

Board of School Directors
Proclamation
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS, who was first elected to the 7th District seat on the Milwaukee Board of School Directors in April 2017, served as Chair of the Board's Committee on Accountability, Finance, and Personnel from the 2018 through 2020 board years; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has sought to strengthen the input of schools' communities in the selection of their schools' leadership; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has championed diversity in the Milwaukee Public Schools by proposing that MPS research the origins and intent of the national monthly commemorations of ethnic and racial groups and to bring to our students, staff, and community an awareness of the contributions made to this country by the respective peoples celebrated; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has sought to address issues facing the district's female and non-binary students by advocating for the development of a catalogue of all existing or available programming that focuses on girls within MPS and for an annual survey of students in the fifth through twelfth grades in MPS to measure self-confidence and self-image, indicators of self-harm and suicidal ideation, rates of traditional and social media consumption, and attitudes/behaviors as they relate to relationships, as well as violence against students and bullying as they relate to race, gender, and ability and to develop appropriate interventions to increase the wellbeing of girls and nonbinary children in MPS schools; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has encouraged the Board to state emphatically and unequivocally its steadfast and unanimous support of the Hmong community in the United States, in Wisconsin, and in Milwaukee and to demand that our federal government reject any proposal that would result in the deportation of any members of our Hmong community, local or national; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has championed improved nutrition in MPS's breakfast and lunch programs by:

- seeking to limit processed, high-sugar offerings; by increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables; by seeking input from students, parents, teachers, and staff on school menus; and by maximizing the time for lunch away from the desk and for breakfast in the classroom; and
- requiring every MPS school in which 70% or more of its students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the federal School Breakfast Program to establish a school "breakfast after the bell" (BATB) program and to develop a Nutrition Equity Plan for the establishment of these BATB programs; and

WHEREAS, PAULA PHILLIPS has sought to improve the safety of MPS's students and staff by seeking:

- to establish general guidelines for the closure of schools due to inclement weather;
- to review each of the suggestions of the District Advisory Council's Ad Hoc Committee for Bullying Prevention for the feasibility of their implementation within the Milwaukee Public Schools and to explore the concept of establishing a safety committee in each school; and
- the immediate termination of all contracts and negotiations with the Milwaukee Police Department for the services of School Resource Officers and other personnel and the cancellation of any contracts to buy or to maintain metal detectors, facial recognition software, and social media monitoring software, with the money previously allocated for these services to be used for serving and protecting the safety of the District's students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, on this, the occasion of her retirement from the Board, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors extend its sincere appreciation to PAULA PHILLIPS for her years of dedicated service to the Milwaukee Public Schools, to its students, and to the public; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the permanent proceedings of the Board of School Directors and that the Board instruct the Board Clerk to have an engrossed copy of this document, suitably signed and sealed, prepared and delivered to PAULA PHILLIPS in tribute to her record of dedicated public service to the citizens of Milwaukee and to the children of the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Adopted this 22nd Day of April, 2021.

Larry Miller, President
Milwaukee Board of School Directors