

Office of Accountability and Efficiency

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REPORT TO THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS: DECEMBER 2020

The Office of Accountability and Efficiency (OAE) was established to enhance transparency, oversight, and accountability to the District's financial operations; to evaluate fiscal performance; and to recommend solutions in furtherance of fiscal stewardship of Milwaukee Public Schools. Each month, the OAE monthly report will provide a highlight of one area of the OAE Work Plan and Work Plan progress from the previous month.

Work Plan Highlight: Requests for Data Analysis/Visualization

The Office of Accountability and Efficiency routinely receives requests for data analysis and data visualization. Examples include analysis of Third Friday enrollment trends and mapping board districts.

The OAE completed 14 requests for data analysis/visualization in FY20 and has completed 4 requests for data analysis/visualization to-date in FY21.

Accountability and Efficiency Services

Between November 10, 2020 and December 8, 2020, Accountability and Efficiency Services fulfilled one request for an independent hearing officer (IHO) assignment, four requests for information/research, and two requests for data analysis/visualization. Additionally, Accountability and Efficiency Services completed four special projects.

During the reporting period, Accountability and Efficiency Services worked collaboratively with the Administration, the Office of Board Governance, and the City of Milwaukee on the recently passed MPS referendum and its representation in 2020 property tax bills.

Accountability and Efficiency Services also continued to support the District's implementation of Administrative Policies 3.09 and 6.35.

Contract Compliance Services

On November 18, 2020, Contract Compliance Services (CCS) held Communities In Need (COIN) focus group sessions to review program data and discuss growing Milwaukee's skilled-trade workforce. Participants included Mission Aligned Partners (MAP) and industry representatives. The feedback included a recommendation to increase project-based skilled trades exposure for high school students throughout the city and certify them as COIN participants upon graduation, creating a streamlined referral process for high school students entering the skilled-trades. Additionally, it would expand MAP partnerships across school districts, leverage technical education resources and expertise, provide a cross-collaborative model design for Milwaukee to meet industry workforce needs, and support and advance COIN efforts. Focus group participants also discussed the proposed new MPS Administrative Policy and Procedure 3.14, Contractor Code of Conduct, which was recently referred to the Board's Committee on Legislation, Rules and Policies. The discussion centered on race and gender in the construction industry.

Also during the reporting period, students continued virtual project-based training with CCS' MAP, All Hands Boatworks, achieving project milestones and demonstrating proficiency in foundational carpentry skills and soft-skills. Students are on track for the capstone project of building 12-foot long row boats called Bevin's Skiffs.

Lastly, CCS is preparing to on-board the next cohort of 40 students to begin their virtual job-readiness training experience with another MAP that will run through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Students have met with assigned mentors to share experiences affecting them personally and academically during the pandemic.

Contract Compliance Services also continued to support the District's implementation of Administrative Policies 3.10 and 3.13.