

**REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE
TITLE I DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)**

March 26, 2020

Submitted by Director Paula Phillips

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Tracey Dent called the monthly meeting of the DAC's Executive Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020, in the auditorium of the MPS Central Services Building.

PresentCarrie Bickerstaff, Member at Large; Tracey Dent, Chairperson; Jenni Hofschulte, Corresponding Secretary; Terry Longo, Parliamentarian; Celeste Moore, Member at Large; Nonita Stiggers, Recording Secretary

ExcusedCarrianna Johnson, Member at Large; Andy Kilimann, Sergeant at Arms; Valerie Lambrecht, Vice Chairperson

At the meeting, there were 76 DAC delegates representatives, 28 parent coordinators, and four community members, representing 80 schools, for a total of 108 participants.

Chair Dent also recognized elected officials and dignitaries present and announced that interpretation was available in Spanish for participants who needed this service.

POSITIVE NOTES

Member at Large Celeste Moore solicited positive notes from the group.

(1) Angela Rappl from Fairview Elementary shared that CBS 58 had visited the school to highlight a student with autism who had created a line of clothing made from recycled water bottles that featured animals. Ms. Rappl also shared that the school's anti-bullying program has created a peer-mediation component that allows students to cool down in a safe space and work through conflict-resolution issues. This peer mediation has reduced the number of incidents of fighting at the school.

(2) Gail Drenzik from IDEAL School shared that IDEAL has had a 1.3% increase in daily attendance this school year, and they are proud of their students.

(3) Migdalia Diaz from Forest Home Elementary shared that student attendance is up .6% and that the Marquette University basketball players are participating in the reading buddies program at the school. Ms. Diaz also shared that English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are being offered to parents at the school.

(4) Martha Kimber from Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (WCLL) shared that its students had won 1st place in the swing division of the Mad Hot Tap dance competition. Ms. Kimber also shared that WCLL's Black History Program will feature a praise dance team, cheerleaders, and more. They are proud of the school and how much they are doing for the students and families.

(5) Tracey Dent from Milwaukee Excellence Charter School shared that the Milwaukee Coalition Against Hate is creating and recording a song featuring a multi-ethnic chorus. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this video, which will feature MPS youth, is welcome to take part. Interested parties may contact Tracey Dent on Facebook or email at tracey.e.dent@gmail.com. If you are against HATE, then you are part of this coalition.

(6) Javier and Vicky Cornejo from Bay View High School shared that Career and Technical Education (CTE) Superintendent-Carolyn Stanford Taylor, who is the first African American superintendent in Wisconsin's history, will be visiting Bay View High School on February 20 for CTE in our Schools Month. They also shared that Bay View will host the STEAM Showcase on February 26 from 9-11:30 a.m. and will be visited by neighborhood schools Parkside, Humboldt Park, Bay View Montessori, and Fernwood Montessori. They also mentioned that, in the first semester, 120 Bay View HS students achieved honor-roll status.

(7) Winnifred Aitch from Holmes Elementary shared that all parents who had attended the meetings of the School Engagement Council on January 16 and 24 had been very positive about a proposed later start time for next year. Parents were also very interested in more information about the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program after hearing a presentation by Molly McGowan, FAST Director.

Ms. Winnifred also shared that more than 30 boxes of non-perishable food and hams had been distributed to Holmes families after the meetings.

Parents have been participating in several exciting field trips. Holmes's African Drums and Dance Troop performed at three different schools on February 5.

Ms Aitch also shared that the Milwaukee Urban League, through a partnership with Holmes provided by a Verizon grant, had taken 15 students on a career-exploration field trip to GE Medical Technologies in Pewaukee.

(8) Rocío Leyva from Longfellow Community school shared that the school is developing a plan for students to increase their reading proficiency.

(9) Kelly Nelson from Craig Montessori shared that the Craig Comets Chess team went to the all-girls' tournament on February 8 and not only did they have the largest group of girls (ten), but the K-3rd-grade group also helped the team get its first trophy (2nd place) of the year!

