

**REPORT OF THE BOARD’S DELEGATE TO THE  
TITLE I DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)**

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April 25, 2019

Submitted by Director Paula Phillips

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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The monthly meeting of the Title I District Advisory Council was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2019, by Chairman Larry McAdoo in the auditorium of the MPS Central Services Building, 5225 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

- Present..... Tracey Dent, Sergeant at Arms  
Carrieanna Johnson, Member at Large  
Terry Longo, Parliamentarian  
Larry McAdoo, Chairperson
- Absent, Excused ..... Sir Victor Bryant, Member at Large  
Jenni Hofschulte, Corresponding Secretary  
Valerie Lambrecht, Vice Chairperson
- Vacant Positions ..... Recording Secretary, Member at Large

51 families and community members, representing 38 schools, were also in attendance.

**POSITIVE NOTES**

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- (1) Anita Lenise from ALBA reported that ALBA has been approved to be a K-8 school and will now begin adding one grade per year. Melissa Zombor added that ALBA has an amazing playground that they fundraised for-Melissa Neeskara.
- (2) Kate Delutio from Parkside reported that the school is conducting a cooking series featuring cuisine from 23 Latin American countries.
- (3) Terry Longo from Longfellow reported that 877 children have been enrolled for next year. The open house is scheduled for March 21, and the Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 25.
- (4) Soreena Khader from Garland reported that the school has a number of sensory paths set up around the school, and the children absolutely love them. It has been helpful for kids to work off their energy during indoor recess that has been necessitated by the cold weather.
- (5) Carrie Bickerstaff from Zablocki Community School reported that her school has received free membership applications for the Betty Brinn Children’s museum for all its families.
- (6) Erica Prokop from Garland announced that the school will host a Digital Families Night on March 28 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. It’s a free community event sponsored by the Garland PTA to provide families an opportunity to learn together about being better digital citizens.
- (7) Verna Frazer from Starms DLC reported that the school had a great Black History program. A lot of parents came out for the event.
- (8) Rolkiesha Price from Barack Obama School announced that the school now has an HVAC program. The school also will have a fashion show on May 16, 2019, including children from every grade level. She also reported that the 11<sup>th</sup>-graders went on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on February 18. The school has shown a lot of improvement in the past two years, thanks to its wonderful and loving principal, Ms. Mckay.

## NEW BUSINESS

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### SCHOOL NUTRITION PRESENTATION

(1) Kevin Curley introduced Renee Dudley, Interim Director of the MPS Nutrition Services program, to give a presentation on school meals and the work of the Department of Nutrition Services. The presentation explained the following:

- (a) Under the Community Eligible Provision, all MPS students became eligible for free breakfast and lunch. A new four-year period has begun for this coverage, and MPS students will receive free meals for the next three years in the same manner. Families are not required to fill out applications for free meals, and no child is singled out.
- (b) In 2017-18, 16 million meals were served, including 50,000 lunches per day. Meals are served year-round and during the summer.
- (c) Funding through the USDA's Farm Bill is \$3.39 per lunch and \$2.14 per lunch. This includes the cost of food and labor.
- (d) Positions for food-service jobs are open now, and workers are always in demand. While any positions are part-time, several are full-time with benefits.

The presentation may be viewed online at [www.mpsmke.com/dac](http://www.mpsmke.com/dac).

(2) Renee Dudley introduced Deb Brunner, who presented information on the "Meal Pattern." Ms. Brunner is a nutritionist who works on the procurement of products for our food-service program. Her work is based on dietary guidelines of the USDA.

Components of school meals are based on what is called a "Meal Pattern," which requires that half of the meal plate is fruit and vegetables, while the other half is meat or a meat-alternative and grains. The district has sought to procure lower-sodium and less processed foods.

Students must be offered items from all five food groups, from which they must pick three to make their meals.

(3) Deborah Rothe was introduced to give a presentation on Special Dietary Needs Forms. USDA regulations require the forms to be filled out by a licensed medical practitioner if a student has special dietary needs. If the form is not filled out, the school is not required to accommodate the request. While the district does accommodate requests, especially around food allergies, it has been informed by regulators that not enough forms are being filled out, and the district must do better at collecting the forms. If a student does not have special dietary needs, there is no need to fill out the form. Forms can be found online or at the schools.

### *Questions from the Floor on the Nutrition Services Presentation*

**Q: Does MPS still serve fruit cocktail if schools are supposed to serve fresh fruit?**

A: We are supposed to offer fresh fruit, but also offer the fruit cocktail.

**Q: if the meal pattern is the same for all meals, why is my child's school serving only cereal for breakfast? He is diabetic and doesn't eat it.**

A: Some schools serve traditional breakfasts which are hot 3 time a week, and cold two times. But breakfast in the classroom is usually cold.

**Q: Why are the same things served at every school?**

A: There is only a limited number of staff to train school staff on the classroom food distribution. Also, storage in some of the kitchens is limited and can't accommodate hot meals — the cost of heating and storage equipment, as well as space, funding, and the cost of electrical upgrades, are issues that the district is trying to resolve. The district is trying to bid for breakfast kits.

