



Sparta Area School District

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608 366-3400
www.spartan.org

Good people, great schools.

Board of Education

James Rasmussen, President
Joan Cook, Clerk
Julie Leis, Treasurer
Lee Culpitt, Vice President
Karen Wall, Director
Mary Treu, Director
Nancy Sikorsky, Director

WHEREAS, the Sparta School Board, administrators, educators, staff, parents, and community member of Sparta are united in our efforts to provide all children with the highest quality educational opportunities possible; and

WHEREAS, the Sparta Area School District (SASD) supports local control and the ability of the elected School Board to make decisions to support the learning of our students; and

WHEREAS, private school voucher advocates have consistently pushed for expanding the use of taxpayer-funded vouchers to pay tuition for students in private schools in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and members of the Wisconsin Legislature have proposed expanding voucher programs into many more communities and have proposed increasing state payments to voucher schools; and

WHEREAS, a recent memo from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau demonstrated that payments to voucher schools under the Governor's proposed budget would range from \$7,757 to \$8,403 per student by 2018. Including all of Governor Walker's proposed increases, in some cases public schools might receive as much as \$1,700 less per student at \$6,703; and

WHEREAS, the same memo also shows that tax dollars for voucher operation are increasing 12 times faster than total public school aids and that the voucher payments would more than double over eight years. At the same time, net general aids that support public schools and reduce property taxes would fall by 1.3%; and

WHEREAS, the voucher amount is \$7,530 for pupils in grades K-8 and \$8,176 for pupils in grades 9-12; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 267 and Senate Bill 183, the "Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill," authored by state Rep. Dana Wachs (D-Eau Claire) would require property tax bills to include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any net reduction in state aid, if any, to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide voucher program, the Racine voucher program, or the Milwaukee voucher program; and

WHEREAS, the increase the statewide property taxes due to school boards levying to offset lost aid due to the vouch system was over \$25 million in 2016-2017. The statewide property tax impact is estimated to grow to \$37 million in 2017-2018 and to \$47 million in 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, the SASD will be required to levy an amount to be determined in 2018-19 to be allocated to the statewide voucher program, and local taxpayers are not provided with information about their tax dollars being spent on private and voucher schools. When private school voucher programs expand in

our community, SASD loses state aid (to the voucher schools) and our School Board must raise additional property taxes to replace the aid lost to the voucher schools or lose that funding permanently under the state-imposed revenue limits; and

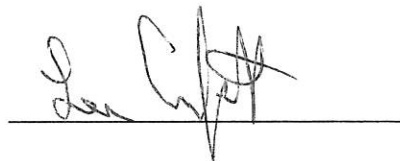
WHEREAS, just as property tax bills show how much money goes to public schools and technical colleges, taxpayers deserve to know the cost of expanding the voucher program; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sparta School Board call of Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to support the Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill and an effort to be open, honest, and transparent with the taxpayers in the Sparta Area and Wisconsin.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board for the Sparta Area School District, have executed this resolution on this 27th day of February, 2018.



James Rasmussen, President



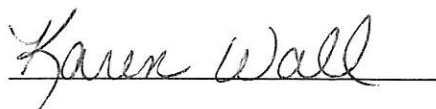
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