



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – February

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**

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPAF Visions Campaign



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

The **United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF)** Visions Campaign was launched on February 9, 2018 and runs through March 9, 2018. Twelve organizations benefit from the UPAF Visions funding, including our very own Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation. Please consider making a donation to this year's campaign.



### Equity Education Empowerment (EEE) Speaker Series

Milwaukee Public Schools hosted the second installment of the **Equity Education Empowerment (EEE) Speaker Series** on February 15 at Rufus King Middle School. Nationally recognized speaker Dr. Emery Petchauer gave a talk entitled "Remixing School for All Students." The event was well attended and provided excellent information consistent with the district's equity policy. We look forward to the next EEE event.



### Seal of Biliteracy

In early February, the **Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction** notified us that the district's application for the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy was approved! Our application was cited as inspirational in honoring and recognizing the diversity of Milwaukee's students and the school programs available to them. This means that MPS may now acknowledge graduating seniors who have met the criteria identified by the district to be granted the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offered commendations to the district for its commitment to creating pathways for multilingual students to demonstrate their knowledge.

## MPS Kindergarten Enrollment Fair

The MPS Kindergarten Enrollment Fair was held at **Milwaukee High School of the Arts**. It was a huge success as Milwaukee High School of the Arts was packed with an estimated 1,100 individuals on hand to learn more about the great educational programs MPS schools offer.

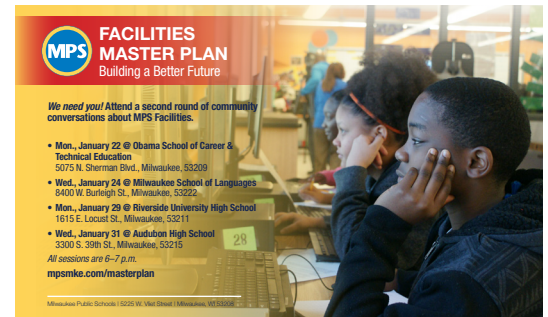


## Budget Carousels

The majority of my time this month was dedicated to conducting budget carousels and meeting with individual school leaders and their teams to review their budgets. Although it is time consuming, the budget carousels are extremely helpful to ensure the proper allocation of our resources. Once again, this year's school budget carousels provided an excellent opportunity for me to hear directly from school leaders and their staffs about budget priorities and ideas to leverage funding to best support our students. Some of the themes that emerged from this year include the continued need to think creatively, identify ways to celebrate our students' successes and the important role our partners play.

## Long-Range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP)

Both the first and second round of eight large-scale community meetings along with a districtwide survey regarding MPS facilities have now been completed. These community meetings and the survey were used to inform efforts by our LRFMP consultant group – MGT, around developing recommendations regarding utilization of district buildings based on community feedback. A final report will be shared in spring.



## Community Conversations

I am very excited to share our Community Conversations model has been launched and we've already held two events! Community Conversations are designed to create opportunities to speak to families and community members in places they regularly frequent such as coffee shops, theaters, libraries, and community centers. Please consider attending one of the upcoming Community Conversations.



**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATOR**

DESFIBRILADOR  
EXTERNO  
AUTOMÁTICO



**HEART SAFE SCHOOLS**  
a part of Project ADAM®

## AED Fundraiser/AED Get the Beat Day

Milwaukee Public Schools has had a great deal of community support around our AED program. Thanks to so many individuals within MPS and our external partners such as Children's Hospital, we have been able to equip all of our schools and centralized buildings with AED units. It is time to start planning ahead as some of our AED units will need to be replaced in the near future. The district is partnering with Applebee's for a fundraiser to contribute to purchasing new AED units for MPS. The fundraiser will take place on February 25, 2018, from 11:00am until midnight at the Wauwatosa, Glendale and Bayview Applebee's. Just bring the attached flyer with you and show your server and 15% of your total bill will be donated to this effort.

On February 14, 2018 (Valentines Day!), schools throughout the district participated in "Get the Beat Day." The purpose of this day is to encourage schools to test their response to cardiac emergencies by running an AED drill.

## Mitten Tree Enjoys Bumper Crop!

More than 3,000 mittens, gloves, caps and scarves were collected during the MPS Mitten Tree drive this winter, allowing thousands of students to keep warm. Thanks to these generous donations, our students are able to travel to and from school safely and enjoy recess and outdoor time on playgrounds across the city. On behalf of our students, the Department of Business, Community & Family Partnerships wishes to thank everyone for so many warm items, including many beautiful handmade pieces! Our children are enjoying their new winter gear.

