



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

April 2015

- Meetings and conversations were held between the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership, including regular meetings with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) staff, regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Alfonzo Thurman, Director, UWM Research Center for Urban Education Leadership Development/Urban Education Doctoral Programs, for discussion about teacher education programs.
- Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development, Bob Glowacki of Easter Seals, and Mr. Randall met for discussion of Project SEARCH and MPS.
- Dr. Karen Jackson, MPS Chief Human Capital Officer, and Mr. Randall met to discuss the MEP and Project METRO. The Project Metro Steering Committee met on April 13th and received a budget update, discussed several items concerning Cohort 1, received updates concerning Cohorts 2 and 3, and went over several items relating to Cohort 3 including contracts, recruitment, marketing and coaches. Shane McDonough of Cohort I is receiving an Early Educator Award.
- Weekly legislative strategy sessions with MPS continued.
- Staff from the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and Mr. Randall continued to work in collaboration on a proposal to revive the Step Up Program.
- Work has continued on development of the HBCU Initiative. Planning is in progress for the second annual HBCU Conference the MEP is holding in Milwaukee June 1-3, 2015. A meeting was held with Mr. Jim Waldvogel, Area VP & GM of Marcus Hotels & Resorts. The conference will take place at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel.
- The Reading Task Force continues work to identify which reading initiative(s) can be endorsed by the task force for implementation this summer.
- Mr. Randall and Gretchen Schuldt, MPS Grants Development Coordinator, met regarding the Early Learner Reading Initiative for birth to three-year-olds.
- MPS Superintendent Driver, School Board President Bonds, and Mr. Randall met in Madison with the State Assembly Speaker, Senate Minority Leader and the Chair of the Education Committee regarding proposed changes to MPS governance.
- Work continued with staff from Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company on preparation of a joint letter to the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance.

- Work continued on development of an NSF Bio-Science grant proposal.
- The GE Foundation monthly business leader conference call took place on April 23rd. The featured speaker was Jennifer McNelly, President of The Manufacturing Institute, the non-profit affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). Mr. Randall participated.
- Mr. Randall hosted an event where Congressman Paul Ryan shared his vision of entitlement reform. MEP Executive Partners Dr. Michael Bonds and Mr. Earl Buford, CEO of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), were among the attendees.
- On April 2nd Mr. Randall attended a special briefing, “*Investing in our Kids*,” hosted by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The briefing focused on proposed cuts to funding for public K-12 school districts. Dr. Darienne Driver, MPS Superintendent, was one of a select group of local district superintendent panelists who shared what the proposed cuts would mean in the classrooms and what they believe is needed to move this region forward.