives has two versions of the NCLB Reauthorization Bill. The biggest concern is that they shift a lot of money and control over the accountability from school districts to the states. These bills also combine separate educational programs into a large block-grant for the states.
 - b. The Senate's NCLB Reauthorization Bill has a comparability clause that is projected to cost school districts millions of dollars. The comparability clause requires school districts to make non-Title I schools comparable to Title I schools relative to resources.
 2. Federal funding for education is expected to drop.
 3. Because of the budget ceiling deal approved in 2011, automatic across-the-board cuts will go into effect on January 2, 2012, if the federal government does not adopt a new budget. These cuts are anticipated to impact not only on 2013 funds, but on funds already allocated for 2012. Milwaukee is expected to lose \$8-9 million if this occurs.
 4. Formula Fight — Congress is currently engaged in a formula battle in which efforts are being made to shift more funding from urban areas that have high poverty rates to rural areas where poverty rates are increasing;
- (9) meeting with Congresswoman Gwen Moore and staff in Washington to discuss MPS-related issues.

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