

Resolution 2021R-001

By Director O'Halloran

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools is the largest school district in the state of Wisconsin, serving more than 70,000 students and employing more than 9,600 employees; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Public Schools' educators and other public-school leaders took the COVID-19 threat seriously and closed schools to ensure the safety of both students and the community; and

WHEREAS, Although schools were closed, the Milwaukee Public Schools continued to provide education to its students remotely and continued to meet the nutritional needs of its students by serving hundreds of thousands of meals, despite limited resources and funding; and

WHEREAS, K-12 public schools in Milwaukee rely on a combination of property taxes, sales taxes, and income taxes to fund their operations and to deliver on their mission to educate students; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors applauds the members of Congress who allocated \$13.5 billion in U.S. K-12 funding as part of the CARES Act passed in early April 2020; and

WHEREAS, In mid-April 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers penned a letter to President Donald J. Trump noting that Wisconsin alone is expected to lose more than \$2 billion in tax revenue unless the federal government intervenes; and

WHEREAS, The Learning Policy Institute projects that school districts nationwide could lose almost 320,000 positions if states cut their education budgets by 15 percent due to the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, On April 6, 2020, organizations including the School Superintendent's Association (AASA), American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Council of Administrators of Special Education, Council of Great City Schools, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Education Association, National PTA., and the National School Boards Association penned a letter to the majority and minority leaders in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House urging them to allocate at least an additional \$200 billion in K-12 emergency relief funding, including the following:

- at least \$175 billion in emergency funding directly to state governments to support local school districts;
- at least \$25 billion to support IDEA (\$13 billion) and Title I (\$12 billion); and
- at least \$2 billion to fund technology to further enable home-based learning and to close inequities in broadband Internet access; and

WHEREAS, The public schools of Wisconsin deserve to have state budget/financial decisions that are made within a context of the facts provided in this resolution and, more important, that put students first; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors urges President Donald J. Trump and members of Congress immediately allocate significant and sufficient emergency stabilization aid to enable state governments across America to fund their K-12 public schools and to prevent furloughs or cuts to K-12 public school staffs and programs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors urges the policy makers in the Wisconsin Legislature to work with Governor Tony Evers to keep the needs of the 860,000 public school children in the forefront of all decision making when prioritizing budgets and drafting education policies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors urges Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate sufficient funding from both the 2021-2022 state budget and the state's Budget Stabilization Fund (also known as the "rainy day fund") to enable school districts to fund their staff and programs and to fulfill their missions to educate Wisconsin's school children; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board instruct the Board Clerk to have engrossed copies of this Resolution, suitably signed and sealed, prepared and delivered to each of Wisconsin's representatives in the U.S. Congress, to Governor Tony Evers, and to the Milwaukee delegation in the Wisconsin Legislature.

Adopted this ____ Day of ____, 2020.

Milwaukee Board of School Directors:

Larry Miller, District 5, President

Tony Baez, District 6, Vice President

Marva Herndon, District 1

Erica Siemsen, District 2

Sequanna Taylor, District 3

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