

Resolution 2223R-001

By Directors Siemsen and Leonard

WHEREAS, Among the core beliefs adopted by Milwaukee Public Schools are the beliefs that “students come first” and that “student voice is encouraged and respected;” and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 8.18 , Student Involvement in Decision Making, upholds these beliefs by codifying a method for the inclusion of two high school students in the Board’s policy deliberations; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, student participation at meetings of the Board has not been consistent; and

WHEREAS, The Board recognizes the value of student representation in Board deliberations, both for the participating student representatives and for MPS student population as a whole; and

WHEREAS, To ensure that students have a voice in the school environment, the district has adopted other polices to promote students taking responsibility for their education, including:

- a) Administrative Policy 7.19 — Student-Initiated Student Groups;
- b) Administrative Policy 7.20 — Student Publications;
- c) Administrative Policy 8.18 — Student Involvement in Decision Making;
- d) Administrative Policy 8.04 — Student Desegregation; and

WHEREAS, The Board previously adopted the spirit of a Student Bill of Rights which included the following provisions:

Students have the right to organize and have a voice in their school;

Student representatives should be included in any decision-making that significantly affects the student body;

Students have the right to full disclosure by administration, as do parents, teachers, staff, and the community;

Students have the right to organize across schools. The students of a district have the right to establish an inter-school organization in which the issues of different schools are shared and the entire student community can provide support to ensure that no school is isolated;

and

WHEREAS, When the Board adopted Administrative Policy 9.14, Community Involvement in Decision Making, the Board codified its recognition of the value of broad citizen involvement with the program and operations of the Milwaukee Public Schools through such beliefs as:

- Parents and other citizens of the community should serve in a cooperating role
- That citizen involvement can be preventative in nature
- That quality education can best be achieved by utilizing the rich and diverse talents of people in the community

- That active interaction of the community's citizens with their schools is the best example to the student that schools are an integral part of the community;

however, while the spirit of this policy is still relevant to the mission of the district, the beliefs as currently stated, are adult-focused and do not emphatically include the voice of students or community youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration, through the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, be directed to regularly engage, and invite Board members to attend meetings with youth and student groups within the City of Milwaukee, including but not limited to, Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT); Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES); and Urban Underground; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That youth-led groups be invited to present to the Board quarterly on their mission and work and how it intersects with the mission and vision of MPS; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Administrative Policy 9.14, Community Involvement in Decision Making, be revised to include student-centered language that codifies the Board's desire to specifically include student and youth voice in its engagement with the community.

May 26, 2022