



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Draft EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, December 12, 2012

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 300 (Madison Municipal Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 -

Astra Iheukumere; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Erik J. Kass;  
Arlene Silveira; Maya Cole; Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd and Jenni Dye

**Others Attending:** Interim School Superintendent Dr. Jane Belmore, Mayor Paul Soglin, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Lynn Green (Dane County Human Services), Kaleem Caire, Joe Gothard, Steve Hartley, Mike Hertting, Andrew Statz, Marcia Standiford, Mary O'Donnell

Ald. Matt Phair, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Maya Cole, seconded by Arlene Silveira, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2012 Education Committee meeting. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Ayes:** 7 -

Astra Iheukumere; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Erik J. Kass;  
Arlene Silveira; Maya Cole and Jenni Dye

**Abstentions:** 1 -

Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Registrants:**

Don Severson, Active Citizens for Education and Dane County Council of Public Affairs, Support, Spoke

Kaleem Caire, Urban League of Greater Madison, Neither Support/Oppose, Spoke

Don Severson commended the gathering of the various leaders to discuss their vision to address the achievement gap. He proposed that they get together quarterly, along with the MATC President, to continue the discussion.

Kaleem Caire enumerated three areas that should be focused on: 1. including communities of color in these conversations, 2. convening the 5 best educators in each school to work on achievement gap issues and 3. embrace innovation.

**DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS**

There were not disclosures or recusals from the members of the Education Committee.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/UPDATES****28556**

Conversation with Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi, Madison Mayor, Paul Soglin and Interim MMSD School Superintendent, Jane Bellmore - Vision on organization's role in education in Madison, potential partnerships/areas of collaboration and the role of the Education Committee.

**Attachments:** [Parisi County Partnerships Early Childhood Zone.pdf](#)  
[Mayors Blog Thoughts on Education.pdf](#)  
[TCT Article Madison Dane County gearing up to help city's schools.pdf](#)

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi provided a handout listing Dane County Human Services Partnerships with MMSD and information on the County's pilot program, "Early Childhood Zone", being implemented at Leopold Elementary School (see attachments). Executive Parisi would like to expand and replicate the pilot program if it is successful at Leopold. He stated that the County's role is to stabilize the family in order to stabilize the student (employment, housing, youth programming, etc.).

Mayor Paul Soglin provided a handout with his answers to the chair's questions on education (see attachment). Mayor Soglin believed that the school district and the city were at a critical point to be working on closing the achievement gap. He believed that there were three areas that needed to be addressed: 1. Dealing with trauma and health of children (mental/physical trauma and hunger year-around), 2. Parental participation in the education of the child (developing a "Parent's University") and 3. The presence of the child in school/educational opportunities all year (attendance/truancy). The city, county and the school district have been invited by the Wallace Foundation to attend a conference in February to discuss on how to go about the challenge of coordinating educational, cultural and recreational program to ensure that each child can participate within walking distance of their residence. He also applauded the school district's efforts to develop specific interventions for children newly arriving to the school district and assessing their level of learning immediately to address any gaps.

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Jane Belmore, stated the School District's focus is on student learning and access to literacy. One of the school district's main goals is to ensure effective consistency and cohesiveness in their literacy program. The fundamental shift from starting at where the child is academically to starting them at their grade level and then bringing the student up to that level is a big change for the school district. The Board approved \$1,953,000 for the purchase of elementary literacy materials which will be used by all of the schools (32 schools). For more information on the MMSD School Literacy Program visit webpage: <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/10389>

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff asked how the school district is engaging the community around the curriculum change. Dr. Belmore stated that they are

reaching out to community groups and through their website.

Supv. Carousel Bayrd noted that the County also has influence in the criminal justice partnerships in the schools (e.g. Youth Courts). She asked each of the attendees what they thought they could contribute, and not only with funding.

Mayor Soglin stated that they should not be worried about funding but design the best program and then find the funding. He said that the city needs to know what the plan is, then they (the city) can go work. For example, transportation issues, child care issues, parent support so they understand the issues, complete after-school programming until 5:30 p.m. and throughout the summer.

