
Common Council President

15th District Alderman



Willie L. Hines, Jr.
City of Milwaukee Common Council

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President Hines in Madison to Hear from U.S. President Obama, Sec. Duncan on Meaningful Education Reform

This morning, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. is in Madison to hear from United States President Barack Obama, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Governor Jim Doyle, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and others in regard to meaningful education reform in Wisconsin.

“I have the utmost respect for President Obama and Secretary Duncan,” says Hines. “I am honored by the opportunity to be present at James C. Wright Middle School and to hear firsthand about President Obama’s vision for high-achieving and community-engaged public school systems in urban areas.”

The issue of potentially changing the governance structure at Milwaukee Public Schools is obviously on the minds of many, added Hines. “People still have questions about how mayoral governance can benefit MPS teachers, administrators, and – most importantly – students, which is understandable,” he says. “But the fact that President Obama and Secretary Duncan are in Wisconsin today shows a great deal of support for the initiative that Governor Doyle, State Senator Taylor, State Representative Fields and others have put forth. I personally do not see a potential change in governance as a final step in reforming MPS; I see it as a first step.”

In an interview with the Associated Press earlier this week, Secretary Duncan echoed that sentiment. “Mayoral control is not for everyone,” he said, “but in big cities that have historically struggled with chronic underachievement, rallying the entire city behind the effort is important.” Secretary Duncan added, “A place like Milwaukee has flatlined. It’s not making the progress it needs to make.”