

Samuel L. Coleman

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(414) 810-8782

To: Common Council President Cavalier Johnson

RE: Charter School Review Committee

I aim to lead for equity and social justice to achieve sustainable systems level transformation in k-12 school districts. My experience in organizational leadership, theoretical and practical knowledge of effective community engagement, and my experience in implementing successful educational programming in urban school settings have influenced my passion for leveraging my education and service to inform practices that advance systems level strategies to achieve social justice and equity in k12 education.

My personal commitment to leading for social justice and equity drives my work to improve systems that serve students and families. As a leader for equity and social justice, I consistently seek opportunities to build organizational capacity by supporting effective community-based strategies, leveraging collaborations, identifying risks, and developing goals to achieve growth objectives. My professional experiences include more than ten years of service in leadership capacities and serving students and families who live in communities with significant inequities due to education, income, racial, and public health disparities.

In addition to my professional experience, my formal education is in business management, education counseling, educational leadership, and policy analysis. My education and professional experiences have equipped me with skills to effectively lead strategies to support organizational transformation, plan and implement systems-level strategies for cross-sector collaboration, and advocate for policy development to disrupt cycles of disparities and eliminate inequities. My professional goals include contributing to policy development for effective community-based interventions and transforming conditions within k-12 educational systems to ensure students and families realize achievement and equity across educational systems.

I look forward to serving in ways that will allow me to share my expertise while supporting the implementation of strategies and conditions that allow for all students, particularly Black and Brown students, to thrive and flourish. Thank you for your attention to my interest and goals for service.

Yours Truly in Service,



Samuel L. Coleman



Serve – Lead – Believe – Transform

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Purpose Statement: I aim to leverage successful skills and strategies, while leading for equity and racial justice, to administer systems level accountability and eliminate inequities to strengthen high quality educational options for students in Milwaukee

Highlights of Qualifications

- Interpersonal leadership strengths which allow me to establish working relationships and constructive rapport with people of all identities to promote team efficiency and encourage a culture of belonging
- More than ten years of experience in urban education, faith leadership, social service, and providing educational leadership for systems transformation to build educator capacity, improve student outcomes, leverage resources to expand access to essential services, and eliminate inequities
- Thorough understanding of social and cultural structures in urban communities that impact student performance and a broad understanding of capacity-building frameworks that promote effective student services strategies and eliminates inequities
- Ability to use data as a tool to recognize trends, identify opportunities for organizational transformation, and implement evidenced based solutions and practices that produce sustainable outcomes
- Proven success in building and sustaining cross-sector collaborations to build organizational capacity and support collective impact strategies

Relevant Professional Experience

Director for Equity: Shorewood School District (07/19 to present)

Responsible for designing and coordinating district wide talent development and capacity building strategies to eliminate institutional inequities. Also responsible for co-leading the district's five year strategic planning and providing support and administrative counsel to all principals and school administrators.

Director of Student and Family Services: Seton Catholic Schools (04/18 to 07/19)

Led strategic coordination of guidance counseling, social work, health & wellness initiatives, community and university partnerships, and family collaboration to support student growth and equity outcomes at our eleven K-8 schools. Responsible for designing and leading capacity growth strategies for school-based student services personnel, teachers and principals.

Chief of Staff: City of Milwaukee – Office of the President of the Common Council (04/17- 04/18)

Served as the executive administrator to the President of the City of Milwaukee Common Council, provide impact analysis of city, county and state legislation, serve as the liaison from the office of the Council President to the State legislature, office of the Mayor of the city of Milwaukee, office the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, and the Chief of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Dean of Students: Milwaukee Public Schools (non-instrumentality charter school) (07/15 to 04/17)

Collaboratively served with the school principal to foster a school climate of belonging, develop the professional capacity of all staff, and implement strategies for rigorous and culturally relevant teaching and learning experiences for all students

Education & Credentials

- University of Wisconsin Madison
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (currently pursuing)
- University of Wisconsin Madison
Master of Science – Major: Education Leadership & Policy Analysis
- Concordia University of Wisconsin
Master of Education – Major: Education Counseling
- Cardinal Stritch University:
Bachelor of Science - Major: Business Management

Licenses and Certifications

- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
License: Pupil Services (PI 34)
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Administrative Licenses: Principal, Director of Instruction, and Director of Special Education & Pupil Services

Community Leadership and Service

- Hope Christian High School: Senior College Acceptance Signing Ceremony - Keynote Speaker
- Marquette University Black Male Achievement Luncheon October 2018 – Keynote Speaker
- Carmen High School of Science and Technology 2018 College Signing Ceremony – Keynote Speaker
- University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 2018 Multi-Cultural Preview Day – Keynote Speaker
- Marquette University State of Black Milwaukee Luncheon October 2017 – Keynote Speaker
- Milwaukee Coalition for Community Service: Beyond Sherman Park September 2017 – Panelist
- Milwaukee Public Schools: North Division High School Graduation June 2017 – Commencement Speaker
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Eighth Grade Graduation May 2017 – Commencement Speaker
- Milwaukee Public Schools: Golda Meir Middle School Bridge Ceremony May 2017 – Keynote Speaker
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Black School Educators February 2016 Annual Conference - Keynote Speaker