



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – January

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

The City Review

The BMO Harris Bradley Center floor once again belonged to the Milwaukee Public Schools' student athletes as teams from seven MPS schools participated in The City Review. This was the fifth year for the event, which brings some of the area's best players under one roof on one night. The event, comes as the district continues to increase athletic opportunities for students.

The schools participating included: South Division High School (Boys), Barack Obama SCTE (Boys), Vincent High School (Girls), Rufus King International High School (Girls), Vincent High School (Boys), Washington High School (Boys), Hamilton High School (Boys), and Riverside University High School (Boys).



HERO Headquarters provides fun reading space for students

Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Green Bay Packers' Safety, deserves a Lambeau Leap for his work to promote literacy at **Benjamin Franklin Elementary School**. Together with partner Quarles & Brady, Clinton-Dix worked with school leadership to build a reading oasis for students. The space, known as HERO Headquarters, was dedicated on Tuesday during a special ceremony at the school.

Franklin students now have a comfortable, cheerful reading space complete with carpet, beanbags, and cozy chairs. The area is decorated in a Green Bay Packers theme, complete with images of Clinton-Dix. Students in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 will be able to browse and enjoy 600 new books that fill the shelves of the HERO Headquarters.

During the kick-off event, Quarles & Brady provided drawstring bags stuffed with books for every student. Having books at home is vital to students who struggle with reading. In low-income households, books are often a luxury. Students were excited to unpack their bags and explore their new books.

Clinton-Dix kicked off his Ha Ha's HERO Foundation in 2017 with the goal to support education. Franklin's new reading oasis is his very first HERO Headquarters, and the Packers Safety plans to open two more new spaces this year.



MPS Combined Giving Campaign

Through my role on the Board and as Chair of the Volunteer Engagement Committee, I announced the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County's Season of Caring goal results and participated in the Closing Ceremony. Milwaukee Public Schools really made an impact through giving and engaging our staff and partners through various volunteer efforts. Congratulations! We surpassed all goals! I was especially proud of MPS when we were recognized for our efforts at the United Way Season of Caring Celebratory Breakfast. MPS hosted the Wisconsin ESSA Leadership Learning Community (WI-ELLC) working group meeting at the MPS Foundation Office. This year, MPS' unofficial contribution total is **\$223,478** and our schools raised \$170, 827 and MPS had a total 1,741 donors.



Anti-bullying message promotes peace, healing

I gave brief remarks at an Anti-bullying Music Video release event. **Tracey Dent**, a member of the executive committee of the MPS District Advisory Council, produced the video featuring MPS students. Their powerful message promotes peace and healing, a message that we'll continue to promote throughout the district.

Talented MPS students are featured prominently in a new [video](#) designed to reach out to bullies and their victims. Tracey Dent, a member of the executive committee of the MPS District Advisory Council, produced the video to suggest solutions for the problem of bullying. Featured are **Azaria Giboney**, a student at **Pierce Elementary School**, and powerful vocals by **Jahbarri Bradshaw** and **Ebony Loren** of **Milwaukee High School of the Arts**.

Entitled, "No Amount of Tears," the video was produced in coordination with the City of Milwaukee Health Department Office of Violence Prevention and includes an original song by Quinlan Bishop. The video was filmed at Milwaukee Excellence Charter School.



WTMJ 620 AM Interview

I was interviewed by WTMJ 620 AM Radio host John Mercure. The topic was the *Be the Spark* program, which was created in 2014 to work with MPS students to reach them at a younger age and to begin introducing them to difference career paths within business.

WNOV Interview

I shared district updates on Milwaukee's WNOV Radio station with host Jermaine Reed.

Meetings from late December through mid-January follow:

I hosted a group of rural district school administrators and state legislators. We boarded a school bus for a full day as we visited four of our schools highlighting several of our programs and labs. We ended the day with dinner. This was a phenomenal day and opportunity to collaborate and deepen relationships with other districts and legislators while showcasing MPS. Kudos to our staff and partners for planning such a special day!

