



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – August

The Superintendent's Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district's eight strategic objectives:



Close the GAP



Re-envision Partnerships



Educate the Whole Child



**Strengthen Communication
Systems & Outreach
Strategies**



Redefine the MPS Experience



Develop Our Workforce



Rethink High Schools



**Improve Organizational
Processes**

Day One for Early Start Calendar Schools

The first day of school for our Early Start Calendar Schools was August 14! Members of my staff and I along with MPS Board members and community leaders gathered at James Madison Academic Campus to celebrate the start of the school year!

The early start calendar gives students more opportunities for success: students will have more weeks of instruction prior to national ACT and AP testing dates; the first semester will end in December rather than over after the holiday break; and students will have the opportunity to participate in the June Term (J-term) to catch up or get ahead. The pilot program had encouraging results with 70% of the participating seniors graduating this summer.



Meetings from late June through mid-August follow:

I continue my role on the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County as a member of the 2017 Executive Committee. Plans are well underway for this year's campaign and MPS employees will soon be hearing about how they can help make it another successful effort on behalf of our community members in need.



MPS leaders attended a week-long professional development, collaboration, and team building at PELP (Public Education Leadership Project) in Boston. It was an exhausting week but very beneficial as we participated in discussions on how we can most effectively develop our staff and equip our leaders with strategies for successful student outcomes for the 2017–18 school year.

I worked closely with Himanshu Parikh, Chief of Human Resources and Dr. Keith Posley, Chief School Administration Officer, and his team, to ensure principal interviews were conducted in a timely manner to fill vacant positions to be ready for successful school openings.



After a rigorous weekend in Portland, Oregon for the Council of the Great City Schools for which I chair, I was able to bring back practical and workable strategies to share with my Senior Team, in an effort to ensure successful student outcomes for the Black and Latino Male Achievement initiative. I am extremely excited and optimistic about the opportunities this new program brings, not only for us as a district, but throughout the Milwaukee community at large.

Much planning went into the Strategies for Leadership retreat that occurred on Monday, August 21 and Thursday, August 24 for members of district leadership. I am pleased to report that the retreat was very successful and I look forward to the positive outcomes that we will see as a result.

We continue our partnership with the Panasonic Foundation. The Panasonic representatives we have been working with were here for their monthly Panasonic site visit. They assisted us by facilitating the Strategies for Leadership Retreat as well as the Board Retreat that took place on August 25.



I welcomed new educators to our MPS family. What incredible energy and excitement these new educators demonstrated, as they listened attentively to learn all about the workings of Milwaukee Public Schools. It was important to emphasize “the power of the village!” As they will soon discover, “teaching requires a lifelong commitment to learning.” Through this learning process, it will be the sustaining of family and friends, the support of the community and their access to school based mentors that will be keys to their success.

I met with Tim Greinert for a bittersweet farewell. Tim is the President of Junior Achievement of Wisconsin, Inc. He recently announced his leaving the organization to pursue a position at the national level. Although we are saddened to see him go, we certainly extend him best wishes.

I participated in TEMPO Milwaukee’s Emerging Women Leaders’ fall program. TEMPO Milwaukee focuses on furthering the impact of women leaders in the Milwaukee community by way of leadership, mentoring, and networking: while also creating a society where women hold an equal place in leadership, policy, and decision-making.

I attended a *Grow Your Own Teachers* meeting with the M3 (MPS, UWM, and MATC) executive sponsors – Dr. Mone and Dr. Martin. This program has great potential in terms of our staffing needs.

I participated in the GE Community Service Day at Emerson Elementary School. The incredible generosity of GE and the more than 100 employees volunteering was a welcome change amidst the less positive news throughout our city. The various acts of kindness demonstrated by GE and these volunteers sent a strong message to our students, families and staff that education is important and our schools and students are valued.



I was present for a meeting at Goodwill Industries with Vincent Lyles, President and CEO of Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee and Jackie Hallberg, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Southeast Wisconsin. We discussed integrated work-based opportunities that would include all three organizations: MPS, Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee, and Goodwill Industries.

I met with MTEA. They are looking forward to the onboarding of Ben Ward, the new Executive Director of MTEA. While it is bittersweet seeing Lauren Baker move on, we wish her well in her retirement and look forward to working with Ben Ward.



I addressed the school leaders at North Division High School at the kickoff of the first Principal's Leadership Institute. We spent the day providing building leaders with strategies, resources and tools to be successful for this upcoming 2017–18 school year. The two areas that I focused on included a presentation and discussion on the Academic KPIs and the Twelve Things That you Need to Know as extracted from the most recent version of the *Principals' Playbook*.

I had the opportunity to meet, greet and address the new school administrators during a special session hosted at the Junior Achievement offices. Such an exciting time to share with these administrators the various programs, resources and personnel available to support them as they embark on their new journey.

I had a meeting with Jonas Prising, CEO of Manpower. We discussed our partnership and ways to enhance our current relationship.

I participated in a business meeting with Dr. Vicki Martin and Eileen Schwalbach (former Mt. Mary president) about a new Bradley Tech opportunity. We are really making great strides with Bradley Tech, as the Bradley Tech Foundation recently received confirmation of a grant awarded for \$216,000 from the Bucyrus Foundation, Inc. for the welding program.

