

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.

Madison, Wisconsin

January 22, 2021

**REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
BY THE 2021 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

Bill Yingst, Sr., Durand-Arkansas School Board, Chair

Resolutions Adopted (Approved) By Delegates:

Resolution 2021-01: *One-Cent Sales Tax for School Infrastructure, Technology and Tax Relief*

Create: The WASB supports the implementation of a new statewide one-cent (one percent) sales tax to help public school districts build, maintain, and upgrade facilities, upgrade district technology infrastructure, software, and teacher training related to technology and help lower property taxes for Wisconsin taxpayers. District electors would need to approve a one-time revenue purpose statement before these sales tax funds could be expended and funding from the sales tax could not be spent on supplies, hiring additional staff or employee salaries and benefits.

This one-cent sales tax is intended to provide equitable, designated funding for all public schools and all students, distributed on a per-student basis, as a new, ongoing revenue stream for the stated purposes and should not be used by the legislature to replace existing state revenues or for other purposes. This tax should remain in place for a long enough period of time to enable schools to borrow (issue bonds) against this revenue stream.

To ensure the new funding available through a new school fund category would be protected from future government redirection leading to a district's likely insolvency, the WASB requests the requirement of a super majority of both the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate to overturn this legislation.

Resolution 2021-02: *Broadband Access*

Create: The WASB supports legislation to expand affordable, reliable, quality broadband access for all Wisconsin communities, including funding for school districts to ensure broadband access and devices for students and staff in their schools, school districts, and communities.

The WASB also supports expanding federal funding for school technology provided through the E-Rate program as well as loosening restrictions on the use of E-Rate funding that limit permissible expenditures of such funds to items on or pertaining to school premises.

Resolution 2021-03: *Enrollment Hold Harmless*

Create: The WASB supports legislation to create a hold harmless exemption in district membership calculations used for revenue limits and per pupil categorical aid to mitigate the effects of enrollment fluctuations caused by extraordinary public health emergencies or other disasters or emergencies that disrupt large portions of the state. This statutory exemption would be authorized by the DPI upon consultation with state and local leaders.

Resolution 21-04: *Instruction on Indigenous Tribes*

Create: The WASB calls upon the DPI to provide sufficient curricular resources and professional development opportunities for teachers to assist all school districts in fulfilling the requirements of 1989 Wisconsin Act 31, including initiatives that promote increased student academic competency regarding 1989 Wisconsin Act 31.

Resolution 21-05: *Special Education Flexibility to Address Emergencies*

Create: The WASB supports legislation that would grant state and federal flexibility for districts in providing educational services, particularly special education services, to students during school years disrupted by extraordinary public health emergencies or other emergencies that affect large portions of the state or the nation. The primary goal of this flexibility should be to enable schools to bring students to the level of achievement they would have been at had the extraordinary emergency not occurred.

The WASB also supports efforts to relax certain federal financial requirements imposed on school districts such as maintenance of effort requirements and proportionate share requirements that are difficult or impossible to meet during periods when special education services are disrupted by extraordinary public health emergencies or other emergencies that affect large portions of the state or the nation.

Resolution 21-06: *Assessment and Report Card Waivers*

Create: The WASB supports that public school districts should continue to assess student growth and performance using assessments and measures approved locally. However, the WASB also supports legislation specifying that in any school year during which a public health emergency (pandemic) or other disaster or emergency occurs that affects large portions of the state, state law requiring assessments to be administered annually to pupils attending school in a public school district, independent charter school, private choice school, or special needs scholarship program school would not apply and the DPI would be prohibited from publishing school and school district accountability reports in the following school year.

Resolution 2021-07: *Rehiring Retired Teachers and Staff*

Repeal and Recreate Existing Resolution 4.37 as follows: The WASB supports legislation to remove any impediments to rehiring retired teachers and staff. Policies and standards for rehiring retired staff should be set by each local school board.

Resolution 2021-08: *Superintendent Evaluations*

Create: The WASB supports confidential Superintendent evaluations to allow school districts to continue to improve by providing a confidential framework for the leader of the district to improve, therefore allowing or helping the district to improve. Disciplinary records are separate and distinct from evaluations and would not be considered confidential under this resolution.

Resolution 2021-09: *Comprehensive School Safety Legislation*

Repeal and recreate existing resolution 6.115 to read as follows: The WASB supports comprehensive school safety legislation, including new, permanent, and consistent funding that allows districts to enhance safety and security by supporting one-time and ongoing costs which may include, but are not limited to:

- i. Security improvements to infrastructure;
- ii. Hiring School Resource Officers (SROs);
- iii. Coordinating with community agencies;
- iv. Training for staff and students about threats to safety, restorative practices, de-escalation techniques and anti-bullying;
- v. Mental health services; and
- vi. Equipping school crisis teams to react to threats.

Resolution 2021-10: *School District Mascots, Logos and Imagery*

Create: The WASB encourages school boards and districts to identify imagery, practices or processes that may create a school environment that is not safe and welcoming to all students, regardless of their race, ancestry or ethnicity, and to initiate discussions at the district level that would lead to the retirement of mascots, logos, imagery, practices or processes that may create a hostile, divisive or unwelcoming school environment.

No Resolutions were turned down.