My team and I celebrated our **CATP** students with a holiday gathering, thanking them for their great work at Central Services. I held a Bradley Tech Leadership Support meeting, followed by presenting district updates at another Parent Coordinator Institute meeting.

I held the **GE Foundation Steering Committee** meeting. We revisited the GE Foundation goals for the school year, reviewed the budget at a glance, and discussed the GEF grant updates and special projects.

I met with staff from the **National Partnership for Early Childhood Literacy** out of Chicago, IL to discuss a literacy grant opportunity for MPS.

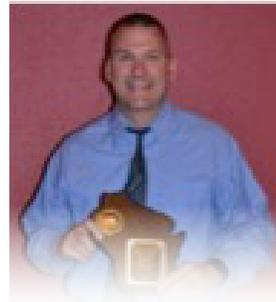
I gave the monthly address at the **MPS Principal's Leadership Institute**, followed by a meeting with **Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch**.

I held a phone call with President/CEO of Superior Support Resources regarding his interest in re-engaging with our Youth Apprentices Program.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

MPS teachers are honored for their work

This fall, two MPS physical education teachers received awards from Wisconsin Health and Physical Education. **Keith Barton** (left) from **Mitchell School** was named *Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year* and **Dave Weidenbach** (far left), who teaches at both **Honey Creek Charter School** and **Howard Ave. School (now Bay View Montessori School)**, was honored with the *Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart Award*.



Keith Barton has been with MPS more than ten years and has 20 years of teaching experience. He sets an example for his students by maintaining his own physical fitness. With two Master's degrees, his career is focused on ongoing learning, adaptation to instruction, and high standards. His work earned him honors as Teacher of the Year.

Dave Weidenbach was recognized for his work with Jump Rope for Heart that goes back to 1992. He exceeded fundraising goals most years and excelled at heart health awareness in association with the program.

At the awards ceremony, **Brett Fuller**, curriculum specialist for MPS, was also honored as outgoing past president for his leadership of Wisconsin Health and Physical Education. Fuller received the Channing Mann Physical Education Administrator of the Year Award from SHAPE America last year. This is the fourth time in the past five years that an MPS teacher was named a PE teacher or Health teacher of the year.

MPS student Princess Vaulx wins Merit Award in national YoungArts competition

More than 8,000 students from 47 states applied to compete in nine disciplines in the 2018 YoungArts competition. In November, results were finalized and 700 student artists earned recognition in three tiers. **Princess Vaulx**, a senior from **Milwaukee High School of the Arts (MHSA)**, was one of 270 performers to win a Merit Award.

Princess' entry required her to perform and submit four songs from different genres of jazz. Her selections were "Autumn in New York," by Vernon Duke, "Sunny Side of the Street" by Jimmy McHugh, "Jeannine" by Duke Pearson, and "Softly, As in a Morning Sunrise" by Sigmund Romberg. She plans to study music in college and is currently considering Howard University and Florida State University.

Princess is the sixth MHSA student to receive recognition from YoungArts since 2011. Milwaukee High School of the Arts has a long reputation in Milwaukee of delivering one of the finest high school arts programs in the city. Across the district, expanded arts programs are an example of many initiatives that are part of MPS' Eight Big Ideas to improve student achievement, educate the whole child, and leverage creativity to enhance the student experience.



Teacher Desire Tyler honored for dedication to Dr. King

At **Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies** on Friday, teacher **Desire Tyler** was surprised in front of her class by **Principal Thomas Matthews** and representatives from the Marcus Center. Tyler was honored for her dedication to teaching students about the life and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During her 30 years of teaching in MPS, King's legacy has been an important part of her curriculum.

Tyler has been active in enrolling her students in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Speech, and Writing contests. At least seven of her students have been winners under her guidance. Milwaukee has celebrated King's birthday annually since 1984, and is one of only two cities in the United States to mark the holiday for this length of time.

