



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MPS Memo

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October 1, 2014

President Michael Murphy
Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear President Murphy:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you yesterday regarding Common Council file 130662. District staff has reviewed the substitute you shared with us. As a result, we would request modifications that would provide needed flexibility to the school district to continue to improve our academic achievement and financial situation.

1)

In the substitute under the first Resolved, 2, Milwaukee Public Schools requests that the time period for vacancy be extended from 12 to 24 months. The additional time would better support a planning process that could include reprogramming, remodeling or other reuse of the building by the district. In fact, in the coming year, the district will be undergoing a reexamination of its transportation system (Attachment A) and is currently analyzing reuse of several closed buildings. The district is planning to create school feeder patterns to support connection and continuity between schools and to make Milwaukee Public Schools a more attractive option for Milwaukee families.



The additional time would adequately support the planning, financing, procurement and remodeling processes necessary to provide additional quality district educational options. A typical schedule is shown below:

TASK	DATE	MONTHS
Program planning finalized/budget adjusted	October-November 2014	2
Board action to reopen	December 2014	1
RFP for design services issued	January-February 2015	2
Design process/budget adjusted	April-July 2015	4
Bidding	August-Sept 2015	2
Construction	October 2015-June 2016	9
Occupancy activities	July-August 2016	2
School opens	September 2016	1
Total		23

Planning & financing

= 11mo

Additionally, we must go on the record as opposed to the portion of the final resolved that seeks to eliminate conflicts of interest by the City Attorney. The support of the City Attorney's office has been crucial for us in our real estate management efforts. We request that the current arrangement be continued. This practice has, in fact, acted as a strong incentive for the district and the city to work cooperatively, which is exactly what your proposal promotes.

AGENDA ITEM 5/15/14

< Previous < View Agenda 11.5 Action on Resolution 1415R-005 by President Bonds to Es >

Meeting Date: 9/18/2014 - 6:30 PM

Category: Report of the Committee on Legislation, Rules and Policies

Type: Action

Subject: 11.5 Action on Resolution 1415R-005 by President Bonds to Establish a Regional Transportation System

Strategic Plan Compatibility Statement: Goal 3
Effective and Efficient Operations

Policy: Admin Policy 4.04 - Student Transportation Services

Attachments: 1. 1415R-005 Report

File Attachment:  1415R-005 Report.pdf

At its meeting on July 31, 2014, the Board referred Resolution 1415R-005 to establish a regional transportation system to the Committee on Account Personnel.

Wisconsin State Statutes, section 121.54(2)(a), state that "every school district provide transportation to and from public school for all pupils who reside in the district more than two miles or more from the nearest public school they are entitled to attend."

Milwaukee Public Schools' Administrative Policy 4.04(1)(a)(1), Conditions that Milwaukee-resident students in grades K-8 are eligible for transportation is two miles or more from the district school."

Background: Milwaukee Public Schools' Administrative Policy 4.04(1)(a)(2), Conditions that Milwaukee-resident students in grades 9-12 are eligible for transportation is two miles or more from the district school and more than one mile from public transportation."

Milwaukee Public Schools' Administrative Policy 4.04(4)(a), Racial Balance, Overload and Lack of Facility, states "Transportation is provided to Milwaukee students enrolled in Milwaukee public schools who participate in education work toward a more integrated society, when a school tends to become overcrowded, when it becomes necessary to modernize a school facility, to accommodate enrollment overloads, or when the district school facility will not accommodate students who reside in the attendance area."

Resolution 1415R-005 explicitly allows for the continuation of busing for rural and city-wide schools.

Please see attachment for an overview of the MPS transportation services

Fiscal Impact Statement: This item does not authorize expenditures.

Implementation and Assessment Plan: Should the Board adopt Resolution 1314R-005, the Administration will report the implementation of the resolution according to the following timeline:

(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON RESOLUTION 1415R-005 BY PRESIDENT BONDS TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

This item initiate by a Board Member.

BACKGROUND

1. At its July 31, 2014 meeting, the Board referred Resolution 1415R-005 by President Bonds to establish a regional transportation system to the Accountability/Finance and Personnel Committee.

WHEREAS, Chapter 121.54 of the Wisconsin Statutes spells out the provisions under which the school board of each District shall provide for the transportation of pupils, including establishment, administration, and scheduling of school bus routes; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools' Administrative Policy 4.04 states that the Milwaukee Public Schools' Transportation Services is to provide safe, adequate, efficient, and economical service to all eligible Milwaukee-resident students; and

WHEREAS, The last revision to this policy was in 2009, since when the MPS regional structure has changed; and

WHEREAS, The District has projected approximately \$60 million in spending for student transportation for the Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, At a time when the District continues to compete with non-public schools for enrollment and is struggling to keep quality programs in the schools as well as maintain to a fiscally responsible budget, our transportation strategy should again be reviewed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Administration is to design a taskforce for the creation of a regional transportation System of busing built around the current MPS regional structure; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration is to review current MPS policies and procedures to determine ways in which to eliminate mass busing within the District to the greatest extent possible allowed under the statutes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That such procedures shall allow for the continuation of busing to city-wide schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as part of the effort to reduce mass busing, the sibling preference be eliminated; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all applicable policies and procedures be updated to reflect the new transportation model and brought to the Board, through its Committee on Legislation, Rules and Policies, for final approval; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration is to report the steps taken toward implementation no later than the October Board cycle.

