

EXCLUSIVE: Top MPS Official Abruptly Leaves District As Her Son Gets Probation For Stealing \$60,000 Worth Of Computer Equipment From MPS, Northwestern Mutual
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Rosana Mateo, the deputy superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools has abruptly left active employment with the district only days after her son was sentenced for stealing tens of thousands of dollars of computer equipment, some of it from MPS.

Mateo, a longtime top administrator at MPS is the former principal of Hamilton High School. Three Hamilton officials were suspended in April, including then-Principal Rose Martin, after allegations of financial impropriety there but have been reinstated and no charges were brought. In the meantime, Mateo's son, Joshua Benishek, pleaded guilty to stealing about \$60,000 worth of computer equipment from MPS and Northwestern Mutual, both former employers. Benishek is an Information Technology specialist. The criminal complaint indicates Northwestern notified authorities of the theft from them which led to the discovery of the MPS theft. Judge Lindsey Grady sentenced Benishek to eight years in prison and supervision but stayed all of it and put Benishek on probation. He will have to spend nine months at the House of Correction.

It is not immediately clear why Mateo is not at MPS. Officials are saying she is "on leave" but that leave occurred out of the blue and began a few days ago. MPS sources tell me there has been a long investigation into activities at Hamilton including misappropriation of funds but that virtually all of the employees suspended from there have been reinstated without criminal charges. Their reinstatement occurs as Mateo is suddenly taking a "leave" and right after her son admitted to felonies including one involving his own employment at MPS.

Mateo, 61, is an MPS lifer who has moved up and down through the tenures of several MPS superintendents. She is one of the best known educators in the city. So far, MPS Superintendent Keith Posley has not responded to my questions.

THIS STORY WILL BE UPDATED AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANTED.

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