



Help Guide the WASB

Submit a resolution to the Policy & Resolutions Committee by Sept. 15

With no progress to report on the 2017-19 state budget at the time of this writing, we take this opportunity to remind readers that the WASB is a member-driven organization and that our members play a key role in determining the positions the WASB takes in its legislative advocacy. We will report on state budget developments as they happen through the Legislative Update Blog, through our weekly Legislative Newsletter, the eConnection newsletter and this monthly column. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact us directly at drossmiller@wasb.org or ckulow@wasb.org.

In the course of our lobbying, we're often asked: How does the Wisconsin Association of School Boards take positions on issues? Our legislative advocacy is directed through our Delegate Assembly. In January, during the State Education Convention in Milwaukee, a representative of each school board in the state meets to vote on resolutions. Resolutions adopted by the Delegate Assembly guide us, the WASB government relations team, as we advocate on behalf of public education.

We often refer to our resolutions when speaking with the offices of state and federal legislators. The resolutions inform and guide us as we develop legislation for introduction by lawmakers and when we respond to legislation already proposed or introduced. Those resolutions carry a lot of weight as legislators know that the resolutions have been adopted by locally elected school board members from across

the state, likely including board members in their own legislative districts.

Where do these resolutions come from? For the most part, resolutions begin at the local board level and reflect the concerns of individual boards. In addition, the WASB Board of Directors and the Policy and Resolutions Committee can propose resolutions.

We hope your board will consider drafting one or more resolutions to create a policy or amend or eliminate an existing policy. Your board can submit a resolution addressing virtually any topic of concern that is relevant to public education. When you do, please include a clear, concise rationale to explain the intent of your resolution. State what you think the WASB's position on the issue should be and why. We welcome your ideas and input. Resolutions are due Sept. 15.

There is an online submission form available on our website to help you submit the necessary infor-

mation with your resolution. It is available at wasb.org. Click on "Services & Resources" and then "Advocacy & Government Relations" and finally "Delegate Assembly."

The WASB Policy and Resolutions Committee reviews the resolutions and determines which will be advanced to the Delegate Assembly floor. The committee consists of two school board members from each of our 15 regions appointed by the regional directors as well as the four members of the WASB's Executive Committee. The Policy and Resolutions Committee meets twice in the fall.

The committee has two basic charges: 1) examine the proposed resolutions to make sure they don't duplicate existing resolutions, and 2) advance resolutions that are timely, of statewide importance, and worthy of debate by the Delegate Assembly.

If a resolution is turned down by the committee, it is still afforded an

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opportunity to be brought to the Delegate Assembly floor.

The government relations team staffs the Policy and Resolutions Committee. Each year, we witness school board members coming to the process from different places and with different perspectives yet with open minds, willing to listen to arguments made by fellow committee members. Those principled discussions are driven by how to best serve the more than 800,000 students educated every day in Wisconsin's public schools.

Listening to school board members debate the resolutions at the Delegate Assembly also assists us in developing arguments in support of the WASB positions when we are testifying in legislative committees or meeting with legislators.

Here's a sampling of resolutions that were approved by the last Delegate Assembly in January:

- The WASB supports legislation to allow all school districts to begin their school term before Sept. 1.
- The WASB supports legislation to annually increase per-pupil revenue limits statewide by a dollar amount equal to or greater than the percentage increase, if any, in the consumer price index (CPI-U) on a fiscal year basis applied to the statewide average revenue limit authority per pupil.
- The WASB opposes the creation in Wisconsin of a recovery school district or a similar state-created authority designed to take over public schools or school buildings.

The 2017 WASB Resolutions Adopted by Delegate Assemblies book is posted on our website. Its contents and index have been updated to include actions by the

January 2017 Delegate Assembly. Printed hard copies of the book were mailed to each school board president, school district administrator and CESA administrator in early July.

The Delegate Assembly is true representative democracy in action, in keeping with our goal to have resolutions that are member driven, not staff driven. We hope your board reviews the book to see if there are issues not addressed or that your board feels differently about. If so, bring them forward so we can discuss and debate them. That debate and discussion is what keeps the resolution process member-driven and gives every board an opportunity to put its imprint on the WASB's legislative and policy agenda. Please consider being a part of that critical process by submitting a resolution. ■



Follow the Legislative Update

Updated frequently, this webpage includes:

- Timely and informative updates on state and federal legislation.
- Sample materials (talking points, letters, board resolutions, etc.) for use in advocacy.
- State bill tracking chart and other WASB Resources.

A one-stop shop for everything you need to be an informed board member and advocate for your students!

wasblegupdate.wasb.org