

Resolution 2122R-012

by Director Carr

WHEREAS, Milwaukee's poverty rate is nearly double that of the national rate; and

WHEREAS, Economic standing determines key factors in our lives, including food security, housing quality, access to schools and jobs; and

WHEREAS, Poverty is included in the city's agenda for improving the health and well-being of Milwaukee residents, known as MKE Elevate, which aims to address economic security, fairness and inclusivity in society, and mental health.; and

WHEREAS, The taxpayers in Milwaukee, through a referendum has invested in the safety and well-being of students by allowing for a tax increase that is aimed to assist students in their education; and

WHEREAS, In addition to referenda dollars, MPS has also received ESSER funding to assist students and families during the hard economic times caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is committed to the success of every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or initial proficiencies; and

WHEREAS, Success in school and a well-rounded education is not predicated only on classroom instruction and homework, but also on extracurricular activities such as athletics, art, clubs, etc.; and

WHEREAS, MPS already offers universal free breakfast and lunch to all students, because we recognize both the importance of these programs and the financial adversity which our students and their families face; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, ~~beginning in~~ during the 2021-22 school year, the Board shall consider the logistics and feasibility of waiving all fees charged to students, including those for student activities (towels, swimsuits, school newspaper, assembly programs, locks for gym lockers, etc.), supplementary subject-area materials, club activities, graduation ceremonies, (cap and gowns) and athletic participation, instrument rental or music lessons, driver education, and work permits; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration be directed to explore partnerships with community-based organizations, residents of Milwaukee, MPS alumni, and governmental entities to the greatest extent possible to help contribute to these costs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for any outstanding costs that cannot be covered through outside funding sources, ~~schools shall be reimbursed from carryovers of School Operations funds in each fiscal year in which this waiver is in effect~~ the Office of Finance explore and determine the best manner in which to proceed; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration report back on its findings regarding the feasibility of the implementation of implementing this resolution no later than the October 2021 Board cycle.

Introduced August 26, 2021