

## Resolution 2021R-019

### By Director Phillips

1. WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Public Schools, in fulfilling its role *in loco parentis*, has a legal, professional, and moral obligation to safeguard and to promote the wellbeing of all children under its jurisdiction; and
2. WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors, as the governing body of the Milwaukee Public Schools, in recent years has demonstrated its determined commitment to fulfilling that obligation, most prominently through its investment in helping young boys through the creation of the Department of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA); and
3. WHEREAS, One study has shown that, while boys and girls tend to feel equally confident until the age of 12, between the ages of 8 and 14, girls' confidence levels tend to plummet by 30 percent; and
4. WHEREAS, A report by the Alverno College Research Center for Women and Girls, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast, states that the number of girls in Wisconsin who experience anxiety, contemplate self-harm, and experience bullying has increased in the last decade; and
5. WHEREAS, Recent trends demonstrate that more girls than boys in Wisconsin have reported that they have contemplated suicide and have exhibited suicidal, as well as self-harming, behaviors; and
6. WHEREAS, another study revealed frequent social media use disproportionately affects teen girls' mental health more negatively than that of teen boys; and
7. WHEREAS, Girls and nonbinary children of color are more likely to be subjected to higher rates of violence and discipline and are more likely to be targets of human trafficking; now, therefore, be it
8. RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Administration to develop and present to the Board a catalogue of all existing or available programming that focuses on girls within MPS; and be it
9. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the MPS Office of Communications and School Performance, through its Research, Assessment and Data Team, ~~be directed to work collaboratively with psychologists, social workers, and school counselors, as well as any appropriate community partners, to create an annual student survey~~ explore current MPS survey mechanisms of students in the fifth through twelfth grades enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools that could be used to measure the following as they relate to race, gender, and ability:
  - self-confidence and self-image;
  - indicators of self-harm and suicidal ideation;
  - rates of traditional and social media consumption;
  - attitudes/behaviors as it relates to relationships
  - violence against students; and
  - bullying; and be it

10. FURTHER RESOLVED, That this annual surveying ~~may shall~~ be used to ~~consider track~~ trends and improvements in these areas and to ~~develop~~ consider appropriate interventions to ~~increase~~ support the wellbeing of girls and nonbinary children at MPS schools, to include, but not be limited to:
- Increasing the levels of confidence in girls;
  - providing education in critical thinking about media consumption, especially as it relates to promoting healthy self-image;
  - healthy relationships and prevention of violence; and
  - self advocacy and leadership; and be it
11. FURTHER RESOLVED, That this surveying shall be presented, through the Board's Committee on Parent and Community Engagement, each year for public hearing and comment; and be it
12. FURTHER RESOLVED, That, throughout each year, the Administration shall bring to the Board, for its approval, recommendations for the development and improvement of such interventions as the annual surveying shall indicate are necessary; and be it
13. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration shall seek appropriate resources — such as budgetary dollars, philanthropic funds, grants, and other sources of revenue — to fund such interventions and programs for girls in the district.

*December 17, 2020*