



## Superintendent's Report – May

The Superintendent's Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district's eight strategic objectives:



**Close the GAP**



**Re-envision Partnerships**



**Educate the Whole Child**



**Strengthen Communication Systems & Outreach Strategies**



**Redefine the MPS Experience**



**Develop Our Workforce**



**Rethink High Schools**



**Improve Organizational Processes**

### Meetings from late April through mid-May follow.

We held the first 53206 Community Visioning Meeting. I am truly heartened by the number of elected officials and community activists who are eager to be involved with this initiative. Their insights on education, entry and re-entry; affordable housing; neighborhood development and public spaces; healthcare; healing and enrichment; and, economic and workforce development will serve as foundational ideas for scoping of the 53206 initiative and support of the following schools — North Division High School, Keefe Avenue, LaFollette, Hopkins-Lloyd Community School, Auer Avenue, Benjamin Franklin, Green Bay Avenue, and Gwen T. Jackson Early Childhood.

I did my monthly guest appearance on the Sherwin Hughes' WNOV radio show. We talked about April being National Volunteer Month and the constant need for volunteers in our schools; the MPS STEM Fair; the MPS All-School All-Alumni Reunion; the Best Summer Ever offerings; our Summer Music Camps and our STARBASE camps; our Freshmen and Middle School Bridges; and our free meal program. This show is a great venue to get the "Good News" out about MPS.

We celebrated the Community Engagement Week 2017's Education Day. People from all over the community came to Central Services to focus on education as a social determinant of health, and how access to quality education impacts one's health and well-being.

Washington High School celebrated their Fab Lab Ribbon Cutting. A number of elected officials and businesses helped us celebrate this wonderful expansion to our career and technical education programs of study.

We held our monthly meeting with the Teacher Advisory Group (TAG). The main topics of discussion were how to best message the state and federal budget changes and a review of data.



**Discovery World** held their annual President's Breakfast where Joel Brennan shared the 2016 accomplishments and highlighted their new major project. Discovery World will be creating new educational programs that spark interest and imagination from students through all grade levels.

Although it is a brand new committee, the **United Way** Engagement Committee has a very ambitious agenda to become a premier strategic partner through volunteerism. I co-chair this committee along with Jayne Thoma from United Way. We had our monthly meeting and are proud to report that individual volunteer experiences have increased by 41% over this same time period as last year. There were a total of 30,758 hours, which translates to \$724,658 in volunteer hours.



We were thrilled to announce our Fab Lab grant award for **Bradley Tech**. This Fab Lab has grown in part due to the generous gifts from Bradley Tech's partners — PPG Industries, Harley-Davidson, Visa Lighting and the Bradley Tech Commission. Thanks to the \$25,000 grant from Wisconsin Economic Development, Bradley Tech will acquire two new pieces of equipment, a computer numerical control (CNC) router table and a laser engraver, plus, the software and computers to run them.

The **Milwaukee Education Partnership** hosted its annual HBCU conference. Thirty-five deans and staff members from a number of historically black colleges and universities attended the two-day conference. Conference members had the opportunity to visit Riverside, Bradley Tech, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, and Ronald Reagan to see our programs in action.



I met with Dr. George Koonce from **Marian University**. Marian is very interested in increasing their involvement and presence with students in Milwaukee.

The planning committee for our Ethnic Studies Conference met. The conference will be held this September. I would like to thank President Sain and Vice-President Miller for their hard work on this conference.

Representative Felzkowski is looking to bring in stakeholders to brainstorm ideas for a Fabrication Laboratory Consortium. Steve Baas (MMAC), Don Sidlowski, Dr. Yahr (Three Lakes) and I were invited to participate in an initial conference call.

Peter Feigin hosted the Executive Leadership Breakfast to support the **Milwaukee Heart Walk**. The purpose of the breakfast was to inform our business and community leaders how our companies can help lead the way as we take action to improve the overall health of our community. Peter is the chair of the 2017 Heart Walk, and I am on the committee for the walk as well. We will be sending additional information as it becomes available.

The **M<sup>3</sup>** executive sponsors met with the communication team. Topics on the agenda included funding proposals and the vetting process for the expansion of M<sup>3</sup> initiatives. Afterwards, I met with President Martin, Chancellor Mone and Joan Anton from the Herb Kohl foundation to raise money for M<sup>3</sup> and to discuss our partnership and next steps.

I spoke with Scott Mayer from QPS Staffing to discuss the **Jobs for America's Graduates** program. This program was in place a number of years ago, and we would like to see it brought back to the district.

I had my standing meeting with Vincent Lyles and afterwards spoke with Barbara Stein. Barbara thanks the Board and administration for their hard work in getting the Sandzen paintings sold. The Washington High School alumni group is thrilled to see such a large amount of money going to the scholarship fund. They would like to present a thank you in person at the June full Board meeting.

I met with Walter Bond, the new executive director of **Teach for America** to discuss **TEACHFORAMERICA** innovations in their organization and how TFA can support MPS' priorities.



