

Resolution 1819R-001

By Director Woodward

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat., §119.08, directs, in part, that:

- a school board in a City of the First Class, such as Milwaukee, "...shall consist of one member elected at-large and eight members elected from numbered election districts determined by the board...";
- "[a] person elected to represent a district shall reside within the boundaries of the district..."; and
- "[t]he electors of each election district shall elect one member residing within the election district to represent the election district. The at-large member shall be elected by the electors of the city..."; and

WHEREAS, The statutory language helps to ensure that the specific needs and concerns of the individual public schools and constituents within the eight numbered districts will be addressed by the respective representatives who are elected to serve them; and

WHEREAS, Board Rule 3.01, Code of Ethics— Board of School Directors, states, "Board members will act cooperatively, bearing in mind the best interests of the people in the jurisdiction of MPS and of the students whom the Board serves"; and

WHEREAS, The representatives elected to serve each of the eight numbered districts are familiar with the needs and concerns of the individual public schools and constituents in their respective districts; and

WHEREAS, Board members are directly accountable to the schools and constituents in the districts in which they were elected; and

WHEREAS, Having been elected to serve a specific area or district, it is the responsibility of a board member to know what is occurring in his or her schools, to build relationships with constituents, and to develop strategies that address issues within his or her respective area or district; and

WHEREAS, In the event that a board member temporarily is unable to fulfill the duties of his or her office, the city-wide member may serve in that member's stead; and

WHEREAS, When one school board member attempts on his or her own to address issues that are specific to schools, parents, students, or citizens of another member's district, it can blur the lines of accountability, weaken relationships that the actual elected representative of the district has worked hard to build, and cause confusion; and

WHEREAS, When one school board member pursues resolution of issues regarding another member's district, it can create conflicts with processes that the elected representative of the district in question may have set into motion to resolve issues and to promote the interests of the people who have elected him or her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all members of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors shall follow the Code of Ethics and be respectful of those who have been elected to represent their respective districts on the Board; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, when a member of the Board is made aware of an issue that has arisen in another member's district, rather than attempting to address that issue him- or herself, the member shall make the director of the district in question aware of the issue; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That being respectful of each other's responsibilities shall not preclude one board member from being able to offer advice or assistance, if appropriate, to another board member in resolving any issue.

April 24, 2018