

**APPENDIX LLL-3-21**
September 21, 2009

Date: September 17, 2009
To: Board of Education
From: Daniel A. Nerad, Superintendent of Schools
cc:
Subject: **WASB Resolutions**

Board Members:

Per direction received in committee, the attached proposals for the 2010 Wisconsin Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly were drafted and submitted to WASB on September 15th. The remaining steps necessary for the proposals to be assured of consideration in the Delegate Assembly process are for the Board to take formal action to approve the resolutions in their current form and to authorize the Board President to submit signed copies to WASB on behalf of the Board.

There are four proposed resolutions attached, rather than the five resolutions identified in the committee meeting held last week. This is because it was determined that one of the five resolutions (dealing with state/local cooperative purchasing) was adequately addressed by a resolution that was passed by the WASB Delegate Assembly in January 2009.

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Proposal for the 2010 WASB Delegate Assembly

APPENDIX LLL-3-21
September 21, 2009

Subject: Localized Purchasing in School Nutrition Programs

Submitted by: The Madison Metropolitan School District

Resolution:

WHEREAS School Boards recognize the connection between a healthy diet and a student's ability to learn effectively and experience success in school; and

WHEREAS School Boards recognize the school district's role, as part of the larger community, to establish and maintain life-long healthy eating habits, to support the local economy, and to act as a good steward of community resources;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that School Boards in Wisconsin shall actively promote the purchase of local products and produce from local farms in their respective county or region, based upon availability, and be it further RESOLVED that school districts should work together with CESAs and county organizations to coordinate a list of producers to increase the amount of products purchased from local farms and organic food suppliers.

Rationale:

Recent changes enacted as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 address procurements in Child Nutrition Programs, amending the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to encourage institutions to purchase unprocessed locally-grown and locally-raised agricultural products. Specifically, "The Secretary shall ... allow institutions receiving funds ... to use a geographic preference for the procurement of unprocessed agricultural products, both locally grown and locally raised." (P.L. 110-246, Sec. 4302).

Effective October 1, 2008, the National School Lunch Act allows institutions (including school districts) to apply a geographic preference when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products. Appropriate geographic preferences would include, State, county, region, etc.

Moreover, as Woodbury (IA) County Rural Economic Development Director Robert Marqusee stated for the July 2007 National Association of Counties publication on Local Food Systems and sustainable communities, "Most people think we have to look outside of [our county] to reinvigorate our economy ... We simply have to be willing to support local farmers and help them develop products that are lucrative in today's markets rather than putting them out of business just to save a few dollars in the short term." [http://www.farmtoschool.org/files/publications_133.pdf]

[See http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2008/SP_30-2008.pdf]

Approved by motion of the School Board of the Madison Metropolitan School District on September 21, 2009.

Arlene Silveira, School Board President

Proposal for the 2010 WASB Delegate Assembly

Subject: Introduction of Legislation to Reform Public School Finance

Submitted by: The Madison Metropolitan School District

Resolution:

WHEREAS it is imperative that state and local leaders further the public policy analysis and discussion that will lead to reform of the mechanisms used to fund public schools in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS the introduction of legislation is a starting point that can trigger the next phase of necessary public policy analysis and discussion regarding critical questions such as what it costs to educate children in our state in light of existing state and federal standards and mandates, related moral imperatives to ensure an educated citizenry, and the costs to our state when we fail to educate children well; and

WHEREAS the school funding plan proposed by the School Finance Network is an existing plan that has the support of a diverse range of interested organizations and that can reasonably serve as the initial basis for draft legislation addressing school finance reform;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that Wisconsin Association of School Boards supports the introduction of draft legislation at the State level during 2010 that addresses reform of the mechanisms used to fund public schools in Wisconsin, with said draft legislation to be based on the plan developed by the School Finance Network and with said legislation to serve as the catalyst for the next phase of necessary public policy analysis and discussion.

Rationale:

Wisconsin's public school districts continue to face serious challenges and problems under the current funding formula.

While resources are currently constrained in our State, there is an immediate need for this next phase of public policy debate to take place. Supporting the translation of the School Finance Network plan into draft legislation could serve as the necessary catalyst to move closer toward actual reform that recognizes and addresses the fundamental flaws in the current funding system. The goal of this proposed resolution is not to advocate for the School Finance Network plan as the ideal or only solution, but rather to keep the reform process moving toward action. We would expect modifications to any initial draft of ideas for school finance reform.

Approved by motion of the School Board of the Madison Metropolitan School District on September 21, 2009.

Arlene Silveira, School Board President

Proposal for the 2010 WASB Delegate Assembly

Subject: Balanced Taxation: Amendment to School Finance Policy 2.05

Submitted by: The Madison Metropolitan School District

Resolution:

Be it RESOLVED that the Delegate Assembly of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards hereby amends current School Finance Policy 2.05 (Balanced Tax System) with the following language as School Finance Policy 2.05(a):

The WASB endorses an additional state sales tax, the funds derived therefrom to be exclusively dedicated to general and categorical aids to Wisconsin public school districts to assist in the development of a well-balanced tax system that lowers Wisconsin's heavy reliance on the income and property taxes and to reach the promised two-thirds funding.

Rationale:

1. The State of Wisconsin is increasingly unable to support the promised aide to our school districts, shifting the major burden to local property taxpayers, and this is no longer viable.
2. School districts are turning to referenda to allow them to raise the needed funds, and more of these referenda are failing every year.
3. While it's factual that the state's economy - and the world's economies - are not healthy, cutting funding for our schools is counterproductive as a response. If anyone thinks that we will overcome the current problems with a less-than-well-educated work force, they are mistaken.
4. Wisconsin's current means of collecting revenue to fund state aid to education are insufficient and unsustainable. The recent use of federal state stabilization dollars to address this is temporary and new sources must be found.
5. Wisconsin needs to find new revenue sources, and the state's State Sales Tax, at 5%, is lower than surrounding states and in the mid-level of state sales taxes nationally. Raising it to 6% would not be unrealistic. Reform of sales tax exemptions would also be a very good idea.
6. Concerns about the regressivity of sales taxes can be addressed via targeted income or property tax credits.
7. This addition to current School Finance Policy 2.05 does not represent a change in policy for WASB, but an increased specificity for a longstanding position. However, the proposed amendment would need to be assessed against the preference expressed in current WASB School Finance Policy 2.04 for general tax revenues to be used for school finance as opposed to segregated tax sources.

Approved by motion of the School Board of the Madison Metropolitan School District on September 21, 2009.

Arlene Silveira, School Board President

Proposal for the 2010 WASB Delegate Assembly

Subject: Tax Credit Incentives for School Volunteers

Submitted by: The Madison Metropolitan School District

Resolution:

Be it RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards supports legislation implementing property tax credits, earned income tax credits, or other similar tax benefits to people who volunteer time in public schools.

Rationale:

1. Strengthening connections between a community and its schools has proven to be a good investment all around.
2. National efforts are working on increasing volunteerism in our communities.
3. Studies consistently show that the volunteer benefits from increased activity in the school.
4. An increase in volunteers in the schools lowers the staff to student ratio which can result in higher student performance.
5. The tax burden on retired persons and low-income families continues to be a burden – this would be one way to provide tax relief for low-income and retired citizens.
6. It is recognized that any such programs at the state level would need to be coordinated with potentially applicable federal requirements concerning minimum wage, recognition of income, and any applicable tax withholding. However, exempting such credits (or compensation structured as credits) from state income tax and similar measures may be possible.

Approved by motion of the School Board of the Madison Metropolitan School District on September 21, 2009.

Arlene Silveira, School Board President