



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

October 2016

- Meetings and conversations were held between the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Mr. Randall met and discussed state-wide education policy and initiatives.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Keith Posley, Chief School Administration Officer at Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) regarding the MEP and his role as one of the MPS Executive Partners.
- Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton and Mr. Randall had a follow-up meeting regarding the MEP.
- Mr. Randall met with Gina Stilp, Program Officer at the Zilber Family Foundation concerning the MEP Literacy Initiative.
- A meeting was held by Mr. Randall with Kaye Garcia, Executive Director of the Potawatomi Foundation, regarding the HBCU Initiative.
- Mr. Randall participated in a meeting with Michael Jones, President of the Board of Trustees for the Milwaukee Academy of Science, and was led on a tour of the school.
- Conversation was held with Dr. John Raymond, President of The Medical College of Wisconsin, regarding educational collaboration.
- Mr. Randall and Mikel Holt met to discuss education issues in our community.
- The MKE Fellows Advisory Committee held a meeting on October 10, 2016. Mr. Randall participated in the meeting along with others who also pledged to identify and support potential candidates for the MKE Fellows program.
- Mr. Randall, a former UW-System Regent, participated in the conversation with UW-System President, Ray Cross, and Regent President Regina Millner, regarding University of Wisconsin Capital Planning Projects.
- Carl Hampton, the recently appointed Special Assistant to UW-System President Ray Cross for Diversity and Inclusion, met with Mr. Randall to discuss possible ways to collaborate on these critical issues.

- Mr. Randall participated in a meeting at the Social Development Commission with Ray Allen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and others regarding workforce development initiatives, particularly those focused on youth employment.
- Jonathan Barry, Secretary, Wisconsin Commission on Public Lands, and Mr. Randall met concerning funding for the Literacy Initiative.
- The MEP along with Milwaukee Board of School Directors Vice President and President continue to hold discussions and coordinate planning for a new proposal to be submitted to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading which will focus on Birth-5 literacy in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, Milwaukee Public Library, the Social Development Commission, and the HHS Administration for Children & Families.
- The site visit by Dr. Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, took place on October 4, 2016. This visit was coordinated by the MEP for Secretary Smith and allowed her to observe some of Milwaukee’s innovative approaches to improving educational opportunities for early learners, especially those from low income and highly challenged families. The itinerary included:
 - A tour of St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care (Bucyrus Campus) led by Sr. Edna Lonergan, OSF, Executive Director of St. Ann's, and Dr. Tracey Sparrow, President of Next Door. St. Ann's has received national recognition for its approach to caring for adult seniors and pre-school age youngsters in an integrated setting. Next Door is also one of the four Head Start Operators in Milwaukee County.
 - A tour of the Milwaukee Center For Independence (MCFI) Forward Academy, led by Dr. Howard Garber, President of MCFI. This site highlighted MCFI’s innovative approach to preparing, transitioning and integrating youth and adults with disabilities into the Milwaukee community.
 - A tour of Milwaukee Public Schools’ (MPS) Sherman Elementary School and presentation on MPS Early Childhood programs, led by Dr. Darienne Driver, MPS Superintendent, and Yolanda Tynes-Allison, MPS Manager – Early Childhood Education.
 - A roundtable lunch/discussion on “Milwaukee’s Approaches to Transitioning Early Learners Beyond Head Start and K-4” with local educators, community leaders and nonprofit organization leaders, hosted by the Social Development Commission (SDC).

Recommendations and encouragement for our endeavors were received from Secretary Smith.

- Mr. Randall held several conversations with officials from Maricopa County, whom he was introduced to by Secretary Smith, to learn more about their efforts around resource mapping and data collection and distribution and the possible applications to our work in Milwaukee. He also had discussions with potential local foundation partners that have indicated an interest. A webinar was set up and conducted on October 24th and was attended by

Mr. Randall, School Board Director Larry Miller, Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton and others. Marquette University was the Milwaukee host site.

- Mr. Randall was in the Washington, DC area for several meetings including:
 - Harold O. Levy and Gregory Dillon of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation concerning grants for grades 8-16 scholarships, which initially began with an invitation to submit a proposal for funding of scholarships for MATC students to attend four-year institutions of higher education.
 - Dr. Kevin Peters, Director of the Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland concerning the National Science Foundation (NSF) Bioscience Initiative and planning proposal.
 - Samira Jali in the HHS Administration for Children & Families to provide a recap of Secretary Smith's October 4th visit to Milwaukee. An introduction will be made for Mr. Randall to the Region 5 Director of Head Start.
- Discussions continued concerning the National Science Foundation (NSF) Bioscience Initiative and planning proposal.
- Planning continued for the tour of the central city of Milwaukee for members of the Wisconsin legislature to be held November 21, 2016.
- An overview of the work and recent accomplishments of the MEP was presented at the Board's Student Achievement and School Innovation Committee meeting on October 18, 2016.