(10) Tiffany Byer from Burdick Elementary shared that hats and gloves were provided to the 4th-graders by the Milwaukee Bucks and Harley Davidson and that the Burdick's academic scores are on the rise.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATES

Family & Community Engagement Associate Jorge Mayorga explained the new DAC delegate feedback form, which serves to streamline communication between the DAC and MPS administration. He also gave an overview of DAC's new live site, which makes the DAC meetings more interactive. By using the tiny URL or QR code from the agenda, delegates can submit positive notes and complete their meeting evaluations, which are used by the Executive Committee to plan for future meetings.

Mr. Mayorga also explained the Q&A feature, where delegates can submit questions from the meeting, so no one may walk away from the meeting without having had the opportunity of his/her questions being asked. The questions will be referred to a subject-matter expert and responded to within seven days of the meeting.

The DAC Executive Committee is working toward continuous improvement of the meetings. The meetings are becoming more interactive to meet the needs of our families and to address their concerns.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Renee Dudley of the MPS Department of Nutrition Services, along with her team, provided information on the Nutrition Services program.

Background

Milwaukee Public School (MPS) and the Department of Nutrition Services feed students all year long. MPS participates in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows all MPS schools, including contracted schools, to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without their having to complete applications. Well-fed students are ready to learn and stay focused in the classroom. While all schools do serve breakfast and lunch, many schools also serve an afternoon snack or dinner. Meals are also provided at many school locations during summer months. In addition, many schools participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

The primary funder for school meal programs is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA has strict guidelines for menu planning — this is called Meal Pattern. MPS follows the USDA's Meal Pattern for both breakfast and lunch. This includes many considerations, such as daily calories, daily sodium levels, and daily amounts of saturate fat.

In addition, each meal has required food components. For example, lunch has five meal components: meat/meat alternates, grains, fruits, vegetables, and milk. While fruits and vegetables are served at every lunch, MPS continues to expand its lunch offerings of a fresh fruit or fresh vegetable daily. All foods, including condiments, are considered when planning the menu. In addition, school districts are required to collect all manufacturers' product-formulation statements to ensure compliance.

One tool used by schools to reduce food waste is Offer versus Serve (OVS). Students must be offered all five components at lunch; however, students do have the option to decline two components. Under OVS, all students must select at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable or a combination of fruits and vegetables.

MPS and the Department of Nutrition Services is committed to serving the highest-quality food to our students. MPS has begun its clean-label initiative to serve only "clean" food items (i.e., whole foods that are minimally processed and as close to their natural form as possible) to students of MPS. MPS believes that it is important to nourish our children not only for today, but for their future health also. MPS is working to remove trans fats and hydrogenated oils, high-fructose corn syrup, hormones and antibiotics, processed and artificial sweeteners, artificial colors and flavors, artificial preservatives, and bleached flour.

This process will take approximately three years to complete. MPS has partnered with the Life Time Foundation, which is a public charity of Life Time Fitness, to help us expedite this process. They are reviewing all MPS's food labels, and MPS will work to identify replacements or remove the offending menu items.

Action Steps for DAC Representatives:

Department of Nutrition Services' School Meal Service will be the topic for discussion at our March DAC meeting. Delegates received handouts, which they were asked to take back to their schools. They were also asked to gather feedback from families and to offer to make presentations to their School Engagement Councils or PTOs and to get answers to the following questions for discussion at next month's DAC meeting.

1. Many changes have been made to the breakfast in the classroom menu. What feedback do you have to new menu options? What recommendations would you like to provide?

2. Fruits and vegetables are offered every day at lunch and fruit is offered every day at breakfast. Do your students eat fruits and vegetables? What can MPS do to help increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables?
3. What prevents your students from participating in either school breakfast or school lunch: food options, quality, temperature, customer service, peer pressure, other? What recommendation to you have to encourage your students to eat school breakfast and/or lunch? Please be specific.
4. Are you aware many schools offer dinner or snack afterschool, as part of afterschool programing? Do your students participate? What prevents your students from participating?

DAC will provide feedback directly to MPS personnel in the Department of Nutrition Services.

MPS BREAKOUT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Family & Community Engagement Associate Jorge Mayorga dismissed the participants into discussion groups in which DAC delegate members finalized the discussion on MPS's disciplinary practices. Evaluations were collected from the breakout sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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