



## WEEKLY UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 25, 2021

### A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT CARLTON D. JENKINS

Dear Board Members,

This week, which marks the last week of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, has certainly been eventful. On Tuesday, our district continued to implement our phased reopening plan by welcoming our 4K students. Much educational research confirms the benefits of high-quality pre-kindergarten, and we are excited about giving the families of our youngest learners an in-person option. We look forward to continuing to phase in more grades, starting April 13.

Throughout this week, we have continued to refine our phased reopening plan. During Tuesday morning's Advisory Committee meeting, district leaders continued engaging in discussion over emerging research on metrics and mitigation strategies relative to COVID-19. This conversation will help guide our efforts to appropriately phase in additional grade levels and co-curricular activities throughout this spring. Additionally, the work of this committee is being buttressed by our participation in the ABC Collaborative, a partnership which includes Duke University and the University of Wisconsin. As such, our district continues to receive guidance from health experts and scientific research at the highest levels as we work to reopen schools safely.

As our community, state, and nation continue to grapple with the pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice, we must continue to work in collaboration with myriad stakeholders. During this week, district leaders continued meeting with students, parents, MTI, and APP in an effort to elevate disparate voices in our decision making. Although we realize collaboration does not always equal consensus, maintaining open dialogue allows us to align with the principle "confronting the brutal facts" from Collins' seminar work Good to Great as we move forward with our work in ameliorating the disparities which historically have impacted our Black, LatinX, Hmong, low socioeconomic, ELL, LGBTQ, and special education students. Our continued struggle for human decency demands nothing less.

Thanks for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to providing you with more updates on our district's progress when we return from our much-needed spring break.

Sincerely,

*Carlton*

Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph.D.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS

➤ **Ford Motor Company Donates 250,000 Masks to MMSD**  
MMSD was recently selected to receive a donation of 250,000 face masks with an approximate value of \$75K from Ford Motor Company. Masks will be used at schools throughout MMSD to help protect students and families from the spread of COVID-19. Masks are anticipated to be available April 2021 until the supply is exhausted.

➤ **Federal Aviation Administration Aircraft Pilots Workforce Development Grant**  
MMSD recently partnered with Wisconsin Aviation to submit a \$92K grant request to the Federal Aviation Administration for an afterschool aviation class for 40-120 high school students and a summer mentoring opportunity whereby 5 high school students who successfully complete the afterschool class will be hired as mentors for a similar Summer Semester aviation mini-course. Grant funds will support the purchase of necessary equipment of flight simulators and drones, the time of professional instructors, and the time of assistants to support the instructor and students. The program will be managed by Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) and implemented through its after school and Summer Semester Youth Resource Center infrastructure. If funds are awarded, they will be available October 2021 through September 2022.

➤ **AT&T K-12 Homework Gap Program Grant Award Recipient**  
MMSD has been selected to receive free wireless internet access, hotspot devices, and content filtering from AT&T, valued at \$348K, to serve 500 students for one year across several Madison schools with high needs. The award is in the form of goods and services, no cash will come to MMSD. These products and services will be available from spring 2021 through spring 2022. The consent agenda memo will be included in the April Board of Education meeting materials. MMSD is one of only two Wisconsin organizations to receive this grant.

## OTHER INFORMATION

➤ **Assessments Update**  
As you may be aware, all state-mandated testing this year cannot be given virtually, only in-person testing is allowed. The State of Wisconsin has filed a waiver with the Federal Department of Education for the following:

- Removing the 95% participation rate for 2020-21 testing
- Removing the accountability measures for ESSA for 2020-21

There has been no waiver applied for by the state which would remove the need to give state/federal mandated tests. The state expects to hear about waiver acceptance by the end of May.

### High School testing:

ACT+ Writing for Juniors is mandated by the state. On April 13, a pencil/paper version of the test will be given to juniors at all MMSD high schools. Capital High is also offering the computer-based option; we are using this as a trial to learn the technical side of administration. The state may be offering this option in the future.

If students or families choose not to test on April 13, MMSD is working with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to offer a voucher for either the June or July national test dates. MMSD is also looking at providing an ACT in October during the regular school day to any current junior who is unable to test prior to that date.

Aspire (grades 9 & 10) and the Forward Exam (grade 10, social studies only) are being prepared. Work is on track to complete testing prior to the mid-May state test window closure.

