

**(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON RESOLUTION 1718R-017 BY DIRECTOR
WOODWARD TO RENAME AN MPS SCHOOL AFTER GRANT
GORDON**

Resolution 1718R-017

By Director Woodward

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Public Schools' Strategic Plan states as a goal that, "School communities work together for improvement of academic achievement"; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon was born in Houston, Mississippi on February 17, 1917, relocated with his family to South Beloit, Illinois in December 1917, and graduated from South Beloit High School in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon moved to Milwaukee and attended Milwaukee State Teacher's College where he received a Bachelor's Degree from State Teachers College (Now University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) in 1940; and

WHEREAS, In 1940 Grant Gordon joined the US Army, became a 1st. Lieutenant, and took part in the D- Day Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon was hired as a teacher at the former Fourth Street School in 1944; and

WHEREAS, After returning to Milwaukee, he enrolled in Marquette University and received a Master's Degree in Education; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, Grant Gordon was the first African American to become a principal in MPS, leading Garfield Avenue School; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Grant Gordon became an Administrative Specialist in the Central Office; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Grant Gordon became the General Assistant to the Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Grant Gordon initiated and administered Project RISE (Rising to Individual Scholastic Excellence) in 20 schools; 18 elementary and 2 middle schools that served predominantly low-income and minority students; and

WHEREAS, Project RISE was based upon three assumptions:

- a) All children, regardless of family background, race, or socio-economic status, can acquire basic skills;
 - b) Inappropriate school expectations, norms, practices, and policies account for the underachievement of low-income and minority students;
 - c) The literature on effective schools and classrooms has identified expectations that are associated with high achievement and it is reasonable for schools to emulate those characteristics;
- and

WHEREAS, Project Rise was coordinated at the district level by Grant Gordon and at the heart of each of the 20 schools was a plan for implementation of the essential elements derived primarily from research and literature on school and teacher effectiveness and from correspondence and communication with practitioners from instructionally effective schools; and

WHEREAS, The essential elements were interrelated and were as follows:

- (a) School Climate
- (b) Curriculum
- (c) Instruction
- (d) Coordination of Supportive Services
- (e) Evaluation
- (f) Parent and Community Support; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon received recognition for Project RISE by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon was a mentor to many young African-American professionals, many of whom went on to attain significant positions within the district; and

WHEREAS, Grant Gordon retired from Milwaukee Public Schools in 1981 and enjoyed his retirement until his passing in November 2003; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, directs the Administration to explore the renaming of a school in recognition of Grant Gordon's contributions to the education of low-income and minority students in the Milwaukee Public Schools system; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration is to identify a suitable school and provide the Board with an update regarding the selection of the school and the name change by the ~~April~~ June 2018 Board cycle.

February 22, 2018