

## **Resolution 2021R-020**

### **By Directors Miller and Siemsen**

1. WHEREAS, School districts across the state have made incredible efforts to continue to provide educational opportunity to students in the midst of the COVID-19 public health pandemic which, to date, has left millions ill and which has caused over 350,000 deaths to date; and
2. WHEREAS, Students, parents, teachers, administrators, have all taken on the challenge to protect the health and welfare of our communities as our understanding and knowledge about a highly contagious, airborne virus has evolved over the past ten months; and
3. WHEREAS, Since the onset of the pandemic, the nation's leading epidemiologists and doctors have consistently warned that multiple safety factors must be adhered to in order to diminish the spread of the disease and ensure the safety of those in public spaces; and
4. WHEREAS, School districts across the state have repeatedly asked for assistance and leadership from the federal and state levels in order to mitigate the spread of the disease; and
5. WHEREAS, The federal-level assistance available to support communities and schools has not met the moment and continues to be delayed; and
6. WHEREAS, The state-level response includes a proposal from leadership in the State Assembly that would subvert local control and retroactively impose punitive fiscal penalties upon school districts engaged in virtual education; and
7. WHEREAS, To put forth such a draconian policy proposal, so unlike any measure proposed elsewhere in the nation, in the middle of a pandemic, is counterintuitive and does not provide school districts with the assistance they need in order to keep providing educational opportunities to children during this pandemic; now, therefore, be it
8. RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors join with its partners across the state to once again ask elected officials at all levels to lead at this time of immense need; and, be it
9. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors calls on Congress to immediately pass legislation of sufficient size to protect and support the citizens of Wisconsin; to provide the tools and resources necessary to decrease the spread of COVID-19; to fund rapid testing and contact tracing; to fund sufficient levels of personal protection equipment for health care workers and for school district students and staffs; and, be it
10. FURTHER RESOLVED, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors calls on Congress to provide the resources necessary to support extraordinary costs already incurred as districts have moved to remote education; and, be it
11. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors calls on all levels of government to provide the resources necessary to ensure that physical spaces within schools include smaller, socially distanced classrooms and are in all other ways safe; and, be it
12. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors hereby joins with President-Elect Biden in the call for all citizens to fight the pandemic together by wearing masks, socially distancing, avoiding gatherings, and taking all of the steps that are urgently recommended by our doctors and health officials; and, be it

13. FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors is committed to working together with stakeholders, over the upcoming months, to create a state budget with a fiscal policy that continues to protect citizens and students and recognizes the unprecedented amount of time, intelligence, leadership and level of resources that the children and families of Wisconsin will need, both immediately and over the long-term, to emerge stronger from this moment.

*Introduced December 16, 2020*