



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – March

The Superintendent's Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district's eight strategic objectives:



Close the GAP



Re-envision Partnerships



Educate the Whole Child



Strengthen Communication Systems & Outreach Strategies



Redefine the MPS Experience



Develop Our Workforce



Rethink High Schools



Improve Organizational Processes

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Visit

On March 12, district administrators from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District visited Milwaukee for an exchange of information. Some of the topics discussed included strategies around improving attendance and graduation rates, MPS FAFSA completion rates, MPS College Access Centers, MPS ProStart Culinary Arts program, and the district's Career and Technical Education programming. It provided an excellent opportunity to share successes and challenges with one of our fellow districts.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

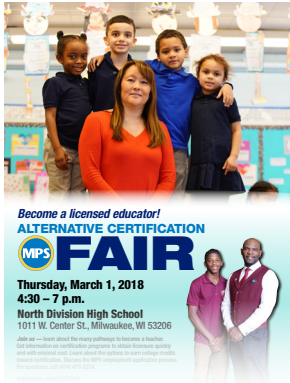
Every Child has a Story Book Drive

During February, MPS held the annual Central Services book drive. The theme for the book drive this year was Every Child Has a Story. We know that through reading, children are able to engage in stories similar to and very different than their own. We all have a story that was special to us — fictional or non-fiction. And through those stories, we want children to begin to tell their own story — and to know that their story has meaning and value. The more books, the more stories, the more reading. Our goal of 200 books and \$600 collected for this year was bigger than last year. Thank you to all who contributed to making this happen!



Read Across America Day

Read Across America day was held on March 2, which is Dr. Seuss's birthday and a special day dedicated to focusing on literacy for our students! I'm so grateful for the many people who took part in various reading activities with our students.



Alternative Certification Fair for aspiring teachers

Milwaukee Public Schools' Office of Human Resources hosted the first Alternative Certification Fair at the North Division Campus. The event was for para-professionals, substitute teachers, or any individuals aspiring to become a teacher. Members of local colleges and universities as well as Alternative Certification programs were present to share the opportunities they offer prospective teachers. Participants were able to make personal connections with programs and determine which program best fits them. Aspiring teachers were able to ask questions and find out about support offered by the programs — including the ones they may not advertise. In addition to meeting with program representatives, attendees networked with others and to begin building relationships as prospective teachers.

Student-created ice cream to be a featured new flavor at Purple Door

Milwaukee Public Schools and the Bartolotta Restaurants hosted the second annual ice cream-making competition at James Madison Academic Campus on March 1, 2018. Four teams, for a total of more than 20 students, competed in this fun and educational contest from all four MPS culinary arts schools: **Bay View High School, James Madison Academic Campus, Vincent High School, and Washington High School.**

The winning ice cream was created by the team from James Madison Academic Campus, and consisted of maple ice cream with banana waffle, peanut butter and chocolate royltine. The delicious winning flavor will be featured at Purple Door Ice cream and will be available for public purchase before the summer.



The MPS culinary arts program, which uses the ProStart® curriculum, was initiated to build broad career-readiness skills needed for post-high school success and to connect students to the restaurant and hospitality industry. The program is a great way for students to prepare for work in the industry and is valuable for teaching leadership and other skills transferable to postsecondary choices.

MPS began its culinary arts program last school year with approximately 325 students. Currently, the district has reached its goal of 480 students — 332 first-year, and 148 second-year — in culinary arts programs at all four schools.

Green Bay Packers Give Back

Milwaukee Public Schools will install a synthetic sports turf surface at **Casimir Pulaski Stadium** in Milwaukee, thanks in part to a \$250,000 grant from the Green Bay Packers through the National Football League Foundation Grassroots Program. The grant from the Packers, the NFL Foundation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is part of more than \$3 million in field refurbishment awards allocated this year.



The NFL Foundation/LISC Grassroots Program, a partnership between the NFL Foundation and LISC, the nation's leading community development support organization, has committed nearly \$46 million to the program since 1998, supporting 336 projects nationwide. Fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements including irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards,

goal posts and turf. Grassroots grants are issued once established funding thresholds are reached for each project.

LISC identifies local, nonprofit, community-based agencies that have an interest in building or refurbishing football fields in schools and neighborhood parks. Through the program, local agencies are provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of fields in their communities. The agencies oversee the construction, maintenance and programming of the fields.



Meetings from late February through mid-March follow:

- ▶ Met with George Hinton, CEO of **Social Development Commission (SDC)** to discuss ways in which MPS and SDC can further engage in partnership.
- ▶ Interviewed by Justin Johnson, *Edible Milwaukee*, to discuss **ProStart**, our MPS Culinary Arts program, and the impact that this program is having on our students and the community.
- ▶ Participated on a panel at **Marquette University** with several other business leaders and community influencers on the important topic of Health Disparities among African-American and low-income children in Milwaukee. It was a profound and very informative panel, leaving many interested in learning more and wanting to support our youth.
- ▶ Traveled to the **Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences** with a team to tour and learn more about their agricultural sciences program. We came back with great information for our teams.
- ▶ Participated in a panel of local superintendent's and students on **WTMJ** radio where we discussed school safety following the recent tragedy in **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** and the **Broward County Public School District** in Florida. It was great having the dialogue with other districts and the voice of students.
- ▶ Gave remarks at the **33rd Annual Black Excellence Awards** at the Italian Community Center where many great leaders were honored for their commitment and work in our community.
- ▶ Hosted a *Coffee Shop Conversation* event at the **Lopez Bakery & Restaurant**, offering another opportunity to engage with the community in an intimate neighborhood setting, to discuss the future of MPS.
- ▶ Attended the **United Way** Volunteer Engagement Committee meeting, and my monthly meeting with Danae Davis of Milwaukee Succeeds.
- ▶ Participated in the **MPS Foundation** meeting.
- ▶ Held a Skype meeting with Dr. Sal Fernandez of the **STEM Happens Network**, to discuss the STEM work we're doing and ways to develop it further.
- ▶ Attended the AASA (The **School Superintendent's Association**) National Conference on Education in Nashville, TN where I connected with fellow Superintendent's and thought-leaders for an extraordinary development and networking opportunity.



