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President Felzkowski Responds to First Results of MPS Audit

Madison, WI- Senate President Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) issued the following statement after an audit of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) operations was released and exposed concerning findings:

“I find it incredibly problematic that the audit revealed years of incompetence among MPS leadership and administration,” said President Felzkowski. “It is shameful that this was going on behind the scenes while a massive, clearly dishonest referendum was forced through and now siphons money from every single school district in the state.”

MPS’ failed governance and subsequent actions are of statewide concern. Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction and MPS withheld information about MPS incompetence, including failure to comply with state reporting requirements, to facilitate narrowly pushing through a perpetual \$252 million referendum in 2024. This referendum has a negative impact on state aid for every school district in Wisconsin through the constitutionally required equalization aid formula. In the 12th Senate District, for example, the Tomahawk School District will see a 17.4% drop in equalization aid as a direct result of MPS’ actions.

“The massive increase in MPS spending means that school districts across Wisconsin lose funding and local property taxes will go up,” said President Felzkowski. “As educational achievement in Milwaukee continues to fall, and we now find out what has been happening behind the scenes, the Legislature will be taking a hard look at reform.”

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