

Resolution 2425R-002

To Establish a Community Accountability Commission

By: Director Aisha Carr

WHEREAS, The Board recognizes the importance of fostering accountability and transparency within the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) district, and

WHEREAS, it is essential to engage and empower community stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes concerning MPS, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Community Accountability Commission will enhance the community's understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing MPS, and

WHEREAS, the recent passing of the \$252 million referendum saw a narrow margin of victory, with an analysis of the referendum results showing voters in wards with higher percentages of Black and Hispanic and Latino populations, as well individuals with children, were more likely to vote against the measure, reflecting a desire need for transformational change, increased community engagement, districtwide transparency and accountability, within MPS, and

WHEREAS, community involvement will strengthen the district's ability to effectively utilize referendum funding, equitably allocate funds where data shows there to be the greatest needs, and ensure responsible fiscal management, and

WHEREAS, it is evident that critical issues outside of the classroom, such as poverty, hunger, absenteeism, and community violence, must be urgently addressed to improve educational outcomes for Milwaukee's students,

WHEREAS, collaboration among MPS Leadership, Teachers, Elected officials, Employers, Parents, and other Stakeholder groups is essential to develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing MPS, in an attempt to preserve the legacy of Milwaukee Public Schools, revive the district financially, and support the growth and advancement of our students, and

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) shall appoint and convene a Community Accountability Task Force comprised of no more than ten (10) representatives from the following sectors: City of Milwaukee (2), Milwaukee County (1), Higher Education (1), City Comptroller (1), Business and Philanthropic industry (2), Healthcare industry (1), and Elected leaders (2), with the mandate to assess and evaluate the district's plan and implementation of the 2024 referendum funding, and also support the district with

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board Community Accountability Commission shall report bi-monthly to the Board of School Directors regarding the implementation of the Plan. The task force shall also explore additional measures to enhance public reporting on fiscal responsibility, including but not limited to:

- Setting clear goals for fiscal responsibility.
- Establishing benchmarks to track progress towards fiscal goals.
- Implementing mechanisms for accountability for academic, social and economic outcomes.
- Developing strategies to promote community awareness and engagement in fiscal matters.
- Any other initiatives deemed necessary to ensure transparency and accountability in MPS operations and support for fiscal sustainability.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Accountability Commission shall present its inaugural report to the Board of School Directors no later than November 2024, while also supporting the MPS Administration and Board with developing a comprehensive long-term financial plan aimed at sustaining the district's fiscal health and stability void of future referendums and inclusive of State Legislative support for equitable funding. This report should present its findings, recommendations, and proposed actions for improving fiscal accountability and sustainability within MPS.

Introduced April 23, 2024