

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

April 20, 2023

Submitted by President Peterson

In an effort to support the goals identified by MPS as essential to the accomplishment of the MPS Vision and Mission, the President's activities from April 2023 included the following:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- On April 4, 2023 I gave the following testimony at the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Bob Peterson, President of the Milwaukee School Board and I speak on its behalf. I started working for the Milwaukee Public Schools in 1977. I taught fifth grade – 10-year-olds -- for more than three decades. My wife claims that permanently warped my sense of humor. Perhaps it did, but it also taught me not to joke about the legislature's responsibility to adequately fund Wisconsin's public schools. Our public schools are the bedrock of both our democracy, and our children's future.

Here are some essentials that all children deserve:

- A qualified teacher in every classroom.
- Small class size that allows teachers to provide individual attention.
- Adequate funding for students with special needs, with the state meeting its responsibility to provide at least 60% of the cost. Today, it is half of that.
- Students also deserve librarians and music, art, and physical education teachers. And in this post-pandemic world, students not only deserve but absolutely need mental health support.

That is why the legislature should provide a \$1,500 per-pupil inflationary increase for students. The state legislature has a moral, civic, and legal obligation to provide adequate funding for all public schools in Wisconsin. Public schools have been, and must continue, to be the bedrock of our democracy. Please provide a real civic lesson to all the students of Wisconsin and adequately fund our public schools.

- April 11 - Attended the special board meeting.
- April 12 - Met with a group of concerned citizens on Milwaukee's East Side about MPS and its future.

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

- Worked with others to create board resolutions on civic action for students, a review of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program in MPS, and establishing a Green Revolving Fund.

STUDENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- April 4 - Met with a group of concerned citizens on Milwaukee's East Side about MPS and its future.

- April 5 - Participated in a press conference convened by Wisconsin Public Education Network and testified before the state legislature's Joint Finance committee in favor of increasing funding for public schools. (Testimony is below).
- April 5 - Attended national meetings of the Educator Climate Action Network to share the work of MPS and to learn from other districts about climate justice.
- April 12 - Met with people involved in the Inclusive Perspectives Social Studies Committee (IPSSC).
- April 12 - Facilitated a meeting with parents and staff at La Escuela Fratney.
- April 13-15 - Attended the AERA national conference in Chicago.
- April 18 - Attended the United Nations student gathering at the Panther Arena.
- April 18 - Attended the Milwaukee Community Schools Leadership meeting.