



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 4, 2010

Tony Evers, PhD
Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Dr. Evers:

I am in receipt of your Notice of Decision to Reduce Administrative Funds and Defer Programmatic Funds under 20 U.S.C. § 6311 through 6339 (Title I). This notice is confusing to me for several reasons. First, in our telephone call earlier today, you indicated that you would be sending a letter informing Milwaukee Public Schools that you, as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, had the authority to withhold funds. However, you stated on two separate occasions during the phone conversation that, in fact, you were *not* making a decision to withhold funds at this time, only that you had the authority to do so in the future. The notice you sent at 12:28 p.m., less than ten minutes after we concluded our telephone conference, clearly indicates that you have made the decision to reduce to zero all administrative funds and defer all programmatic funds the district would otherwise receive. Since the notice and the conversation vary so dramatically, I cannot help but wonder what has occurred here.

Additionally, in the notice, you do not specifically say why you have made the decision, nor do you state what it is that Milwaukee Public Schools should be doing differently to comply with its DIFI plan. As I am sure you can imagine, this news is particularly devastating given the current financial landscape of MPS as well as serving to deflate the enormous effort MPS has been undertaking to comply with the DIFI goals you have laid out for us.

It has been and continues to be the district's position that MPS is complying with the goals set forth by the Department of Public Instruction. This notice is a significant detraction from all of the good work we have been and continue to do to support the needs of the students and families of the Milwaukee Public School District. We have forwarded this notice to our counsel to assist the district with filing for a hearing on this action as listed in your notice; however this letter is not a request for hearing. It is unfortunate that you have decided to take such an extraordinary action given the amount of progress we had been making working with your staff over the past several months.

Sincerely,

William G. Andreopoulos
Superintendent of Schools

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WGA/tms

Copy: President Michael Bonds, Milwaukee Board of School Directors
Lynne Sobczak, Director, Office of Board Governance Grant
Langley, City Attorney