



Date: November 30, 2017

To: The members of the City Education Committee

From: Jen Cheatham, Superintendent MMSD and Paul Soglin, Mayor

Re: Focus of work for the City Education Committee

First and foremost, we want to thank everyone for their service on the City Education Committee. This committee provides a wonderful opportunity to collaborate on shared interests that impact the families living in our city and county with a special focus on the children enrolled in our Madison School District.

It is our understanding that the City Education Committee held a meeting in November to discuss the purpose of the group and areas to focus. We would also like to contribute to this conversation. In our opinion the City Education Committee should focus on three areas of collective impact. In all three of these areas, the committee can serve to provide joint accountability for progress and to help address barriers that require cross-organizational problem solving, resource allocation, and policy-making.

- 1) **Madison Out of School Time Initiative (MOST):** The potential for MOST to connect and coordinate out of school time providers across our community and to dramatically improve access and the quality of those experiences for our children and youth is important work.
- 2) **Community Schools:** The school district wants to move forward with using Community Schools as a model to improve student learning by focusing on a community hub concept, incorporating issues that are real for families in neighborhoods and reducing opportunity gaps by bringing resources to the school.
- 3) **Early Childhood and Early Childhood Zones:** We already have two Early Childhood Zones, both supported by City, County and the School District. We believe that support for our families with our youngest children is essential if students are going to enter into school ready for kindergarten. We need to work together to learn from these efforts and improve support for young children (birth to 3 specifically) across the city.

We are asking that you remain focused on these three critical areas of impact and not take on new topics. We also want to encourage you to consider changing your meetings to quarterly meetings in order to allow staff time to collect data and to bring forward to the Committee the most important and actionable information. We also think quarterly meeting may help you address the issues with reaching quorum monthly. If you would like either of us to come in for your next meeting to discuss, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Cheatham".

Jennifer Cheatham, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul R. Soglin".

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor