



City of Milwaukee

City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meeting Minutes

STEERING & RULES COMMITTEE

ALD. JOSE G. PEREZ, CHAIR

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Vice-Chair

Ald. Robert J. Bauman, Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Ald. Milele A. Coggs, Ald. Scott P. Spiker, and Ald. DiAndre Jackson

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Monday, February 16, 2026

1:30 PM

Room 301-B, Third Floor, City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 pm.

Ald. Moore, Ald. Brower and Ald. Burgelis joined the meeting.

Present 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, Jackson

Excused 1 - Coggs

1. [250798](#) A substitute ordinance creating a department of equity and inclusion.

Sponsors: Ald. Spiker

HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

2. [251428](#) Substitute resolution relating to collaboration between Port Milwaukee, the Department of City Development, the Innovation Office and the City Clerk.

Sponsors: Ald. Coggs

Sam Leichtling (DCD) and Benjamin Timm (Port Director) were present.

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

3. [251349](#) Appointment of Tracey Sparrow to the Charter School Review Committee by the Mayor. (3rd Aldermanic District)

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Mrs. Sparrow was not present.

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIRMATION

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

4. [251584](#) Appointment of Taiyani N Davis to the Charter School Review Committee by the Common Council President.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Ms. Davis was present.

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIRMATION

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

5. [251040](#) Communication from the Charter School Review Committee transmitting the findings of the Annual Report for 2024-2025.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Dr. Aza Baylor presented the Charter School Monitoring Report 2024-2025 which has been added to the file.

Also present:

Crystal Bielmeier- Milwaukee Math and Science Academy

Kim Copeland and Joey Zocher- Escuela Verde

Dr. Precious Smith- Darrell Lynn Hines Academy

Anthony McHenry- Milwaukee Academy of Science

Mary Widman- Downtown Montessori

There was a request from the members to include the lead water and paint results for each school on the next report.

There was also a discussion about the governance systems in place on each school. Ald. Brower announced that he will introduce a communication file for this matter.

RECOMMENDED FOR PLACING ON FILE

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

6. [251393](#) Substitute motion approving renewal of a charter school contract with Escuela Verde for an additional 5-year term.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Joey Zocher and Kim Copeland were present along with staff members Edlund, Maxson, Schultz and Weber.

Responding to Ald. Brower's question, Ms. Zocher said that when Escuela Verde was first formed, they met with MTA to be part of the union and that they were declined. She added that they follow what they do, that they up bridged the salaries and they are not opposed to unions.

Mr. Edlund said that he is a senior adviser and that he has been focusing on opening doors and opportunities for pro-union labor, that they have been partnering with Big Step and that he is going to integrate firefighting and police options in the curriculum. He added that he also works closely with families to complete FAFSA and any other financial aid for post-secondary progress for the students.

Mr. Schultz said that this is his third year at Escuela Verde after completing college, that he was nervous with the idea of working for a charter school at the beginning but that he has found that he is valued as an educator. He added that he has family members who work for MPS and they do not feel that they have a seat at the table. He also said that they are cultivating a community of great humans which is important when it comes to school.

Ms. Weber said that Escuela Verde is within the 25% range of special education, that the students in her caseload come from a much more restrictive placement from MPS and they are fully included now because they have the freedom and flexibility to provide the services with their peers.

Mr. Maxson said that he has been an educator for 33 years with experience in rural, suburban and urban schools and that this model combines a lot of the things of a democratic education. He said that he returned to work after retiring from public education for what the school is doing.

Ms. Copeland said that the students at Escuela Verde find the opportunities they need.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

7. [251394](#) Substitute motion approving renewal of a charter school contract with Milwaukee Math and Science Academy for an additional 5-year term.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Ashley Ellis, Crystal Bielmeir and Ali Yilmaz were present.

Ms. Bielmeir said that 12-15% of the students are learning the language and 15-25% are students with special needs. She added that the more students are enrolled, there are more needs and that they do what they can, with the money that they receive. She said that according to the presentation, the students are not at the

desired level yet but achieving and that students have to show a high growth year after year. She also said that the state report card indicates that students are growing at a faster rate than others with same demographics. She explained that the curriculum they use, helps the students to feel confident about themselves, they take more chances academically and it's when they just take off.

Dr. Ali said that 10-12% of the charter schools nationwide are unionized, that this school is very democratic because it is a choice for students and teachers. He added that they have 15 licensed teachers, 1 is under the licensing program and 4 about to get started.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Aye 7 - Perez, Dimitrijevic, Bauman, Stamper, Zamarripa, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 1 - Coggs

2:00 PM

8. [251755](#) Communication from the Office of the City Attorney relating to a status update on the Collins settlement.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

*City Attorney Goeke was present along with some team members of 21st Century Policing Solutions (21CP):
Ronald L. Davis, Partner
Hassan Aden, Senior Advisor
Tim Mygatt, Senior Consultant
Eve Gushes, Consultant
Teresa Towey, Director of Operations*

At 3:00 PM Ald. Bauman moved to go into closed session. There were no objections. (Ald. Stamper and Ald. Dimitrijevic were excused)

At 3:30 PM Ald. Zamarripa was excused and Ald. Stamper joined the meeting.

RECOMMENDED FOR PLACING ON FILE

Aye 5 - Perez, Bauman, Stamper, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 3 - Dimitrijevic, Zamarripa, and Coggs

The Steering and Rules Committee may convene into closed session on February 16 at 2:00 p.m., in Room 301-B, City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(d) and (g), Wis. Stats., for the purpose of considering strategies for crime detection and prevention, and conferring with the City Attorney who will render oral or written advice with respect to litigation in which the city is or is likely to become involved, and then may go into open session for the regular agenda.

Files to be Placed on File as no longer needed:

9. [241866](#)

Communication from the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, the Office of the City Attorney, the Department of Neighborhood Services, and the Milwaukee Police Department on the Housing Authority's "Milwaukee Recovery Plan."

Sponsors: Ald. Perez

RECOMMENDED FOR PLACING ON FILE

Aye 5 - Perez, Bauman, Stamper, Spiker, and Jackson

No 0

Excused 3 - Dimitrijevic, Zamarripa, and Coggs

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

*Yadira Melendez
Staff Assistant*

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the City's Legislative Research Center at <http://milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar>.