**Q: A parent who is a classroom teacher stated they have nothing to do with the process of breakfast in the classroom besides checking off students if they take a meal. It's a snack, and not**

**a real breakfast — they get all the same food every day. Many or most students don't eat the breakfast, but are required to take it to get the juice. The food is thrown out because the students don't want the food, just the juice.**

A: Renee Dudley responded that they are working on different processes to stop the check-off process and are exploring other options to free up teachers and minimize disruptions to the morning routine. They want to bid on breakfast kits with alternative sources of protein that are "shelf-stable" and don't require refrigeration and that are more appealing to students.

**Q: Fresh fruit was supposed to be offered at breakfast twice a week in 2017, and it's still not happening. And some kids might not like cereal. It's shameful.**

A: Renee Dudley responded, "It is shameful, and there is no excuse, and we're working on it."

**Q: Why did we go to prepackaged, lunch, breakfast, and snacks wrapped in plastic?**

A: We should have executed it differently, but breakfast after bell necessitates it. We cook offsite and send the meals to the site when it can't be done at the school because of lack of staff capacity.

**Q: When was this "push" for breakfast after the bell? I have never heard anyone in a school push for this type of breakfast.**

A: We are able to serve far more students after the bell.

**Q: I hear from my kids that the food doesn't look edible — things like mock chicken legs. They don't want to eat what they're being fed. How can these high-nutrient meals be inedible?**

A: I'm sorry your kids don't like the food. The mock chicken is a favorite and it's real pork meat. We try to find food that is going to be well-received. The mock chicken leg is actually a pork product and "child nutrient" as defined by the USDA.

**Q: Why do my two boys, who are five years apart, have the same amount of food in grade school?**

A: The caloric levels of standard menu planning can't go above the USDA's requirement for calories.

**Q: Are lunch times picked by the schools? Who decides that some kids eat lunch at 10:30 a.m.? What is the plan for these kids and for giving snacks to kids that need more food in the afternoon?**

A: Schools can choose to give kids an afternoon snack.

DAC Parliamentarian Terry Longo ended questioning on the Nutrition Services in the interest of time, and Kevin Curley announced that the Nutrition Services team will be available in room 103 from 7:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for any other questions. Kevin Curley also announced that questions can be emailed to [curleykp@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:curleykp@milwaukee.k12.wi.us) or [DAC@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:DAC@milwaukee.k12.wi.us) and he would forward them to the Nutrition Team.

## **2019-2020 DISTRICT BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Kevin Curley Introduced Lynn Ruhl, MPS Budget Analyst, to give a presentation on the district's 2019-20 budget.

- (1) 88 cents out of every dollar goes to schools, six cents go to the central office, and the other six cents go to other expense such as debts.
- (2) Governor Evers's state budget would give us more funding if passed by the Legislator; however, the finance team can't factor this into its projections because the state budget has not yet been passed.
- (3) Costs are up and projected to increase while revenues are staying even. This gives us a shortfall.
- (4) School enrollment is a large factor in revenue since DPI pays the district by student.

- (5) School leaders have already received their budgets and should be reviewing them with the School Engagement Councils and should make adjustments based on input from stakeholder groups.
- (6) “Regional Resolution Rooms” have been set up to review schools’ budgets and to make adjustments based on need.
- g) Join your SEC and PTA to give input at the school level on budget matters.
- h) The district’s budget will be released on May 3, 2019, and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors’ Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget will hold a number of meetings throughout May on the budget. These meetings will be scheduled after April 30.

The presentation is available online at [www.mpsmke.com/dac](http://www.mpsmke.com/dac).

### *Questions from the Floor on the Budget Presentation*

**Q: Why doesn’t the money stay with or follow the child from school to school instead of 1<sup>st</sup> Friday being last day?**

A: We do 1<sup>st</sup> Friday and then 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January and another in June. The state takes an average of all the counts over the year.

**Q: Can you explain the importance of the household income form since the free lunch isn’t the purpose?**

A: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) determines Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) and poverty from the forms. Schools are leaving money on the table because forms aren’t filled out.

**Q: What if a school doesn’t have AGR status?**

A: AGR is a contract with the state of Wisconsin, and there are no new ones.

**Q: A report showed districts with a high percentage of minority students get less money than do majority-white districts? What will MPS do about that?**

A: Minority districts often started at a lower number in 1994 when revenue limits were adopted by the DPI and State Legislature. And they capped the per-pupil amount. We are looking into asking for a referendum to increase our tax for education. Referendums are allowed more often at suburbs, inequities in funding, increasing their tax base for education by 15 dollars or so.

**Q: Are there any Title IX funds that help MPS revenues?**

A: Lynn Ruhl answered, “Not that I know of.”

**Q: What sort of information should we be looking for from the SECs at our schools?**

A: One parent offered an example from 81<sup>st</sup> Street School, which had an itemized budget to show at the meeting. Kevin Curley stated that the intent is for school leaders to seek feedback and to consider suggestions in a meaningful way from parents and staff at the SEC meetings. He suggested that, if they want more information on the budget, members contact the school leaders to see the budget.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

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