

Resolution 1920R-011

By Directors Taylor and Siemsen

WHEREAS, The mental health and wellbeing of students is of growing and immediate concern across the nation, especially in light of recent school shootings, cyberbullying, student suicides, and a growing sense of alienation, hopelessness, and lack of access among the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, Although the Milwaukee Public Schools has a number of policies in place to address such issues as cyberbullying, discrimination, and students' wellbeing, the district lacks a comprehensive plan that brings together and coordinates all these policies and their execution; and

WHEREAS, Such a plan must encompass a systematic process of envisioning what we need to improve the lives and learning of our children and then the translation of this vision into broadly defined goals or objectives and the steps by which we can achieve them; and

WHEREAS, Parents, schools, mental-health professionals, law-enforcement, governmental entities at all levels, and students themselves must collaborate to address such a complicated and important issue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Administration to ~~develop for the Board's approval a Comprehensive Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)~~ adopt the Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework (WI DPI) in the Milwaukee Public Schools to coordinate and to promote a holistic approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the purpose of the ~~CMHI~~ mental health framework shall be to enhance the capacity of the district and of its individual schools to complement and to expand existing programs that enhance students' health and wellbeing, engagement, retention, academic achievement, and the acquisition of life skills, as well as to develop new, innovative programs to meet the ever-changing and growing psychological, emotional, and social needs of our student population and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the objectives of the ~~CMHI~~ mental health framework shall be to:

- contribute to identified school and district priorities, particularly ~~in addressing bullying and in supporting students with behavioral, or mental-health concerns, or welfare issues;~~
- ~~work in partnership with schools and the community to develop and to promote a comprehensive student-engagement-policy strategy~~ founded upon the recognition that a positive and engaging school culture contributes toward strong academic outcomes;
- ~~work in collaboration with schools, with community-based services and networks, and with local, state, and federal agencies to develop programs that~~ promote the health and wellbeing of all students; ensure support smooth transitions ~~between grade levels and, ultimately,~~ into postsecondary education and employment; and provide additional support to students who are at risk;
- provide a structure for identifying, documenting, and responding to emerging needs of the wellbeing of ~~schools and~~ students through evidence-based strategies and evaluation techniques;

- support a case-management approach to student interventions, ~~including participating in student support groups and conducting follow-ups;~~

- strengthen partnerships among schools, student support services, and health and community organizations to provide responsive, diverse, and coordinated services to young people and their families; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ~~CMH~~ mental health framework shall incorporate, but not be limited to, strategies for trauma-informed care, anti-bullying, suicide prevention and ~~combatting depression~~ intervention, ~~anti-discrimination and anti-bigotry,~~ and restorative justice; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the desired outcomes of ~~the CMH~~ adopting the mental health framework shall be focused on supporting the district, its schools, and its students and their parents in creating positive and engaging school environments that promote the health, wellbeing, and academic achievement of students through strengthening their ~~resilience, their coping skills, their life skills, their personal engagement, and their sense of belonging and self-worth~~ skills and abilities to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That ~~it~~ the mental health framework shall be embedded into the district's multi-tiered system of support with the aim of ~~the CMH is to~~ achieving the following outcomes ~~at the tier 1 level:~~

- positive school cultures and enhanced capacity of schools to support all students, including those with emerging mental health concerns ~~who are at-risk of disengagement and who are not achieving their educational potentials~~ through:

- a positive whole-school approach to the promotion of wellbeing;

- engagement of the school community, including students, parents and guardians, families, teachers, ~~Department of Specialized Services,~~ and other support staff;

- coordination of support for students and families; and

- ~~development of~~ strengthen community partnerships, including with other schools and district departments/programs, community-based service providers, and local, state, and federal governmental agencies;

- improved likelihood of students remaining in school and achieving their educational potentials through:

- ~~learning more effectively~~ academic engagement;

- demonstrating improvement in ~~engagement and~~ attendance;

- feeling healthy, safe, and ~~happy~~ connected to the school community; and

- ~~developing~~ increasing positive attitudes and behaviors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for students with emerging or identified mental health concerns, the ~~CMH~~ mental health framework shall include:

- a plan for informing students, staff, and families of ~~service offerings~~ available resources;
- clearly-defined procedures and protocols for documenting referrals and follow-up services;
- identified referral ~~services~~ pathways;
- ~~actionable steps~~;
- data for tracking outcomes;
- student-led initiatives; and
- educating students, staff, and parents about available pathways to assistance, ~~including the development of a mobile app for parents and students~~; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ~~CMHI~~ mental health framework will ~~shall include a Strategic Plan for Mental Health (SPMH) that will clearly and concisely define the~~ include a vision, guiding principles, and strategic goals which prioritize mental health of the ~~Comprehensive Mental Health Initiative~~; and be it

~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That this CMHI and its related SPMH shall be developed in collaboration with students and parents, schools' staff, school counselors, school psychologist, nurses, and the staff of the MPS Department of Specialized Services; and be it~~

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration shall also seek and encourage the participation of community organizations, the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and any other entities, agencies, and organizations outside of MPS that can offer insight, guidance, and resources within the mental health framework ~~for the development of the CMHI.~~

*November 21, 2019*