Dr. Belmore stated that they are developing a Partnership Policy that will help make partnering easier for organizations and the schools.

Executive Parisi stated that there is a lot of common ground between the three entities and the need to develop a needs assessment to see if there may be a program that is already addressing an issue.

Astra Iheukumere was asking what the school district efforts are around closing the achievement gap. Dr. Belmore stated that the school district has seventeen (17) specific strategies to address the achievement gap; student attendance at 94%, learning environment is friendly and that students can engage and learn, every student shows growth (developing assessments and measuring progress) and have all students at high level of achievement. She also noted that it was a 5-year plan.

Maya Cole also noted that the school district is also very much financially invested; the 4K initiative, AVID/TOPS, the Literacy Program and the Positive Behavior Intervention Plan.

Arlene Silveira noted that the committee has struggled with how to review the various programs offered by the three entities and then narrowing it down to the one to three areas they want to focus their efforts (so much information).

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff stated that we shouldn't look at these challenges only through the lens of poverty but need to realize that there are many "lenses" that influence our community and its challenges (e.g. racial, etc.).

Supv. Jenni Dye asked what staff resources they could offer the committee. Mayor Soglin stated that he needed to talk to the newly hired Community Services Director about staffing. He also believed that any decisions or recommendations for a plan from this committee needed to be ultimately approved by the MMSD School Board.

Ald. Matt Phair stated that from his perspective the committee's role was not to tell the school district what they should do inside their walls but rather finding ways to collaborate or supplement what the school district is already working on or doing.

Supv. Carousel Bayrd suggested that the committee identify 1 - 3 initiatives for stakeholders to work on. Supv. Jenni Dye suggested that the committee invite the other stakeholders (not just the public stakeholders) to talk about what

their vision would be to close the achievement gap. Maya Cole agreed that focusing on a few issues would be doable; curriculum, parent involvement and partnerships.

The committee members agreed to email Lisa Veldran with their list of short-term and long-term initiatives they would like to see the MMSD, the City and the County focus on.

**27910**

Dane County Collaborations with MMSD & DRAFT Listing of Assisted Housing by Municipality

**Attachments:** [MMSD - CYF Efforts.pdf](#)  
[DRAFT Countywide Assisted Housing Table.pdf](#)

Lynn Green was present for discussion on this item. She indicated that she had attended a meeting that afternoon with Wood Communication representatives and heard their presentation on their initiative entitled "Planning for Greatness". The group is hoping to place new programming in Madison schools in 2013. They are also holding a retreat in January with numerous stakeholders. She mentioned that one example they were interested in was the WHEELS program in Washington Heights (wheelsnyc.org). She emphasized that they have resources and she would share her information with the Supervisors and they can pass it along to the Education Committee.

A motion was made by Astra Iheukumere, seconded by Supv. Jenni Dye, to table this item. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff left at 6:45 p.m. Arlene Silveira left at 6:55 p.m.

**Present:** 6 -  
Astra Iheukumere; Matthew J. Phair; Erik J. Kass; Maya Cole; Carousel  
Andrea S. Bayrd and Jenni Dye

**Excused:** 1 -  
Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

**Non Voting:** 1 -  
Arlene Silveira

**MEETING DATES/TIMES IN 2013**

Meeting dates were reviewed and approved:  
Education Committee 2013 Meeting Dates/Times  
2nd Wednesdays of the month, 5:00 p.m., Location: LL120, Madison Municipal  
Building

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 13, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 8, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- \* Development of community initiatives list for review and possible implementation: Short-Term Initiatives & Long-Term Initiatives - January 2013
- \* Identify gap between needs and resources in youth programming - Mary O'Donnell (City Community Services) - February 2013
- \* City of Madison Neighborhood Center Study - February 2013
- \* Superintendent Search Update - February 2013

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Astra Iheukumere, seconded by Supv. Carousel Bayrd, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.