ADMINISTRATION'S ANALYSIS

2. Below is an overview of the MPS transportation services. Pupil Transportation Services provides home-to-school and school-to-school transportation services to each MPS school site, to 23 suburban districts as part of the Chapter 220 Inter-district integration program, and to more than 90 non-public schools. In addition, transportation is provided for class field trips, athletics and after-school activities.

5. Of the \$58,865,993 expenditures for FY14, \$30,674,657 or 52% of the budget are non-mandatory services. The non-mandatory services are:

1.	Regular Education Citywide: \$14,088,945 Regular: \$13,415,842	\$27,504,787
2.	Special Programs*	\$1,222,474
3.	Non-Instrumentality Charters	\$1,947,396

*Special Programs consist of transportation for athletics, and extra-curricular activities.

The combined total of mandatory busing and service for city-wide schools is \$42,280,221, or 71.8% of FY14 expenditures. The total cost of transportation expenditures that could be affected by Resolution 1415R-005 is \$16,585,772.

6. Should the Board approve Resolution 1415R-005, the administration recommends the analysis include the following components:
- a. Facilities & Program Analysis: Analysis of the building capacity and program feasibility of schools within each region. The analysis will include enrollment projections.
 - b. Attendance Area Analysis: Review of current attendance areas to optimize the ability of students to attend their attendance (neighborhood) school.
 - c. Legal and Policy Analysis: Review of current Administrative Policies, including but not limited to:
 - Administrative Policy 4.0 Support Services
 - Administrative Policy 5.0 Facilities Development
 - Administrative Policy 8.0 Students
 - Administrative Policy 9.0 School Community Relations

The review will also address current federal, state and local laws and statutes to insure that any recommended policy revisions do not violate current law.
 - d. Community and School Collaboration: Each Regional Superintendent will establish a process to obtain the Voice of the Customer (VOC). Gathering and prioritizing needs is critical to the success of this project. Design for Six Sigma (DFSS) tools can be used to prioritize and evaluate expectations and needs, translating them into actionable activities.
 - e. Transportation and Fiscal Analysis: Review of the fiscal impact of changes to current Board policies. Included in the analysis will be the impact any changes have on student enrollments and revenues.

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Administrative Policy 5.01
FACILITIES**

<i>History</i>	<i>Adopted 11-27-86; readopted 11-4-92; revised 01-25-95, 03-28-00, 7-31-03, 10-28-03; 03-30-06</i>
<i>Previous Coding</i>	<i>Admin. Policy DN, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 6.01, May 1995-August 1996</i>
<i>Legal Ref.</i>	<i>W.S. 119.16(10)</i>
<i>Contract Ref.</i>	
<i>Cross Ref.</i>	

The superintendent shall be responsible for facilities planning for the Milwaukee Public Schools in accordance with the following:

(1) FACILITY PLANNING

(a) The Board shall have before it at all times a long-range building program to serve as a guide for capital improvements. This program shall be five years in duration and shall contain projects for both preservation and expansion of capacity. This program shall be reviewed and revised annually or whenever the Board modifies the facility standards.

(b) The capital plan shall be designed to provide and maintain adequate facilities to conduct full-time elementary and secondary education programs for all students. The program shall be based upon specific Board policies which are to be modified to conform to changes in the curriculum, availability of construction funds, expansion of territory to be served, and changes in enrollments.

(c) Before the capital plans are submitted to the Board for action, they shall first be referred to the Board's Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget for its consideration and report to the Board.

(2) FACILITY STANDARDS

(a) GENERAL

1. Each school shall develop and implement school-based, full-service programs to provide services to meet the needs of the local community, parents, and children, either by the school or in collaboration with other agencies.
2. Each school, working in conjunction with other agencies that serve the neighborhood, shall ensure that all children can safely walk to school and that a safe, secure, and nurturing environment is provided to enable teaching and learning to occur.
3. All schools shall be designed to permit year-round services to be provided.
4. In the development of future programs and schools, an emphasis shall be placed on developing, supporting, and stabilizing neighborhoods.
5. The system shall be organized on a K4-8, 9-12 basis with a compatible K4-5, 6-8, 9-12 basis, with the understanding that unique grade organizations may be created to meet specific program needs.
6. Elementary schools shall accommodate not less than 300 or more than 450 students, middle schools not less than 600 or more than 720 students, and high schools not less than 300 or more than 500 students. High school facilities shall be designed to accommodate two (2) or more schools in order to maintain efficiency in program and operating costs.
7. The student/teacher ratio in K4, K5, and Grade 1 shall be 15:1, maximum.
8. The student/teacher ratio in Grades 2 and 3 shall be 15:1, maximum; in Grades 4-5, 24:1, maximum; in middle school, 25:1, maximum; and in high school, 25:1, maximum.
9. Priorities for construction needs shall be made on the following basis:
 - 1st - New facilities to accommodate children in areas lacking schools due to overcrowding
 - 2nd - Additions or new facilities to accommodate specialty programs
 - 3rd - Replacement of oldest buildings on long-term systematic basis where it is determined that the building is structurally/mechanically unsound or educationally unsuitable

Elementary	7 acres
Middle.....	10 acres
High.....	20 acres

4. The City and County of Milwaukee, through the utilization of available local, state, or federal funding, shall be given the major responsibility of acquisition and development of all additional open space/recreational acres in accordance with applicable Board policies relating to site.

