

MMSD Board of Education Progress Report – February, 2010

Updates from the Board for the month of January:

4 Year Old Kindergarten (4K): The Board approved the implementation of a District-wide, community model for 4K. 4K will start in September of 2011. We are still discussing the finance model. We are excited about the start of this program and the benefits it will bring to the community.

Race To The Top: The Board voted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to move forward in the Race To The Top program. This is a competitive grant program run through the Federal government. Federal money will be awarded at the state level, to states who qualify. If the state of Wisconsin receives federal money, MMSD will have the opportunity to apply for some of the state money, if we choose to do so. There are still many unanswered questions on the requirements of the Race To The Top funds.

Core Performance Measures: The Board approved Core Performance Measures for the District. As the Strategic Plan was developed, a series of performance measures were defined to be the barometer by which we assess whether or not the goals and objectives defined in the plan are being met. There are almost 200 key performance measures defined across all strategic goal areas in the plan. The performance measures listed below are considered the “Core” measures. Each measure has a baseline, annual benchmark and target data:

- WKCE reading proficiency percentage, grades 4 and 8
 - WKCE math proficiency percentage, grades 4 and 8
 - WKCE reading percent above 90th state percentile, grades 4 and 8
 - WKCE math percent above 90th state percentile, grades 4 and 8
 - Percentage of students on track for credit attainment required for graduation in four years, grade 9/year 1
 - Advanced course participation rate
 - ACT composite score, percent scoring above 90th national percentile
 - Percentage of students above 9 percent attendance rate, kindergarten, grades 6 and 9
 - DPI graduation and completion rate
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- Percentage of students suspended (in and out of school), all grades

Badger Rock Charter Middle School: The Board received a presentation from a community group focused on starting an environmental charter school, Badger Rock. This would be a middle school located on the site of the former Badger School. The Board reviewed and approved the action of the planning team to submit a planning grant on the project. This will allow the group to do more detailed planning before making a final proposal to the Board.

A Penny for Kids: Wisconsin's school funding system is broken and is failing our children and our community. Comprehensive school-funding reform is the long-term answer for our schools. To address the funding crisis, Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools has launched “A Penny For Kids” campaign to raise the sales tax one-cent to help fill the gap in public school funding created by the 2009-11 state budget (which was devastating for MMSD) and try to keep a lid on property taxes. The Board voted to endorse the campaign. We hope you will too. To sign the petition and learn more, go to: www.apennyforkids.org

State of the District: The Superintendent presented a State of the District address to the Board and community. To read the report or listen to the presentation, please go to: <http://www.mmsd.org/node/5760>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Board at board@madison.k12.wi.us or call me at 516-8981.

Best regards, Arlene Silveira