



Report of the Office of Board Governance

Dr. Tina Owen-Moore – January 2025

The Office of Board Governance (OBG) submits, with grateful appreciation for all those contributing to its efforts, the following report on OBG activities in January.

Superintendent Search

The Office of Board Governance is collaborating with the HYA search firm to support the Board in its selection of Milwaukee's next superintendent.

In December, the Board decided to reopen the candidate application window with the hopes of deepening the slate of candidates. As a result, fifteen additional candidates applied, giving the Board a slate of 45 candidates to consider. The Board narrowed the pool and selected candidates for first-round interviews. Those interviews took place on January 27 and January 28, 2025. The Board met to deliberate on Wednesday, January 29th and will meet again, on Friday January 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. to deliberate and name finalists.

Finalists will be invited to spend two days in the district on February 6 and 7, 2025. The events on February 6th will include two engagement sessions for those interested in learning more about the finalists. These sessions are open to all MPS stakeholders, including MPS families and staff, community organizations, elected officials, the business community, university partners, media partners.

These engagement sessions will be held at MPS Central Office – 5225 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, in the Auditorium. The first session will run from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and the second session will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The schedule will go as follows:

Community Forums with the Finalists

1:00 – 1:45 - Candidate 1
2:00 – 2:45 – Candidate 2
3:00 – 3:45 – Candidate 3

Break

5:30 – 6:15 - Candidate 1
6:30 – 7:15 – Candidate 2
7:30 – 8:15 – Candidate 3

Candidates will be introduced by the Board Clerk, Dr. Tina Owen-Moore. Finalists will give a brief introduction and share their vision and goals for the district. Leaders from HYA, the superintendent search firm, will moderate questions from the community.

School Resource Officers

This month, Dr. Owen-Moore attended the court hearing on behalf of the Board regarding the writ of mandamus filed against the Milwaukee Board of School Directors. The plaintiff filed the writ of

mandamus to compel the Milwaukee Public Schools to comply with Act 12 and have SROs returned to Milwaukee Public Schools. The Board's attorney argued successfully that the district cannot comply with this mandate without the cooperation of the City of Milwaukee. As such, the judge ordered that the City be added as an additional defendant in the case and that the City and MPS work together to have the SRO program in effect by February 17, 2025, or return to the court together to explain why it has not been done. Negotiations continue with the City, and our office is prepared to attend future court hearings, if necessary.

Office Staffing

This month, the OBG team interviewed candidates for its final vacancy – administrative assistant. As of tonight, pending the Board’s decision on appointments, the Office of Board Governance will be fully staffed. Thank you to all team members who have been carrying extra responsibilities to support these vacancies. These efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Communications

There were several communications from the Office of Board Governance in January, including our regular newsletters and Fast Facts, press releases, and Board member communications. As we have become more confident in our digital newsletters, we have moved the work completely in-house.



We also continued to have one-on-one conversations with press partners this month and to aim to facilitate timely responses to media requests that meet the needs of the news cycles.

Social Media Litigation

Following the Board’s approval of the contract with Keller-Rohrback to file a complaint against social media companies, the Board Clerk and Assistant City Attorney met with attorneys from Keller-Rohrback to outline next steps. The case will be consolidated with the complaints filed by more than six hundred school districts across the country in the Multidistrict Litigation (“MDL”), of which MPS will be included. The Office of the City Attorney will serve as the Board’s representative in this case.

Audit Committee

One of the deliverables in the Corrective Action Plan with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is the creation of an audit committee. Our office is working with the Office of Accountability and Efficiency to support developing an audit committee plan to bring for Board consideration. We have reviewed examples from other cities, met with the Chair of the LRP Committee, and are collaborating with the Office of the City Attorney to find a path forward for meeting this objective.

New Board Member Orientation/ Training

After April's election, we will have three new Board members, so our office is preparing to support the training, orientation, and support of those new members, while also improving on the support and professional learning opportunities for continuing Board members in the coming Board cycle. Our team attended a workshop at the State Education Conference on supporting new Board members and gathered several ideas that we are excited to implement.

Events & Activities

This month, our team attended several events and activities with Board members, including several visits to schools, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations across the city, and the WASB/ WASDA State Education Convention.

One Big (Office) Goal = Digital

If you visited our office this month, you would have seen many paper files stacked on various counters. We have been consciously redeveloping systems and moving paper files to electronic filing wherever possible.



Thank you for your continued support.
We are honored to support the Board and District leaders through our work.

The Office of Board Governance provides support — in cooperation with, but independent of, the Superintendent and the Chief Accountability Officer — to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors in effectively and efficiently governing the district. This support includes, but is not limited to:

- reviewing and proposing policy;
- conducting fiscal analyses;
- preparing communications for the Board and public;
- fulfilling statutory or other legal requirements;
- preparing meeting notices and agendas for the meetings of the Board and its Committees;
- serving as the Board's secretary, clerk, and parliamentarian; and
- maintaining records of the Board's actions.

The Office provides coordination among the Board, the Office of Accountability and Efficiency, and the Superintendent's office.

The Office, by providing the Board with the most independent information available, assists the Board in its function of establishing district goals, priorities, rules, and policies.