I was honored and humbled to receive the **Boys and Girls Clubs** *Most Valuable Person* award at their 2017 Salute to Youth dinner. The Boys and Girls Club has always been a committed partner bringing valuable services to our students. The award ceremony was very touching. I was so surprised when Jennifer Bartolotta gave a tribute to me and the students enrolled in our Culinary Arts Program presented me with a lovely and delicious cake and a chef's coat that was autographed by the staff and students associated with the program. What a special and meaningful evening as MPS students and programs were also featured. President Sain and Director Woodward joined me at this special event.

Members of my administration and I met with members of **LULAC** and Julian Adem Diaz, the First Appointed Consul to the Consulate of Mexico, to discuss the Board’s Safe Haven resolution and how it will impact our Latino student population and their families.

I did a taping for Telemundo’s *Que Pasa*; the topic of the discussion was our Safe Haven resolution and our programs to engage families of Latino heritage such as our many bilingual programs, our Welcome Center at South Division, and the district’s multicultural multilingual advisory committee.

I also greeted the Region V Head Start site visit participants. This annual process is done to insure that we are in compliance with the Federal Head Start grant.

I delivered the monthly Central Services address. The main topics were the Health & Hygiene Drive that is being held throughout May; organizational alignment; and, our strategy for improvement. We also highlighted several employees and presented customer service awards to staff. I was touched once again when staff surprised me at the address by highlighting the *Most Valuable Person* award I received from the Boys & Girls Club.

I met with Ellen Gilligan from the **Greater Milwaukee Foundation** and then spoke at the annual School to Work End-of-the-Year Celebration. This year Alverno College graciously hosted the event.

### Awards/Recognition/Announcements

Fifteen MPS schools are being recognized by the state for “Beating-the-Odds” — low-income schools that have higher-than-average reading and mathematics scores when compared to similar schools around Wisconsin. In addition, **Whittier Elementary School** is receiving the prestigious distinction as both a “High-Achieving” and a “High-Progress” school.



Milwaukee Public Schools’ 16 honorees were recently announced as Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition winners for the 2016–17 academic year, an honor that recognizes success in educating students from low-income families. They include one school that has earned the honor for 12 straight years, two others that have been recognized for eight consecutive years and another for the seventh year in a row. The MPS honorees are:

<b>High-Achieving &amp; High-Progress Schools</b>	<b>Hmong American Peace Academy</b>
<b>Whittier Elementary School</b>	<b>Honey Creek Continuous Progress Charter School</b>
<b>High-Progress &amp; Beating the Odds Schools</b>	<b>Humboldt Park Elementary School</b>
<b>Milwaukee College Prep-Lloyd Street</b>	<b>Milwaukee College Preparatory School–36th Street</b>
<b>Beating the Odds Schools</b>	<b>Milwaukee College Preparatory School–38th Street</b>
<b>Academy of Accelerated Learning</b>	<b>Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School</b>
<b>Alcott Elementary School</b>	<b>Rufus King International School</b>
<b>Curtin Elementary School</b>	<b>Wedgewood Park International School</b>
<b>Garland Elementary School</b>	<b>Whitman Elementary School</b>
<b>Greenfield Bilingual School</b>	

An MPS high school, **Carmen High School of Science and Technology-South Campus**, has been named the number one school in the state of Wisconsin by *U.S. News and World Report*, according to the 2017 list.

Additionally, three more MPS high schools have earned the distinguished honor of being Nationally Recognized by *U.S. News and World Report*. Schools that receive the “Nationally Recognized” designation must qualify as high-performing schools based on state exam performance. Schools listed in this category are in the top 17% of high schools nationally. The winning schools are:

- Carmen High School of Science and Technology:** Ranked #1 in Wisconsin
- HAPA – Hmong American Peace Academy K3–12:** *Nationally Recognized*
- Rufus King International High School:** *Nationally Recognized*
- Reagan College Preparatory High School:** *Nationally Recognized*



The *Washington Post* has named Rufus King International School as the best high school in the state according to its America's Most Challenging High Schools list.

Other MPS schools on the annual list of America's Most Challenging High Schools include:

- #1 – Rufus King International School
- #3 – Milwaukee School of Languages
- #13 – Carmen High School of Science and Technology–South
- #18 – Ronald Reagan Preparatory High School
- #22 – Alexander Hamilton High School
- #27 – Milwaukee High School of the Arts
- #31 – Riverside University High School

No other schools in Milwaukee County placed among the top ten schools in Wisconsin. America's Most Challenging High Schools ranks schools through an index formula that's a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given during a school year, divided by the number of seniors who graduate that year.



Two members of the acclaimed **Milwaukee High School of the Arts** Vocal Jazz Ensemble are awardees in *DownBeat Magazine's* 40th national Student Music Award (SMA) competition. **Charisma Carson** was named Winner in the category of Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist – Performing Arts High Schools. **Kaprice Maxwell** was recognized for Outstanding Performance in the category Vocal Jazz Soloist – Performing Arts High Schools. Both girls are seniors at MHSA. These awards mark the fourth time in the past four years that the MHSA Vocal Jazz Ensemble has been recognized at this prestigious competition.

