



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes

### EARLY EDUCATION TASK FORCE

**ALD. CAVALIER JOHNSON, CO-CHAIR**

**DANAE DAVIS, CO-CHAIR**

**Bridget Clementi, Tim Coughlin, Erin Cronn, Shyla Deacon,  
Tito Izard, Sheri Johnson, Paula Kiely, Geri Lyday, Vicki  
Martin, Larry Miller, Gerard Randall, and Tracey Sparrow**

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**Monday, April 24, 2017**

**9:30 AM**

**City Hall, Room 301-B**

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**1. Roll Call.**

*Meeting convened: 9:37 A.M.*

*All members present except for Vicki Martin and Geri Lyday*

**2. Introduction of members.**

*Members introduced themselves and spoke briefly on what they currently do and hope to do in the future relating to this issue.*

**3. Presentation by the City Clerk on open meetings/open records law.**

*Jim Owczarski, City Clerk, spoke briefly on open meetings and open records law.*

**4. Promise Zones presentation by Council Pres. Hamilton**

*Pres. Hamilton noted that there is a front-page article on the importance of early education in the New York Times today. It notes that early childhood education is the most cost-effective way to educate children rather than when they are older and in higher grades. Pres. Hamilton thanked Ald. Johnson for agreeing to co-chair this body and he commended the work performed by Milwaukee Succeeds. Pres. Hamilton hopes this task force and the work of others will benefit the most distressed areas of the city this summer and in the future. The community-based organization for the Promise Zones document was handed out by the President and is in the file. They are working on implementing principals in four distressed areas of the city targeted at residents, employment and youth. They also have a plan to measure in October what goals they have attained to date and will adjust accordingly. The Promise Zones want to give this body the infrastructure and partnerships it needs to succeed.*

**5. Milwaukee Public School early child education initiatives.**

*Mr. Miller said that this task force was created as a result of Mr. Randall, himself and MPS administration working on a grant for early childhood education grant which showed the need for birth-to-school education efforts. The problem is the programs and efforts are all siloed and this is an attempt to bring all the efforts together. Yolanda Twine, the MPS Early Education Director, is present in the audience. They are going to seek funding for any proposals that are approved by this task force.*

**6. Expectations of members.**

*Ald. Johnson wants members to help ALL children in the city and all members should focus on areas where agreement is reached. Philanthropies or government will be approached for funding. She hopes members will attend meetings and read the readings as needed. We need to protect what is best for babies and kids, rather than our individual projects. All members need to support the recommendations as they go out into the community. Mr. Izard asked if there was an intent to create silos or if they just came about. Ms. Kiely said it feels like the MPS grant is the driving force to the creation of this body. Ms. Kiely thinks every program is working and her ideal is to find a way for programs to work together and fill in gaps that currently exist.*

**7. Discussion relating to best practices/information relating to early education. Information submitted by members can be found in file 161649.**

*Ald. Johnson hoped members reviewed all the documents online. Ms. Sparrow said that brain development of young children is very critical and differences in children's brains by income level can be seen by two months of age.*

**8. Public comment.**

*Ariana Stonham - organizer at Hunger Task Force - they wanted to push the envelope and think about the quality of food that children are eating.  
Next meeting date: proposed dates will be sent out for the next two months via e-mail.*

*Meeting adjourned: 10:41 A.M.*

*Linda M. Elmer*

*Staff Assistant*