My staff and I performed school walkthroughs at Vincent, River Trail, Madison, Webster, Morse, MacDowell, Milwaukee School of Languages and Roosevelt. It was our goal to show students and their families a welcoming staff that is eager to assist, clean facilities, and provide proper resources to aide in successful student outcomes — all while demonstrating the finest MPS Proud spirit!

MPS staff and I joined Governor Scott Walker at the Wisconsin State Fair for the Blue Ribbon Auction. Students from Vincent High School's agriculture program showcased three sheep at the fair!



I attended a partnership event at Goodwill to celebrate Donald Driver's *Thank You Fan Tour*. He has been a great supporter of the district and our students.

I visited Hamilton High School where I met with WISN-12 and the *Journal Sentinel* for interviews around the early school start calendar and school uniforms.

I joined a conference call for the Promise Neighborhood Grant application. This grant specifically targets children living in the most distressed communities of the United States. Should we become recipients, this grant would lend opportunity to improve academic and developmental outcomes considerably for our district.

I attended a Milwaukee Succeeds Executive Committee meeting at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

I hosted a meeting with Executive Director, Diane De La Santos from City on a Hill and Judy Rauh about *Removing Racial Residue*.

I attended a *Giving Gallery Artist & Nonprofit Partner* meeting, which included Ann Terrell (Executive Director of the MPS Foundation) and Eduin Fraga, who is a painter and has the task of expressing through his artwork the story of MPS. What an exciting time for MPS, since this is the Year of the Arts!

I held my first Superintendent's Central address of the school year. It was a very difficult opening, as I shared a moment of silence to honor the staff and students who passed since we last met. However, I was pleased to update staff on the great progress we are making as a district. We presented multiple staff with Superintendent Excellence Awards for their tremendous contribution to improving outcomes for students.



I met with the staff of the new Black & Latino Male Achievement department. There is an immediate yet urgent need to get this department completely functional and ready to service our greatest population of students in need: Black and Latino males. I am very confident this department is fully capable of handling the dire issues before them and this critical *call to action*. We also met with Aron Cross and the Boys II Men Group at Milwaukee High School of the Arts.

Events/Programs/Announcements

MPS Students created a mural celebrating diversity and music for display during the 50th Anniversary at Summerfest. The artists are all recent 8th-grade graduates who will be attending MPS high schools this fall including Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Pulaski, Reagan and Riverside.



The project earned each student 20 hours of community service needed for graduation. Gina Jorgensen, a veteran art teacher at North Division High School, reached out to Summerfest to create this unique opportunity for students.

MPS is looking to continue this partnership with Summerfest and seek new opportunities for future murals in other locations around the city. The district welcomes businesses to partner with schools as mentors and to develop unique opportunities; information can be found at Adopt-a-School.

Students complete high school in Summer Academy

Milwaukee Public Schools honored 167 students who completed graduation requirements during summer school and earned the right to wear a cap and gown. This year, MPS put a concentrated effort into summer high school, seeing it as a critical opportunity to ensure students have every chance to graduate and move on to college and career. A summer graduation ceremony recognizing their accomplishments was held July 28 at South Division High School.



This summer, MPS doubled the number of schools offering the summer high school program and included Madison, Obama, Pulaski, Riverside, South Division and Transition High Schools. Intensive outreach to students attracted those who could directly benefit from accelerated or recovery options. Offerings were increased and led to large enrollment and student success.

Students wore their school colors and accepted their diplomas from their own school principals at the large ceremony that was attended by family and friends.



Kohl's Donates Backpacks

Thanks to Kohl's, students in 4-year-old kindergarten in Milwaukee Public Schools will each receive a free backpack with school supplies. Nearly 200 Kohl's human resources associates volunteered to pack 10,000 backpacks that will be distributed to students during the first week of school.



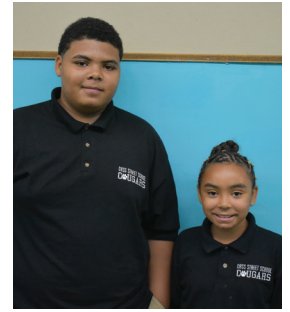
Kohl's employees filled backpacks with crayons, pencils, glue sticks, folders and more during the large-scale event. The backpacks come in an assortment of colors. School supplies will help ensure that all children have the tools they need to succeed in school, and will reduce the need for teachers to pay for materials out of their own pockets.

KOHL'S



MPS Uniform & Enrollment Fair

MPS Uniform and Enrollment Fair was held at South Division High School on July 15 and August 30, and at Vincent High School on August 5. Parents were able to enroll their child in school, try on uniforms, order uniforms from a variety of vendors, and discover school programs. A Kid Zone and refreshments were also provided.



Youth Apprenticeship Program

A new grant from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development will empower Milwaukee Public Schools to help more young people develop skills and experience to be successful in the workplace. The grant will grow the district's Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program to serve 250 students, up from 50 last school year.

The Youth Apprenticeship program provides MPS high school juniors and seniors with paid, hands-on, work-based learning in high skill/high need industries so they are better prepared for the careers of tomorrow.

Participating students may select from 11 career options approved by the Department of Workforce Development.

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Art, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications
- Finance
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Marketing



Wisconsin's YA program was authorized by state statute in 1991 as part of a statewide School-to-Work initiative. The Governor's 2017–19 budget proposal sustains demand-based YA funding with the ability to increase program support.