The *DownBeat Magazine* Student Music Awards program is considered to be among the top student music competitions in the world. The program offers categories of competition for junior high, high school and university music students and bands. The judges, comprised of professional musicians and educators, assess entrants based on criteria such as musicianship, creativity, improvisation, technique, sound quality, and excitement.



**Sue Waldoch**, a nurse at **South Division High School**, on being named *Nurse of the Year First Runner Up* by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* for her work with students in Milwaukee Public Schools. MPS nurses perform a variety of tasks including providing first aid to students and addressing sudden illnesses. Nurses also support students who have chronic illnesses including diabetes and asthma. They educate students about the importance of good hygiene practices and work to help them better understand health issues. They have even used CPR to save lives. The work school nurses do and the important role they play in keeping children healthy are valued.



## Events/Programs

The 10th Annual MPS STEM Fair for students in K4–12 was held at the Milwaukee County Zoo Peck Welcome Center. This year there were more science inquiry and engineering design projects entered than ever before. The students' work was very impressive, especially in the area of analyzing and interpreting data – something we educators are very familiar with as we work together to improve student outcomes. There were many community partners, businesses and representatives from higher education supporting this culminating celebration of our students' work. They served as judges and many helped to provide essential support as students carried out their preparatory work for their STEM projects.



The first place STEM Fair winners are listed below:

Grade / Class	School	Student	Project
K-2 Science	Thurston Woods	K5 Class [Ms. Koney] – Represented by A'narie Truss and Dylan Bell	Germes
3-5 Science (Tie)	Whitman Golda Meir	Tyler Buchholtz (3rd Grade) Malaya Fennelly (4th Grade)	Catapult Launcher Which Type of Drink is Most Corrosive to Teeth?
6-8 Science	Golda Meir	Daisy Kiekhofer (7th Grade)	The Interesting Occupation Relation with Genders
HS Science	Reagan HS	Rohit Bhatia (9th Grade)	Magnetic Muscle
K-2 Engineering	Cass Street	K5 Class [Mr. Mane] – Represented by Kenara Williams & Sophie Syhaketh	Gingerbread Man
3-5 Engineering	Ninety-Fifth Street	Madisyn Murans, Nazire Giles, Isaiah Roper, Reggie McClain (5th Grade)	Marshmallow Shooter
6-8 Engineering	Fernwood Montessori	Soren Henkel (8th Grade)	Hand Hologram
HS Engineering	Golda Meir	Isaiah Gordon (11th Grade)	Proving a Phantom, Destroying a Phantom



The Department of Business, Community & Family Partnerships/Customer Service hosted the **MPS Alumni Reunion** on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the Italian Community Center. There were over 200 guests at this event including MPS alumni from more than 20 different schools ranging in class years from 1949 through 2013. It was truly a night of good food, good conversations, and plenty of fun!

**Teacher Appreciation Week** was held this month. This year, we worked with school leaders, parent coordinators, and wellness champions on a variety of efforts. There was a video message from me, and the district spotlighted various teacher profiles on the district website throughout the week.

Milwaukee Public Schools' after-school programs hosted the 11th Annual student talent showcase called **Turn on the Talent**, in the auditorium of Audubon Technology and Communication High School. Ten student groups performed for their peers, teachers, parents, and community leaders. Milwaukee Buck, Jabari Parker, was presented with the S.O.A.R. (Supporting Opportunities for Afterschool Resources) award for his support of MPS afterschool programs. During the 2016-17 school year, Jabari's generous donation of Bucks tickets, meal vouchers, and transportation to 15 Community Learning Centers and Child Care Camps provided hundreds of youth and their families with the opportunity to experience a Milwaukee Bucks game. Jabari also served as a Turn on the Talent celebrity judge and helped determine the top three student performances. Each of the judges' final choices starts the voting contest with 50 votes. Since 2006, more than 1,000 youth and over 100 acts from dozens of MPS afterschool programs have performed in the annual MPS Turn on the Talent showcase.



Four hundred Milwaukee Public Schools ninth grade students will take part in the pilot of a new *Learning Journeys* program that will send the students on a five-day, all-expenses paid educational experience to Washington, D.C. The *Learning Journey* will grow to support all MPS ninth graders participating in the trip every year. While in Washington, D.C., students will visit the White House, Smithsonian Museum, Holocaust Museum, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the U.S. Supreme Court among many other educational attractions. The program is being funded by Herb Kohl Philanthropies, which was founded by former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, and is supported by the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation.

*Learning Journeys* are highly-developed, beyond the classroom learning experiences that connect standards-based classroom instruction for MPS students with real-world learning opportunities at southeastern Wisconsin's finest museums, cultural experiences and scientific venues. A *Learning Journey* connects learning in the classroom with the greater community where students have the chance to have hands-on learning experiences, engage their senses and imagination, and experience beyond their neighborhoods. Current Learning Journeys include Boerner Botanical Gardens, Discovery World, Junior Achievement, Milwaukee Public Museum and Oak Ridge Farm in Waukesha County.



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