Special thanks go our community partners who supported this endeavor:

- ▶ TCF Bank
- ▶ GE Healthcare
- ▶ BMO Harris Bradley Center
- ▶ Harley-Davidson
- ▶ JPMorgan Chase
- ▶ Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative (WWBIC)



## MPS students Get Creative with H2O Music

Students at **Hi-Mount Community School**, **Howard Avenue Montessori**, and **Wedgewood Park International School** learned how to design, write, stage, film, and edit a music video thanks to the **H2O Milwaukee Music Peace Propaganda Project**. Their YouTube videos were created right in their own schools with help from the H2O team.

Students selected the messages for their videos with the goal of making a positive impact, addressing topics that include bullying, staying in school, diversity, and life choices. The video *Diversity* by Wedgewood Park students has received more than 3,400 views.



## BUCKSFit Rallies Milwaukee Youth to Get Healthy

Last year, nearly 400 students at Westside Academy improved their eating and activity habits through BUCKSFit month. This year, nearly 1,200 students will experience Bango's Bootcamp to set them on a path toward a healthy lifestyle. The **Milwaukee Bucks** launched BUCKSFit month at **Longfellow School**, and the Bucks, led by mascot Bango,

Bango's Bootcamp had students cheering as Bango, the Bucks Rim Rockers, and in-game hosts Mel and Joe challenged students to a number of races and contests in the Longfellow gym. Students also learned about healthy food choices and were encouraged to involve their families in the fitness challenge. **Rogers Street Academy**, **Barack Obama School of Career and Technical Education**, and **Westside Academy** will also host Bango's Bootcamp this month.

Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network is a key partner in this health initiative designed to make Milwaukee residents healthier.



## Meetings from late January through mid-February follow:

- ▶ I gave remarks at the **34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City-wide Celebration**, where students delivered their award-winning speeches and all winners of the art, writing and speech contests were recognized. This year's theme was "Take a Stand for Truth and Justice" at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.



### 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

"Take a Stand for Truth and Justice"

Sunday, January 14, 2018 • 1PM

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
929 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

Visit [MarcusCenter.org](http://MarcusCenter.org) for more information.  
**FREE — Open to the public!**



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marcus Center  
for the Performing Arts

Artist: Leader De, MPS student



- ▶ I attended the **21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast**, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King and participating in the recognition of other local community members and organizations who are dedicated to serving others.
- ▶ I welcomed, and gave brief remarks to leaders from the **Milwaukee Bucks** and chef mentors from **Levy Restaurants** as they visited our culinary program at **Washington High School**. Students in the culinary program have the opportunity to attend a lab in their class kitchen where they get hands on experience working with chef mentors from the Milwaukee business community, who are really making a difference in this program for our students. Seeing our students in action learning from industry leaders, makes me MPS proud!
- ▶ I attended the executive committee meeting of the **Council of the Great City Schools** in Orlando, Florida.
- ▶ The **Superintendent's Student Advisory Council** monthly meeting was held. The topic was "Making Informed Decisions." The students learned how decisions can have multiple outcomes and how to use decision making skills when delegating tasks. They worked in groups to create action plans and ultimately understood how their projects impact and support others.
- ▶ I convened the kick-off District Immigration Advisory Group meeting at **Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Languages**.

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### Danceworks Mad Hot Tap Competition

On January 25, fourth and fifth graders from 46 Milwaukee schools put their best feet forward at the BMO Harris Bradley Center, dazzling their family and friends with funk, Latin, and swing styles they learned through the **Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap Program**.

Danceworks has delivered high-quality ballroom and tap dance programs to MPS students for more than 11 years. Through the Mad Hot program, hundreds of children gain access to formal dance training--most of them have never been in a dance class before. Students develop confidence and showmanship while also experiencing the value of practice and hard work. Students take a one-hour class twice weekly during the fall semester (at no cost, thanks to generous funders) and they learn routines for each style of tap dance in preparation for the competition.



Bruce Elementary was the Overall Winner of the Mad Hot Tap Competition, held January 25 at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. Photo by Jeff Zmania.



The Mad Hot Tap program is known to motivate students to excel in their schoolwork and help drive up attendance. Joyful arts experiences inspire students' creativity, promote a love of learning, and encourage discipline that will serve them well in the classroom and throughout their lives.