

## REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP)

---

*December 21, 2017*

*Submitted by President Mark Sain*

(1) Meetings and conversations were held among the Milwaukee Education Partnership's Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the Partnership regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives and projects, updates, MEP's administrative business, and more.

(2) Mr. Randall and Dr. Phyllis King, UWM Vice Provost, Division of Academic Affairs, met and discussed the UWM-MEP partnership and mutual program collaborations.

(3) A phone conference was conducted with leadership from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation concerning potential grant opportunities in follow-up to conversation held with a member of the Foundation's board.

(4) Discussions have been taking place concerning revival of the IT 2000 program with various people, including leadership and staff at the UWM School of Information Studies (SOIS). The previous program was a partnership between UWM SOIS and the Milwaukee Workforce Board, formerly called the Private Industry Council.

(5) Dr. Alan Shoho, Dean of the School of Education at UWM, and Mr. Randall discussed several teacher-preparation initiatives, including Leading Men Fellows and the Call Me Mister Initiative.

(6) A Stritch Board member facilitated an introduction of Amy Friedman, President and CEO of Book Trust, to Mr. Randall. Ms. Friedman shared about the early literacy work that Book Trust is doing across the country. She is interested in speaking with key leaders in the Milwaukee community to better understand both the district's and community's focus on early literacy. The MEP will be facilitating introduction of Ms. Friedman to several others in Milwaukee.

(a) Book Trust's mission is to help elementary school children with little/no access to books fall in love with reading and become lifelong learners. With Book Trust, students learn the power of choice and the pride of ownership, and students' reading levels and academic performance improve, motivating them to succeed. Book Trust believes that choice, consistency and celebration, along with access to books and independent reading time, create a world in which literacy removes barriers and provides all children with tools to navigate life successfully.

(b) Book Trust is serving 53,000 students in 21 states, including a number of schools in rural communities in Wisconsin. Last year alone, Book Trust students became the proud owners of one million new books. Book Trust's annual evaluation data show that Book Trust students make greater gains in grade-level reading than do non-Book Trust students (19% vs 4%). Book Trust is working to strategically determine the best communities for expansion. Milwaukee is a community that meets a number of Book Trust's expansion criteria.

(7) Mr. Randall held a meeting with Joe Miotke, Project Lead The Way's (PLTW's) Statewide Chair; Paul Borens, PLTW Affiliate Director, and Ulises Sepulveda, MPS PLTW Instructional Coach and Liaison on the PLTW Leadership Team, regarding PLTW and Carver School. All were invited to participate in the next

Brewer's Hill Neighborhood Association-Carver School relationship meeting, which Mr. Randall hosted on November 29.

(8) In follow-up to a meeting held with Abby Andrietsch, Executive Director of Schools That Can Milwaukee, Mr. Randall met with Andy Vitrano, Director of Partnerships, Schools That Can Milwaukee, to talk about the things that MEP is doing with the HBCU Initiative, specifically at Carver School.

(9) HBCU Initiative:

- Job Fairs — The MEP has identified a coordinator for the job fairs, which will take place in spring and summer of 2018.
- Health Care Components — Discussion was held with the Medical College of Wisconsin's staff regarding the HBCU Health Care Initiative with Medical College of Wisconsin, Meharry Medical College, and Howard University.
- Funding Support — Efforts continue to gain funding support for the HBCU Initiative/the 2018 HBCU Conference.

(10) Mr. Randall and Tracey Sparrow from Next Door-Milwaukee continued work and conversations with The Literacy Lab/Leading Men Fellows leadership and with a number of other people and organizations concerning a Leading Men Fellows Initiative for Milwaukee. The MEP convened and hosted a meeting with a number of School of Education Deans to share about the Leading Men Fellows-Milwaukee Initiative and to discuss the role of the University Partner/Collaborator and partners' expectations. Discussion with Bader Philanthropies centered around support for the initiative. Ms. Sparrow and Mr. Randall also gave a presentation on the Leading Men Fellows Initiative to the Milwaukee Succeeds Funders Collaborative. Funding of \$100,000 has been pledged to support the initiative.

(11) The MEP's Executive Partners held their monthly meeting on November 20.

(12) The MEP led Congressman Duffy on a tour of Milwaukee. Sites included downtown Milwaukee and the Riverwest, Harambee, Brewers Hill, and Lindsay Heights neighborhoods.

(13) Mr. Randall participated in Northwestern Mutual's Tech Hub Summit 2017.

(14) The Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators (MMABSE) held its Fall Conference on Saturday, November 18.

\* \* \* \* \*