



## **SWSA meeting with Charles Franklin & Alan Borsuk July 29, 2019 Summary**

### **Meeting Objective**

Charles Franklin and Alan Borsuk visited the SWSA membership in June 2019 to discuss challenges facing K-12 education and recent polling data. The purpose of the follow up meeting held on July 29, 2019 was to delve deeper into poll data, have a more in-depth conversation about K-12 issues, and discuss recent advocacy efforts (reference agenda below).

SWSA brought 16 members comprised of school board members, superintendents, and one business manager (see below). These education leaders shared top challenges they are facing and potential questions for future polls.

### **Challenging Issues Facing K-12 Education**

Participants were asked to introduce themselves and answer the following questions:

*What issue or challenge facing your district are you most concerned with?  
What's keeping you up at night?*

Responses included:

- Special education funding/issues & educator pipeline including ensuring quality educators.
- Equitable resources for the most vulnerable populations including Early Language Learners (ELL), Students with Disabilities (SWD), and children in poverty.
- How do we measure the impact of resources on students?
- Facilities and facility planning
- Special Education equity
- Working/talking with legislators to build understanding about special education
- Hiring and retaining staff (substitute teachers as well)
- Succession planning/ replacing leadership as retirements occur
- Quantifying equity for underperforming students
- Partnerships in schools
- Re-segregation of our public schools
- Removing the revenue cap (any expenses) for anything to do with mental health issues, trauma
- Building and maintaining a vision for excellent outcomes for ALL students. Ensuring equity, best education for all.
- \$\$ around declining enrollment, how do you “compete”? How to bring in ‘outside’ kids without losing identity.



- Volume and intensity of issues relating to Mental Health. Slow change in education, it's hard to keep up with changing conditions and needs. Burnout of those working with vulnerable students- the burden is falling on too few folks. Constant churn of staff.
- Funding & Declining Enrollment- We can't tell the story well enough to constituents so they understand it. ... using words like "dire" and "plight". Can't get the message out. Why are other elected officials no longer cheer leaders for local schools?
- Equitable resources from a social/emotional lens; not just achievement
- Quality teachers and teacher capacity in what we are asking them to do. There are vast needs. There are barriers to entry to school but they are also leaving state.
  - We are graduating enough students in teaching, but not keeping them in Wisconsin. Unions, boards, need to change image of profession in the state.
  - Educator effectiveness-- a constraint for district-- how to support and improve, not just evaluate. Is this the right model?
  - Losing money in Brown Deer despite diversity, income, mental health. Lack of funding for these situations. Special grants rather than base funding.
  - Strength based pathways for all students--- trades, skills, higher ed.
- Closing the achievement gap for ALL kids.
- Mental Health/trauma- dealing with students, teachers, and parents.
  - Success takes a long time to demonstrate; no magic elixir, but there is partisan and ideological framing that is dominate.
  - Less than 30% residents have a K-12 student at home
- Quality educators- how do we raise public esteem for educators? We need to change the narrative.

## Marquette Poll Data

Charles took the team through a deeper evaluation of the Marquette poll data. All of the poll data can be found on the Marquette website. There are press releases, results and data with cross tab breakouts and other information. The Marquette Poll information can be found at: <https://law.marquette.edu/poll/>

## Next Steps

SWSA provided some thoughts and ideas on potential questions to include in future polls. We appreciate the open conversation with Alan and Charles and will continue the conversation!

A special thank you the SWSA members who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with Alan and Charles!



| <b>Monday July 29, 2019<br/>SWSA Attendees</b> | <b>Title &amp; School District</b>   |
|--|--|
| Terri Phillips                                 | SWSA Executive Director  |
| Corey Golla                                    | Superintendent, Menomonee Falls  |
| Gary Kiltz                                     | Superintendent, Greendale  |
| Jonathan Mitchell                              | Finance Manager, Greendale   |
| Blake Peuse                                    | Superintendent, St. Francis  |
| Jane Barbian                                   | School Board Member, Racine  |
| Mike Frontier                                  | School Board Member, Racine  |
| Lisa Elliott                                   | Superintendent, Greenfield   |
| Deb Kerr                                       | Superintendent, Brown Deer   |
| Monica Kelsey-Brown                            | Dir. of Teaching and Learning (Asst. Sup.) Brown Deer                              |
| Dorothea Macon                                 | School Board Member, Brown Deer  |
| Jeff Bersch                                    | School Board Member, Brown Deer  |
| Jim Heiden                                     | Superintendent, Cudahy   |
| Diane Voit                                     | School Board Member, Waukesha  |
| Linda Witkowski                                | School Board Member, Franklin  |
| Chris Thiel                                    | Governmental Relations; Legislative Policy Specialist,<br>Milwaukee Public Schools |



**SWSA Meeting with Alan Borsuk/Charles Franklin**  
**July 29, 2019**  
**Marquette Law School**  
**1215 W. Michigan St., Milwaukee, WI 53201**  
**Park in the underground parking, bring ticket to main desk upon arrival.**  
**1:00-3:00**

1. **Welcome & Context Setting** (5 min) **Terri Phillips**
  
2. **Brief 30-second Introductions** (25 min)
  - a. Name, role, and answer this question: *What issue or challenge facing your district are you most concerned with? What rises to the top?*
  
3. **Digging deeper into poll data & Discussion** (30 min) **Charles Franklin**
  - a. Are there issues that might be included in future poll data?
  
4. **Open Dialogue** (45 min) **Charles Franklin, Alan Borsuk and SWSA team**
  - a. Questions from both SWSA members and Charles and Alan
  
5. **Final Reflection & Close** (15 min) **Terri Phillips**

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