5. Every attempt shall be made to provide off-street parking at all schools to the greatest degree possible.

6. The Board shall adopt a five-year capital plan which is to contain projects for both preservation and expansion of capacity. It shall be reviewed and revised annually during the budget process or whenever the Board modifies the facility standards.

7. The approved policy of the Board regarding community involvement in capital improvements shall be followed.

8. For both upgrading facilities and new construction, reasonably uniform standards of space for all programs or services shall be developed for all grade-level organizations. Spaces shall be designed in the most efficient, economical, and flexible manner.

9. Appropriate space for art, music, library, parent centers, science, computer technology, bilingual and ESL, where applicable, shall be provided in all schools.

10. Enrollment of exceptional education students in all schools shall be proportional to district averages, and students shall be accommodated in their neighborhood schools wherever feasible. Distribution of severely and medically fragile students should be expanded to create additional educational opportunities as close to their homes as possible.

(d) EARLY CHILDHOOD

1. All-day kindergarten services shall be provided for all four-year-olds

2. Full-day kindergarten shall be provided for all five-year-olds

3. Early childhood centers shall be established as the Board directs.

(e) EASEMENTS

1. Easements that are required to provide services for district facilities shall be executed by the superintendent or his/her designee.

2. Easements that are requested by outside agencies are to be brought to the Board for approval. The revenue generated by the granting of any easement to an outside agency shall be based on fair market value. Any revenue generated by the granting of an easement at a school site that exceeds district expenses shall be allocated to the local school. All net revenue that is generated at a non-school site shall be placed in the Construction Fund.

(3) FACILITIES PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

In the planning of individual building projects, it is important that primary consideration be given to needed educational programs so that new buildings will be designed and constructed to be maximally functional. For effective planning to take place, there must be involvement of parents and other community representatives, as well as of principals, school staff members, and representatives of the central administrative and supervisory staff.

(a) OVERRIDING PRINCIPLES

Three overriding principles guide the planning and involvement process:

1. An achievable timeline must be established and adhered to. Individual participants must be willing to meet these time constraints.

2. The process should be standardized as much as possible to facilitate the tasks involved and reduce turnover of the participants.

3. Existing school/community groups should be used as much as feasible, with each constituency responsible for selecting its participants.

(6) NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES

(a) When a school is named after a person, the person after whom it is named shall have been deceased for a period of not less than 10 years; shall have been a citizen of the United States, or shall have rendered valuable service to the United States; and shall have made an outstanding contribution to the public welfare. A school named after a person shall not be renamed, except for compelling reasons. Once official action is taken to name a school, the name shall not be changed unless there is a confusion of names.

(b) Changing the name of a school building shall be limited to elementary and middle schools. The recommendation of a name change shall be brought to the Board through the local governance structure of the school.

(7) TEMPORARY SCHOOL FACILITIES

(a) The use of all relocateable or temporary buildings shall be discontinued, and those buildings shall be removed from the school plant.

(b) As a general practice, the use of leased facilities shall be discontinued as soon as possible, and the programs shall be housed in permanent school facilities as soon as space becomes available.

(c) The use of other schools' facilities to house programs on short-term lease basis shall be considered until permanent space can be provided.

(d) Consideration shall be given to the acquisition of available quality school facilities as permanent additions to the school plant.

(8) FACILITIES RETIREMENT

(a) The question of school closings shall be considered in the development of long-range plans for building and site modernization and utilization.

(b) The Board shall take action by December 31 on specific schools that will be closed the following school year.

(c) Communities to be affected by any possible school closings or building changes shall be involved in the first steps of planning.

(d) The following principles shall be used for retention of a facility in the school plant:

1. Schools to be retained are to be limited to those which operate on an educationally and economically effective basis.
2. Consideration of factors relating to programs, personnel, desegregation, community use, or cooperation to share facilities with suburban districts shall be made by the Board during the decision-making process.

(e) Schools that are closed and previously vacated buildings owned by the Board shall be used for other purposes by the school system only if economically feasible and if they can accommodate specific approved programs.

(9) SCHOOL PROPERTIES DISPOSAL

In disposing of surplus school buildings and sites, the Board shall be guided by the following priorities based upon recommendations from various planning agencies, the needs of the school system, and input from the staff:

- 1st - Sale, for non-public purpose, with the goal of returning as many properties to the tax base as possible.
- 2nd - Lease with maintenance and operations activities performed by the district. Lease must cover all cost to the Board of School Directors.
- 3rd - Sale/lease to other governmental agencies.