



Superintendent's Report – October

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

Meetings from late September through mid-October follow.

Council of the Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference

As President of the Council of the Great City Schools, I was very busy at the Annual Fall Conference. In addition to giving a keynote address, members of my Administration and I were responsible for a number of presentations that were a nice representation of the continuum of areas in which Milwaukee Public Schools is a leader and model to other districts.

My team and I attended the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Leadership Learning Community (ELLC)* convening in New York City.

The goal of the ELLC is to assist states and districts in using ESSA funding to build the capacity of education leaders to implement supports and interventions to turn around schools most in need of improvement. Eleven states were invited to participate in this ongoing leadership learning community.



DARIENNE DRIVER, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Governor Walker and a number of state and local dignitaries joined us as we celebrated Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Day. Governor Scott Walker proclaimed September 26 as Youth Apprenticeship Day in Wisconsin in support of efforts to get students engaged in career pathways and programs to ensure a robust talent pipeline for generations to come. At Bradley Tech, Governor Walker met with and viewed a demonstration from youth apprentices in the school's construction program. For the 2017–18 school year, the MPS Youth Apprenticeship program will serve 250 students, up from 50 students last year. The Youth Apprenticeship program provides MPS high school juniors and seniors with paid, hands-on, work-based learning in high skill/high need industries so students are better prepared for the careers of tomorrow. This program is a direct investment in Milwaukee's present and future. This is an example of our efforts to get more students ready for work and into employment while they are still in high school. We're encouraged by this program's positive results.



John and Tashia Morgridge, our partnership schools' funders, were in town and we had lunch, toured Rogers Street Academy, and updated them on the progress that the partnership schools are making.

I was invited to participate in a *Systems Thinking Institute Superintendent's Panel Discussion* in Tucson. They are interested in how we have implemented Systems Thinking in the various levels of MPS.

MATC president, **Vickie Martin, Julia Taylor** and I met with **Chad Cundiff**, president of Astronautics. Mr. Cundiff is interested in our successes with our STEM program and wants to discuss a partnership.

Bill Berezowitz from **GE** and I had our executive committee meeting with Mayor Barrett.

I met **Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch** at Congress. Lt. Governor Kleefisch previously met Diane Johnson, K4 teacher at Congress, in the community and thought it would be nice to surprise her.

I was a participant in a panel discussion as part of the **Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC)** All-Member meeting. This event brought together approximately 1,200 business leaders, community advocates and elected officials for a program detailing our progress and outlining our objectives to support the challenges and opportunities that metro Milwaukee is experiencing.

I was at the **Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA)** conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The convening brought together a select group of leaders across CBMA's core Promise of Place (PoP) cities where partnerships evolved, and work on the ground was initiated that deepened support to advance Black male achievement in local communities. This annual gathering creates space for city and community leaders who are bound together by their commitment to convening, sharing, and learning, as well as setting aspirational goals to guide the collective work on behalf of Black men and boys.

Events/Programs/Announcements

Year of the Arts

This year, MPS is celebrating the Year of the Arts! Through the **Year of the Arts (YOTA)** initiative, MPS will showcase the integration of creativity, artistic expression, and problem solving to increase engagement and achievement for all students.

On September 21, we officially launched YOTA in Red Arrow Park. Many student groups shared the arts activities in which they participate in schools, including visual arts, music, dance, and creative expression through spoken word. MPS culinary arts students even catered the event with hors d'oeuvres they made in class. Colorful centerpieces were made by Browning Elementary students.



MPS students receive free dental care

The Marquette School of Dentistry was bustling as families brought children aged 3 to 16 for free dental check-ups. Dozens of dental students and faculty were on hand to provide screenings, fluoride treatments, and emergency services, and to educate children about proper brushing and care of their teeth.



Sponsored by the Milwaukee Public Schools Head Start Office, approximately 500 children departed with healthier smiles following their visits. Children received toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items to help them care for their teeth daily. The Tooth Fairy made a special visit to chat with children and take photos.

Dental pain is a leading cause of missed school days for children. Dental care at an early age can help children learn good habits and keep their teeth healthy throughout their lifetimes. The Dental Day program educates children and provides early prevention for minor issues that could become serious later on.

Teaching children how to be healthy aligns with MPS' Eight Big Ideas to promote student achievement. Healthy habits increase student attendance and help students achieve in school.

Fire safety is highlighted throughout MPS

Having a safety plan and knowing how to escape a burning house are critical steps to survive a fire, so MPS students will learn fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. A national event that ran from October 8 to 14 this year, had activities designed to make homes safer and help families prepare for emergencies. MPS kicked off the event at Milwaukee's Survive Alive House along with representatives from the Milwaukee Fire Department and City Hall.



On an annual basis, every second and fifth grader enrolled in MPS visits the Survive Alive House, and more than 375,000 children have experienced the fire safety program since its inception in 1992. As a result, Milwaukee's fire-related fatalities among school-aged children have decreased dramatically. Milwaukee's Survive Alive House is partially funded by the Foundation for the Milwaukee Fire Education Center and is jointly managed by the Milwaukee Fire Department and Milwaukee Recreation, a department of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Safety and support for families are critical pieces of MPS' Eight Big Ideas to promote student achievement. Health and wellness — including safety — help students come to school ready to learn and then go home to a positive environment.

Awards/Recognition

MPS Curriculum Specialist Brett Fuller Honored at SHAPE America National Convention

Brett Fuller, health and physical education curriculum specialist for MPS, has been honored with the Channing Mann Physical Education Administrator of the Year Award by SHAPE America – the Society of Health and Physical Educators. A skilled and passionate educator who is committed to the physical, emotional and academic health of students, Fuller embodies the Channing Mann Award criteria of leadership, service, advocacy and contributions to the curriculum. He received the Channing Mann Award at the SHAPE America Celebration of Professional Excellence Ceremony.



The award-winning administrator is responsible for curriculum, supervision, mentoring, assessment and providing professional services for health and physical education within MPS; his work supports 150 physical education specialists. After more than 20 years in education, Fuller's philosophy centers upon the ideal of teaching students to be healthy for a lifetime. He believes in improving health and physical education at the district level, within Wisconsin, and nationally.

Fuller was a key member of a collaborative effort to reduce teen pregnancy in Milwaukee by 65 percent since 2007; his work included revising and implementing MPS Human Growth and Development Curriculum for K5-9th grade. He led the implementation of the SPARK curriculum for all K-8 students in MPS, resulting in an increase of moderate to vigorous physical activity in physical education classes from an initial 37 percent to 59 percent of classroom time, resulting from in-district collaborations with Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin. The collaborative also created physical activity and nutrition videos for classroom teachers. The creation of a K-12 standards-based report card also supports student health by teaching students to be physically literate. Finally, more than 100 MPS schools are now Let's Move! Active Schools.

