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FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 4, 2011

Alds. Kovac/Coggs/Hamilton
(414) 286-2221

Public Forum Tonight on State Budget and its Ramifications for MPS and the Future of Education in Milwaukee

Forum at Riverside University High School will include Supt. Thornton, and will be hosted by Alds. Nik Kovac, Milele A. Coggs, and Ashanti Hamilton

A **public forum** this evening will focus on the proposed 2011-2013 state budget and what it could mean for the future of the Milwaukee Public Schools and K-12 education in the City of Milwaukee. The public and the news media are invited to attend Monday's meeting and to participate in the discussion.

The forum, hosted by **Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs and Alderman Ashanti Hamilton** will start at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at **Riverside University High School**, 1615 E. Locust St. **MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton** and state **Rep. Jon Richards** (and others) are also scheduled to participate.

Alderman Kovac, an MPS product and a Riverside graduate (like his two co-hosts), said the state budget as it now stands would bring far-reaching impacts to MPS and the city. "This proposed state budget prioritizes freeways over local roads, landfills over recycling, and corporate tax breaks over workers' rights. But even worse than those three upside-down priorities is the millions of dollars Governor Walker wants to take out of our schools and put into our prisons," he said.

"The fundamental question before our state legislators now is not how much money to spend – it is where to spend it. Milwaukee will be a better city, and Wisconsin will be a stronger state, if we invest in education instead of incarceration," Alderman Kovac said.

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Public Forum/ADD ONE

Alderswoman Coggs said the state budget as proposed could have “severe consequences” for the city’s school-aged children. “Our city’s future is intertwined with MPS, and how well the district serves our children,” she said. “It is critically important that we have a voice in how decisions are made in Madison regarding this budget that may impact MPS in some dramatic ways.”

MPS’ initial calculations show an immediate loss to the district of \$74 million for next school year if the budget is approved in its current form.

Alderman Hamilton said the state budget bill “is truly a reflection of Governor Walker’s priorities.” “But unlike some of the Governor’s other proposals, this one is very specifically about our children’s future, and it is not an issue that we can just agree to disagree on,” he said.

“Our future is something we should all be fervently concerned about, and I urge residents to come out tonight and learn more about what the state budget could mean for our schools,” Alderman Hamilton said.

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