

Report of the Board's Delegate to the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP)

April 20, 2017

Submitted by President Mark Sain

(1) Meetings and conversations were held among the Milwaukee Education Partnership's Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the Partnership regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives and projects, updates, MEP administrative business, and more.

(2) Mr. Randall met with Ben Voelkel, Communications Director to Senator Ron Johnson, regarding Senate initiatives for education that Senator Johnson supports.

(3) A meeting was held with Dr. Robert Russell at the National Science Foundation to inquire about the status of the MEP's bioscience initiative planning grant request.

(4) Mr. Randall met with Gregory Dillon at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation in New York concerning the submission of a proposal for funding of a special scholarship initiative with local PK-16 partners.

(5) Mr. Randall met with Jeff Voelkel, Program Officer of the American Family Foundation, regarding the submission of a proposal for funding to support the MEP's Literacy Initiative.

(6) Richard Cox of Greater Galilee Baptist Church and Mr. Randall met to discuss the church's new youth- and seniors-oriented programming. The church is building a new center that will serve the neighborhood in which the church is located.

(7) Mr. Randall had preliminary phone conversation with County Executive Chris Abele's chief of staff to discuss the role of the MEP and a potential co-sponsored youth summer-jobs initiative.

(8) Ray Allen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and Mr. Randall continued to discuss workforce-development initiatives, including summer youth employment.

(9) Mr. Randall met with staff in Congressman Paul Ryan's office in Washington, DC, regarding advancement of higher-education initiatives (TRIO and GEAR UP).

(10) A conference call was held with Patrick Sims, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other UW-Madison staff regarding the continued participation of UW-Madison in the Milwaukee GEAR UP program.

(11) GEAR UP partners met on March 31 regarding submission of a GEAR UP grant. Mr. Randall participated in the meeting.

(12) Maureen Hoyler, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education, and Mr. Randall met to discuss the TRIO line in the federal budget.

(13) An orientation was provided to Ashanti Hamilton, President of the Milwaukee Common Council, concerning his new role as Vice Chair of the MEP Executive Partners.

(14) The MEP Executive Partners held their monthly meeting on March 20. MEP updates were shared, and discussion took place regarding the upcoming state and federal budgets.

(15) Work continues to coordinate the activity to inform legislators of MEP Partners' common needs.

(16) Planning continued for the 2017 UNCF Governor's Luncheon event.

(17) At the suggestion of Senator Lena Taylor, Dr. Lakeshia Myers of EduStar Consulting and Berthina Brister and Dara Atendere of AKA Sorority met with Mr. Randall concerning the HBCU Conference and their participation in it.

(18) Planning and preparations continued for the fourth annual MEP HBCU Conference to be held April 24-26, 2017, which included meetings, conversations, and work with MPS school and administrative staff, UWM staff, vendors, planning teams, HBCU representatives, and others involved in the activities and services of the conference. Members of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors are encouraged to attend the HBCU Alumni Reception from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on April 25 at the Golda Meir Auditorium (entertainment to be provided by Milwaukee High School of the Arts) and the panel discussion on "Enhancing the Pipeline & Partnerships between Milwaukee K-16 Education Institutions, Corporations and HBCU" from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on April 26 at the InterContinental Milwaukee Hotel. In addition to teacher education, this year's conference will also include a focus on engineering and on healthcare. Presidents, chancellors; deans of schools of education, engineering and health care; and recruitment and marketing leaders from 27 HBCUs are registered to attend.

(19) Follow-up discussion was conducted with Dr. Debra Greene, Interim Provost of Lincoln University, regarding the formation of articulation agreements between Lincoln University and MATC.

(20) Discussions about the reading initiative with School Board President Mark Sain and Vice President Larry Miller, Milwaukee Common Council members, and others has led to creation of the Early Education Task Force to be coordinated out of the Common Council. Mr. Randall will serve on the task force, whose first meeting is scheduled for April 24.

(21) Ray Cross, President of the University of Wisconsin System, invited Mr. Randall to participate as a member of the UW System's Diversity Council.

(22) The relocation of the MEP's office has been completed. The new address is 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 405, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203.

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