

## Resolution 2021R-004

### By Directors Peterson and Taylor

WHEREAS, There has been a much-needed outpouring of anti-racist sentiment, protests and calls to action in the Milwaukee-metropolitan area and across the world since the horrific police killing of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, The demands of the protesters and their supporters include massive changes to the operation and funding of police departments, and a call to address white supremacy and institutional racism in all sectors of our society; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Metropolitan area is one of the most hyper-segregated regions in the country; and

WHEREAS, Public schools have been both an arena for defending and expanding democratic rights, and a factor in this country's persistent institutional racism; and

WHEREAS, The US Supreme Court unanimously ruled in 1954 that "separate is inherently unequal" – a decision that spoke to segregated schools but was also integral to the formal death of Jim Crow laws; and

WHEREAS, Our public schools are a fundamental institution in our democracy, with the potential to help create a vibrant multiracial democracy; and

WHEREAS, School segregation, in both race and class, remains a glaring problem throughout the Milwaukee Metropolitan region and;

WHEREAS, The 2018-19 DPI Report Cards, from which the most current student demographics are available, make the segregation in our schools clear:

Milwaukee: 10.5% white (51.5% black, 27.2% Latino, 7.3% Asian,) 82.9% low income;  
New Berlin: 80.3% white (1.9% black, 6.1% Latino, 8.5% Asian), 12.2% low income;  
Whitefish Bay: 75.9% white (6.4% black, 5.6% Latino, 5.7% Asian), 1.9% low income;  
Elmbrook: 69.8% white (2.6% black, 6.4% Latino, 16% Asian), 8% low income;  
Shorewood: 67.4% white (11% black, 7.6% Latino, 9.7% Asian), 15.2% low income;  
Wauwatosa: 63.7% white (16.9% black, 7.2% Latino, 4.4% Asian), 24.3% low income;  
Cudahy: 62.1% white (9.5% black, 20.2% Latino, 1.6% Asian), 62.2% low income; and

WHEREAS, Our children's future should not be determined by their zip codes; and

WHEREAS, We have a unique opportunity in Metropolitan Milwaukee, thanks to the demands of the "Black Lives Matter" movement to resist white supremacy and institutional racism and to enact equitable, pro-desegregation, and pro-reparation policies on a regional level; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors call on community activists, elected officials and other stakeholders to work together and develop a regional plan to reduce school inequities and promote school desegregation throughout Metropolitan Milwaukee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chair and co-chair of the MPS Strategic Planning and Budget committee, with the assistance of the Office of Board Governance and the Office of Accountability and Efficiency, coordinate outreach and initial planning to come back to the Board for action on next steps during the September board cycle.

*Introduced June 25, 2020*