



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – April

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**

Meetings from late March through mid-April follow.

I attended the ProStart update meeting. The Bartolotta Restaurant Group held a job fair for our students on April 3. We provided transportation from school to the job fair and back. Teachers and the CTE staff assisted the students with their résumés and applications. There was a second job fair on Saturday, April 8, and an Internship/ Summer Employment Fair on April 18, hosted by the National Association for Catering and Events.



I moderated the Q&A panel at Mount Mary University Women's Leadership Institute. Shiza Shahid, co-founder of the Malala Fund, was the keynote speaker. Ms. Shahid has an incredible story. Her ongoing passion for change has landed her on numerous prestigious lists, including *Time* and *Forbes' 30 Under 30*. Today, she supports other change-makers and her new seed-stage venture capital fund, NOW Ventures, funds startups around the world.

I hosted State Superintendent Tony Evers at 95th Street School. The State Superintendent is interested in our school and business partnerships. 95th Street School is a glowing example through their partnerships with GE, Arts in Community Education (ACE), InterFaith RSVP Tutoring, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, the Skylight Music Theatre, Marquette University, PBIS, and PlayWorks.



The Department of Communications and Outreach gave an update on our Branding initiative. Topics of discussion included where we are now; what we do well; what is the key for us to train and empower our staff to deliver; and, where do we want to be and how do we get there.

The Greater Milwaukee Committee hosted a partners and community leaders' breakfast to talk about the National Education Association, Carnegie Foundation, and the New Educator Center's partnership with MPS and the MTEA to pilot a new project that will help address the educators' retention problem.



There was a Systems Thinking Institute at North Division High School. Implementation of systems thinking in MPS began in 2014 with five staff members at five schools. Since then, three schools and more than 150 staff members have received training and are actively using Systems Thinking to benefit our students.

The iFair (IT/Engineering Career Exploration fair) was held at Harley-Davidson Motor Company. Washington High School students demonstrated their mobile app and new FabLab equipment including 3D printing.



The Milwaukee Succeeds Executive Committee held an all-day retreat to plan our "next steps" to achieve our community-wide goals for our children, cradle to career, and commit to doing what it takes individually and organizationally to accomplish our goals.

Our Healthcare Careers Steering Committee had their first meeting. The top items on the agenda was to establish its purpose; address school-stated challenges and draft objectives.

I testified before the Joint Finance Committee in Madison. I stressed the importance of Governor Walker's proposed per pupil funding increase and also talked about the need for more funding for our students with disabilities.

I met with members of the MMAC and Mark Gleason, Executive Director of the Philadelphia School Partnership (PSP). PSP was founded in 2010. It has given \$51M to more than 50 schools in Philadelphia providing start up grants, expansion and turnaround grants for public, independent charter and private schools, as they note "focusing not on labels but on the fundamental levers found in all highly effective organizations, leadership, vision, and tall expectations." Tim Sheehy invited Dr. Gleason to Milwaukee to learn more their strategic approach to improving student outcomes.

County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor sponsored a *Youth Courthouse Day*. I spoke to the students in attendance.

I attended Golda Meir's Social Justice Gallery Walk. The presentations our students created are amazing. It is apparent that they are acutely aware of the many social justice issues we face.

President Sain, Julia Taylor, Tim Sheehy, John Schlifske, and I met with Senator Alberta Darling and Representative Dale Kooyenga to again reiterate the importance of Governor Walker's proposed per-pupil funding increase.

Members of senior team and I met with Vincent Lyles and his staff to discuss our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club.

I met with Dr. Laci Coppins, newly-appointed director of the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC).

Dennis Kois, president of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and I met. He shared the upcoming plans for the future of the museum.

Awards/Recognition/Announcements

Andy Nelson has joined the district as its new media manager. Nelson will focus on proactive communications that improve the telling of the MPS story. As director of public relations for the Pabst Theater Group for the past decade, Nelson was in charge of growing brand awareness around one of the most prolific event companies in the country. As media manager for Milwaukee Public Schools, Nelson serves as the first point of contact for local and national media. He will also work to develop more opportunities to inform the community about the many programs underway to help more students be successful academically.

Wisconsin State Chess Champion

Allan Ward took his opponent's king and was crowned state champion of his board at the Wisconsin State Chess Championships in March. Teammate **Ivan Reyes** came away as runner-up after playing the final round of his board. Both Allan and Ivan are students at Washington High School. The team of ten traveled to the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh to compete at the state tournament accompanied by coaches Michael Moore and Ethan Littel.



Lauren Barta, a Reagan High School sophomore, has been invited to join the Wisconsin School Music Association's distinguished State Honors Choir. Fewer than 600 high school students are invited into this elite choir after participating in rigorous auditions.

Lauren will join the other top qualifiers this fall in Madison, performing at the Wisconsin State Music Conference hosted by the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association. She will also participate in a music camp held in Green Bay during the summer months. This honor is particularly notable as Lauren is only a sophomore. Her musical talent and performance

skills will continue to grow throughout her high school years.

Wisconsin Regional FIRST Robotics Champions

Robotics Team 1675 – known as the “Ultimate Protection Squad” – including students from **Bradley Tech, Milwaukee School of Languages, Reagan College Preparatory, and Rufus King** has qualified for the second year in a row to attend the prestigious FIRST Robotics World Championship after winning the Wisconsin Regional FIRST Robotics competition, held in March in Milwaukee.



Events/Programs

Students who attend Summer Academy this year will have so much fun that they might not even realize they are learning! This summer program is packed with music, art, robotics, field trips and more. Child care is offered to provide a full day of educational activities in a safe environment with caring, trained instructors.

Registration is open at schools across MPS. All school-age children of all abilities who are Milwaukee residents are welcome at any of our schools. Current MPS students may attend at any school of their choice. Summer Academy is free! Fees may apply for child care.

Summer Academy begins June 26. Attendance is especially important for students who need to catch up to stay at grade level. Participation will strengthen skills for all students during the summer. Taking part in summer classes also helps retain skills so students start strong in the fall. Field trips to local museums and nature centers will allow students to explore their community. Specialty camps are also available for students to dig into learning.

