

(ATTACHMENT 1) RESPONSE AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION 1112R-011 BY DIRECTOR SAIN DEVELOP A PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT PLEDGE

This Item initiated by a Board Member.

BACKGROUND

At its July 28, 2011 meeting, the Board referred Resolution 1112R-011 by Director Sain to the Committee on Parent and Community Engagement:

WHEREAS, Both Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Administrative Policy 1.03, Parent Empowerment, require parent involvement activities in schools; and

WHEREAS, MPS is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every student; and

WHEREAS, MPS places great emphasis on the importance of parent/guardian involvement in public education; and

WHEREAS, MPS builds parents' capacity for involvement by connecting parents/guardians with the resources needed to participate in decisions about their children's education; and

WHEREAS, The MPS Parent Center acts as an advocate and information resource for parents on a district level; and

WHEREAS, MPS recognizes and encourages parents/guardians to support their children by contributing their skill(s) to their schools; advocate for their children by helping them receive fair treatment; become involved in the decision-making process by participating in joint problem solving with the school at every level; and continue to teach their children outside the classroom and at home; and

WHEREAS, Parents/guardians play an important role as their children's first teachers, but involving parents in their own children's education at home is not enough – To ensure the quality of schools as institutions serving the community, parents must be involved at all levels in the school; and

WHEREAS, Numerous research studies have been conducted that have found a strong correlation between parent/guardian involvement and a student's academic achievement, sense of well-being, attendance, attitude, homework readiness, grades, and educational aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the *School Community Journal* has examined the benefits of parental involvement and documented that such participation in schools was "academically beneficial, supported politically, and valued by many;"

WHEREAS, Parents/guardians, staff, and district personnel all contribute to the success of every child in school, with the result that each participant should have specific responsibilities, which, when brought together, will ensure student success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration work to develop a Parent/Guardian Involvement Pledge that will be instituted during the 2011-2012 school year and ; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That through the Pledge, parents will promise to make their children's education a priority; to partner with their children's schools to ensure that they remain informed and involved in all aspects of their children's education; and to do everything to nurture their children's ability to learn, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration will bring back before the Board for approval the Parent/Guardian Involvement Pledge no later than the October 2011 Board cycle.

ADMINISTRATION'S ANALYSIS

1. MPS Administrative Policy 1.03 (2) (a) commits to provide the resources necessary to sustain the intent of this policy by offering the support needed to increase parental knowledge, access, accountability, and decision making within the district.
2. The Administration, Milwaukee Board of School Directors and parents/guardians collaboratively worked on a districtwide Family-School Partnership Pledge. The pledge confirms that the district and families share the responsibility of student success.
3. Administration is designing a feasible and effective distribution/implementation plan for the document.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT

- 4 The Administration's recommendation supports the MPS *Working Together, Achieving More* (WTAM) Strategic Plan.

Goal 5: School staffs are supportive and responsive to students and families.

WTAM Strategy: Schools involve families in the education of their children.

STATUTE, BOARD POLICY OR RULES STATEMENT

- 5 The recommendation is consistent with Administrative Policy 1.03, Parent Empowerment.

IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT PLAN

6. Upon approval by the Board, this item will be implemented as directed.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

7. This item does not authorize expenditures.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board adopt the resolution and approve the proposed pledge with the following amendment:

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration will bring back before the Board for approval the Parent/Guardian Involvement Pledge no later than the ~~October 2011~~ March 2012 Board cycle with implementation scheduled for the 2012-13 school year.

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