Advanced Placement (AP) testing is moving forward. Students must determine which type of exam (in-person or digital, at-home) they will take. Each student will have at least 2 opportunities to test, in case of technical or health issues. In-person testing will use both the Alliant Energy Center and the new Holtzman site.

### District-wide testing:

ACCESS for ELLs (an English proficiency test) is underway. The DPI has extended the window for testing until late May. Testing is being accomplished as students come back to in-person instruction.

Forward Exam (grades 3-8, 10) and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM; an alternate exam for some students with IEPs, grades 3-11) are both in the final stages of preparation. Testing must be completed by mid-May, per state guidelines.

## ➤ **This Week's Recorded Meetings**

Here are the recordings for this week:

3.23.21 Developing & Reviewing Metrics Meeting [Agenda](#) & [Recording](#)

3.25.21 School-Central Adm. Weekly Ops Mtg [Agenda](#) & [Recording](#)

➤ There will be an update on East following spring break.

## ➤ **Good News!**

- [With MMSD's proposed layoff changes up for vote, research shows variety of efforts required to diversify staff](#)
- [Madison School Board approves changes to layoff, reassignment criteria](#)
- [Madison school board approves employee handbook changes](#)
- [Madison School Board OKs layoff rules minimizing seniority, maximizing cultural competency](#)
- [MMSD will consider proposal to rename James Madison Memorial High School](#)
- [Campaign Underway To Rename Madison Memorial High School](#)
- [As Madison classrooms reopen, Asian students more likely to remain virtual](#)

- [Madison West club football team struggles to schedule games as WIAA alternate fall season opens](#)
- [A Look through History: How Madison's landscape yields environmental injustice](#)
- [Foundation for Black Women's Wellness to expand services with \\$1M gift](#)



### Community Events:

All dates for community announcements are posted on the [Board Community Activities Calendar](#)

- The Appleton Musician, Keira Jett, is hosting **Body & Voice: Healing Through Music** today **Thursday, March 25**, beginning at 6 p.m. The event will incorporate music, movement, and singing affirmations followed by a mini-performance by Keira Jett. This online event is free and more info. can be [found here](#).
- Wisconsin School Social Workers Association and Dreamers of Wisconsin are hosting **The Undocumented Experience: The Realities of Citizenship, Policy, and Education in Wisconsin** on **Friday, March 26**, from 9-10:30 a.m. online. The event consists of an informative presentation and discussion regarding the undocumented experience, higher education, and more topics. More info. can be [found here](#).
- The Overture Center is hosting **Overture Forums: The Covid-19 Vaccine and the Black Community** on YouTube Live on Monday, March 29, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. This forum will be hosted by a panel of doctors and public health experts talking about the vaccines and how it relates to the Black community and beyond. This event is free and info. can be [found here](#).
- This year's **Latino Youth Summit**, co-hosted by UW Badger Precollege and Centro Hispano, will be held virtually from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday, **March 29, and Tuesday, March 30** (the Monday and Tuesday of Spring Break). This is an opportunity for Latinx students and families to connect across schools and engage in culturally and linguistically relevant pre-college workshops and experiences. Centro Hispano is reaching out to [point people](#) at each of your schools in the coming days to support recruitment. Check out the [flyer](#), [website](#), and [application form](#) for more info. For further questions, contact FYCE Coordinator Hannah Nerenhausen ([hnerenhausen@](mailto:hnerenhausen@)) or La Follette Escalera Coordinator Yari Hernandez ([yhernandez4@](mailto:yhernandez4@)).

## OUR UPCOMING BOARD CALENDAR



**Week of March 29**      **SPRING BREAK**



Mon., Apr. 5, 9 a.m.      Board Officers  
Virtual

- Mon., Apr. 5, 5 p.m.      Instruction Work Group  
Doyle 103
- Tues., Apr. 6              Spring Election
- Tues., Apr. 6, 4 p.m.      Student Senate  
Virtual
- Tues., Apr. 12, 5 p.m.      Operations Work Group  
Doyle 103
- Wed., Apr. 14, 5:30 p.m.    City Education Committee  
Virtual
- **Week of April 19**          **Board Member Briefings**  
**Virtual**
- Tues., Apr. 20, 4 p.m.      Student Senate  
Virtual
- Mon., Apr. 26, 9 a.m.        Board Officers  
Virtual
- Mon., Apr. 26, 5 p.m.        Special meeting in open session-WORKSHOP  
Doyle 103
- Mon., Apr. 26, 6 p.m.        Regular BOE meeting  
Doyle 103