- ▶ Attended the **15th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance** at North Division. This event was made possible through a partnership between Milwaukee Recreation, Social Development Commission and the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative. The fact that it was a sold-out event, speaks to the success of the program, and the value for fathers and daughters in this community.
- ▶ Shared district updates and talked about the importance of an education with the congregation and students of **Zion Missionary Baptist Church** at their Annual African American Heritage Program.
- ▶ Attended Mayor Tom Barrett's **2018 State of the City Address** at the Northwestern Mutual Towers and Commons.
- ▶ Gave a keynote speech at **Hi-Mount Community School** as a part of the school's Black History Month Celebration.
- ▶ Attended the **40 Under 40 Award Celebration**. As a former recipient, I was invited to celebrate this year's honorees.
- ▶ Attended a meeting with the **Annenberg Institute** to learn about their work through the PASSAGE (Positive and Safe Schools Advancing Greater Equity) program that addressed discipline disparities in Nashville. The purpose was to determine if that program would be a good fit for MPS to support our efforts in addressing discipline disparities here and implementing the Office of Civil Rights Resolution agreement.
- ▶ Hosted a Community Conversations event at the **Enderis Park Neighborhood Association** Board Meeting. I truly valued the time with our constituents sharing information about our district and being able to engage with and answer their questions.
- ▶ Gave remarks at the **Celebrating Abilities Family Forum** at Milwaukee Marshall High School and also held a Community Conversations event during the form.
- ▶ Met with Wendy Baumann, President of **Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)** and her team to tour WWBIC and to discuss potential opportunities of engaging our families with them.
- ▶ I was interviewed for the **City Year Milwaukee** Annual Report.
- ▶ Attended the 37th Annual **Professional Dimensions' Sacagawea Awards** where Dr. Eve Hall and Paula Pennebaker were honored.
- ▶ Tina Chang, CEO of SysLogic, Inc., and I interviewed each other on the theme of Innovation at **Brady Corp's** **guest Speaker Series**.



AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Achieve3000

As part of the MPS commitment to help every student succeed, the online tool Achieve3000 is widely available in classrooms. This computer-based learning activity allows students in grades 4 to 12 to work at their own speed at levels that match their proficiency. Four MPS classrooms have shown remarkable progress using this tool for instruction in science, social studies, and English language arts. Their teachers were honored on February 15 for the accomplishments shown by their students.

At **Gilbert Stuart School**, **Roslyn Sampson's** class has shown high levels of engagement and successful activity completion, with 87% of her students scoring 75% or better on their first assessment.



At **Academy of Accelerated Learning**, **Kaela Zielinski**'s students have shown the highest overall Lexile gains for grades 4 and 5. The expected gain for this grade is 50 points, but Zielinski's average class gain is 124 – more than double the expectations! This class shows impressive usage, with 77% of students completing 50 to 59 activities.

Maria Ramos's class at **Rogers St. Academy** has shown the highest overall Lexile gains for grades 8 and 9. The expected gain for this grade is 25 points, and Ramos's average gain is 119. Her class shows high engagement, with 61% of her students completing 80 or more activities.

At the high school level, **Nancy Smith**'s class at **South Division High School** can boast the highest overall Lexile gains for high schools. The expected gain for this grade group is 25 points, and Smith's average gain is 77 – triple the expected increase.

Wisconsin Association of Cheer & Pom Coaches Cheerleading Competition

The **Rufus King** Cheer Dance team placed third in the Cheer Dance Small division at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer & Pom Coaches (WACPC) Cheerleading State Competition. King was the sole MPS school represented. They are coached by Rufus King Alumni **Veronica Bohannon** and **Robin Anderson**.



53rd St. School CLC students win NBA Math Hoops tournament

Congratulations to sixth-grader **Kyla McCray** and eighth-grader **Fayth Buchanan Cooper**, the 2018 NBA Math Hoops tournament champions! Cooper and McCray represented their 53rd St. School Community Learning Center on Tuesday, March 6, at the second annual edition of the event in Wisconsin. NBA Math Hoops hosts 23 total tournaments across the nation.

NBA Math Hoops brings in fourth-to-eighth grade students from across the area to participate in an event at the Milwaukee Bucks' brand new Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin Sports Science Center. Over 70 "mathletes" from Milwaukee, Racine, Oak Creek, Waukesha, and Pewaukee attended the tournament, including 26 students from Milwaukee Recreation-affiliated locations.

The NBA Math Hoops event is a free program for all Milwaukee Public Schools after-school groups through a partnership with the Bucks and a sponsorship with GE Healthcare.

In addition to our 53rd St. CLC champions, two-person teams from Auer Ave. School CLC, Carver Academy CLC, Camp Congress, Camp Fairview, Fratney CLC, Camp Hawley, Kagel CLC, Lincoln Ave. School CLC, Thurston Woods Academy CLC, Camp Thoreau, Story School Safe Place, and Zablocki School CLC all participated this year.

This is the second consecutive year an MPS after-school program has captured the NBA Math Hoops crown; Camp Fairview won the tournament in 2017.

Students' test scores have improved in each year of the national event; scores jumped nearly 37 percent in the 2015–16 school year.

