

## Resolution 1819R-002

By Director Harris

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors has declared in its mission that it has the responsibility to educate all students for responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies charge schools within the state with helping students “learn about political science and acquire the knowledge of political systems necessary for developing individual civic responsibility by studying the history and contemporary uses of power, authority, and governance”; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 7.37, Graduation Requirements, outlines citizenship coursework and a passing score on the district’s civics test as requirements for graduation; and

WHEREAS, Students become more effective problem solvers when they know how local, state, and national governments function; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is responsible for governing the Milwaukee Public Schools including fiduciary responsibility of a more than \$1 billion annual budget; and

WHEREAS, The Board serves as trustees for the people of the City of Milwaukee and is the only official agency in the organization with the legal responsibility for the conduct of the public schools; and

WHEREAS, Board Governances Policy 2.03, Board Powers and Duties, outlines that the Board:

- has civic responsibility as the controlling body of a basic service essential to the life of the community;
- has social responsibility toward all the people who look to the school as the center of growth and development for young and old alike;
- has economic responsibility, as there is a direct relationship between good schools and the standard of living; and
- has moral and ethical responsibility to discharge its functions completely and impartially in the interests of accomplishing the greatest good for the greatest number as all times; and

WHEREAS, Board members are considered state officers with school-district jurisdiction over the execution of the state’s school laws; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors is directly accountable to the constituents of the City of Milwaukee and to the students and families of the Milwaukee Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, It is important for students and community members to understand the role of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and engage in the process of the governance of the school district; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Administration to develop a lesson to teach students about locally governed bodies, including the Milwaukee Board of School Directors; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the lesson include information about how the various forms of civic action at the local level — including running for school board, voting, and giving testimony at the Board’s hearings —contribute to the well-being of the community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the lesson shall teach students how families, schools, and other groups develop, enforce, and change rules of behavior as they relate to the governance of the school district; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new lesson be implemented district-wide through incorporation in the social studies curriculum beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

*April 24, 2018*