

## **Report of the Office of Board Governance, Tina Owen-Moore – September 26, 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight a few of the key efforts within the Office of Board Governance this month.

### **Superintendent Search**

We have a series of meetings and community forums scheduled for September and October to gather feedback on what people see as the key qualities of a new superintendent. Individual meetings with Board members will begin next week, and in October there will be several in-person and virtual opportunities for the community to attend and share their thoughts. There will also be a survey link for feedback available on our website in early October. The insights gathered from these meetings will be used to develop the profile of an ideal leader for Milwaukee's schools, and the Board will work with HYA to see out an individual who meets the community's expectations.

### **Policy & Legal Support**

The Office of Board Governance, in collaboration with MPS Administration, is working to ensure that all district policies are up-to-date, accessible, appropriate and relevant. In August and September, we looked at solutions that will help us to stay aligned to statutory changes and legal challenges facing school districts around the state. In October, we plan to bring forward a recommendation to partner with Neola, Inc. an organization that supports 80% of school districts across the state with policy work. We anticipate that this partnership will save the district a great deal of money annually by reducing the need for a policy analyst and will protect the district from unnecessary legal risk by ensuring that we are operating according to policy that reflects the most up-to-date legal guidance.

### **Effective & Efficient Operations**

We are working quickly to get the Office of Board Governance fully staffed to ensure that the Board has the resources necessary to operate in the most effective and efficient manner. In August, the Board approved the appointment of Sue Patterson to the Executive Administrative Assistant role. An individual has also been selected for the Planning Assistant role, which will be key to ensuring proactive communications with constituents and the community. In the absence of administrative staff, our Board Staff Coordinator took on a great deal of the budgeting and accounts reconciliation work for the office. In doing so, I am happy to share that she found resources within our budget that will make it possible for the Board to pay for the superintendent's search without having to draw from the MPS contingency fund.

### **Student, Family and Community Engagement**

In September, the Chief Officer for the Office of Board Governance had conversations with several constituents about improving communications and relationships between the Board and community. A couple of changes resulted from those conversations immediately, such as making the online Board calendar more accessible on the webpage, allowing public commentary at Board meetings before the Board discussion, and the development of a timeline of activities that the Board has taken since the news of reporting errors was made public. Our hope is to continue to build on these relationships and to provide additional opportunities for feedback from the public.