

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.

Madison, Wisconsin

February 1, 2016

FINAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON 2016 RESOLUTIONS

WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee

Stu Olson, Shell Lake School Board, Chair

Resolutions Adopted (Approved) By Delegates:

Resolution 16-01: Revenue Limit Flexibility and Time to Adjust to State Law Changes

Create: When changes are made in state law that significantly modify school operations or require changes in board policies, the WASB supports allowing school districts to increase their revenue limit by an amount needed to implement such law changes. The WASB also urges state lawmakers to provide for delayed effective dates or delayed implementation dates for those statutory changes.

Resolution 16-02: Referendum Approval to Transfer Public Schools to Private School

Operators

Create: The WASB supports legislation to require that a school district's voters must give their approval at a referendum vote before the operation, management and/or control of any district school may be transferred to any entity other than by the locally elected school board of the district.

Resolution 16-03: Private Schools' Eligibility to Participate in the Statewide Voucher Program

Create 2.70 (j): Private schools may only be eligible to participate in the statewide voucher program if they have been in existence for five years.

Resolution 16-04: Maintenance of Effort

Create: The WASB supports a change in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to allow a local school district to reduce spending attributable to maintenance of effort (MOE) without penalty when it reduces its spending on employment-related benefits provided to school personnel, including but not limited to pay, retirement contributions, annual and sick leave, and health and life insurance, so long as the district maintains the same level of services to students with disabilities.

Resolution 16-05: Creation of a Statutory Mechanism to Allow Districts to Set Aside Funds in Trust for the Purchase of Long-Term Fixed Assets

Create: The WASB supports creating a statutory mechanism to allow school districts to place into a trust for future use a portion of their general funds that would be counted as shared costs for state aid purposes in the year the funds are placed in trust. Such a trust would be used for the purchase of long-term fixed assets, including but not limited to, school busses, vans, snowplows, phone systems, or other technology items with a useful life of more than one year when purchased in bulk, and such trust funds must be spent pursuant to a long-range plan adopted by the school board of the district.

Resolution 16-06: Increase Special Education Categorical Aid Reimbursement to 33 Percent Amend existing Resolution 2.31 as follows:

The WASB supports increasing the special education categorical aid reimbursement level to not less than 33 percent of prior year eligible costs and maintaining funding at not less than this percentage each year thereafter. The WASB further supports the following provisions related to funding for children with disabilities:

Resolution 16-07: Restore Two-Thirds State Funding and Increase Primary Guarantee Value per Member

Create: The WASB supports increasing the primary guaranteed value per member in the general aid funding formula to \$3 million each year and restoring a statutory commitment to fund two thirds of school costs each year.

Resolution 16-08: Sparsity Aid

Create: The WASB supports legislation creating a separate allotment, regardless of membership, within the sparsity aid program for districts with fewer than five members per square mile with per pupil aid amounts to be paid on a sliding scale such that lower enrollment districts would receive greater amounts per pupil than higher enrollment districts.

Resolution 16-09: Sliding Scale Funding Formula Adjustment

Create: The WASB supports legislation to implement a sliding scale formula factor multiplier to increase the membership of districts for revenue limit purposes.

Resolution 16-10: Student Assessments

Create: The WASB supports statewide implementation of a uniform, reliable statewide assessment that would not be modified for a period of years sufficient to effectively evaluate the performance of all publicly-funded students in the state, regardless of whether those students attend a public school, charter school or private voucher school.

Resolution 16-11: State-Mandated Graduation Requirements

Create: The WASB supports local school board control for determining high school graduation standards and the assessments that will be used to issue a high school diploma. If the state requires assessments for graduation, those assessments should be fully funded by the state.

Resolution 16-12: Use of Electronic Communication to Notify Parent of Child's Truancy

Create: The WASB supports legislation to allow school attendance officials to notify a parent or guardian of their child's truancy that does not qualify as habitual truancy using modern electronic communication mediums, including but not limited to email or text messages in lieu of existing notification requirements.

Resolution 16-13: Elimination/Reduction of Newspaper Notice/Publishing Requirements

Create: The WASB supports legislation allowing school districts to publish statutorily-required notices electronically on the school district website and other social media maintained by the school district in lieu of publishing these notices in newspapers.

Resolution 16-14: Mental Health Supports

Create: The WASB supports the provision of state funding adequate to: address the shortage of mental health professionals in our state qualified to address the needs of school age children and young adults; provide adequate professional mental health supports in our schools and our communities; and permit schools to enter into effective partnerships with agencies that are involved with mental health to provide for school-based mental health programs, that could provide services, including but not limited to, the following:

- Comprehensive student screening in every school;
- Professional development for classroom teachers on recognition and appropriate classroom response to support affected students;
- Professional mental health counselors and or services;
- Professional education and training to expand availability of mental health professionals; and
- Public information programs related to mental health.

Resolution 16-15: Transfer of Territory from One District to Another

Create: The WASB supports the following changes to statutes relating to and governing transfers of territory from one school district to another:

- Reduce the current threshold for a transfer of parcels to be considered a transfer of a large territory from seven percent to one percent so that any petitions that exceed a property value or student count of one percent of the donor district would require approval by public binding referendum held in both affected districts, assuming that one or both of the affected school boards deny the petition;

- Require that all the property values and student counts presented via petition(s) to transfer a small territory in a given annual petition period be aggregated, and that if the aggregated property values or student counts in those petitions exceed the threshold for a transfer of parcels to be considered a transfer of a large territory, treat them as a transfer of a large territory;
- Clarify the standards to be used to determine the asset transfer calculation in both the large and small parcel detachment-reattachment process.

Resolutions NOT Approved

Resolution 16-16: Prevailing Wage

Create: The WASB supports legislation to allow a school board to reinstate the state prevailing wage law through local board policy.