



**School District of Delavan-Darien – Delavan, Wisconsin
Board of Education Resolution
March 9, 2015**

WHEREAS, Governor Walker has proposed a **\$150 decrease** in per pupil aid in public school funding for 2015-16 with no cost of living increase;

WHEREAS, this decrease results in \$408,750 in cuts to the School District of Delavan-Darien;

WHEREAS, consistent per pupil aid is the most useful aid to schools, since it does not depend on the revenue cap or the local tax levy;

WHEREAS, the Delavan-Darien School District has made great progress in closing the achievement gap in one of the most diverse districts in the state and utilized the Governor's tools to reduce property taxes for the citizens of Delavan-Darien with employees contributing more to health insurance premiums and deductibles;

WHEREAS, we invest our funds in quality education for our students which in turn produces a much better educated workforce;

WHEREAS, schools took the brunt of the cuts to the state budget in tough recession times;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin schools have permanently eliminated certain costs pertaining to retirement payments and have systematically explored and implemented numerous other options for running on a leaner basis;

WHEREAS, the \$150 decrease with no cost of living increase per student would make it very difficult to fund the 15-16 school year at the correct level for continued student growth; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin economic situation is improving and it is time to allow schools some additional resources for those costs which they cannot control or eliminate, and which they need in order to do a high caliber job of educating Wisconsin public school students;

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$142 million in the per-pupil categorical aid in the second year of the budget, the governor also proposes spending \$211.1 million in increased school levy credits (\$105.6 million in each year) and \$108 million in increased general aid with no corresponding revenue limit increase; therefore, this \$319 million is "school funding in name only." It simply flows to taxpayers as property tax relief and schools cannot spend one dime of it on the educational needs of their students;

WHEREAS, 69% of our students qualify for the free/reduced breakfast/lunch program and require more resources for success; 50% of our students are Hispanic of which 24% have difficulty with English and require more resources for success; we currently have 88 homeless students which has continued to increase since September and also requires more resources for success;

WHEREAS, Delavan-Darien School District is last in revenue per child of all districts in Walworth County last year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of Delavan-Darien's Board of Education strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature to revise the Governor's budget to restore school funding in 2015-17 to educationally adequate levels to include no decreases in revenue while also providing for inflationary revenue increases in both years.

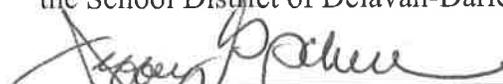
In Conclusion:

- **\$0 increase in revenue limit authority:** Local control has long been a celebrated feature of Wisconsin government. This proposal runs counter to local control by diminishing our authority as a locally elected Board to exercise revenue cap decisions based on the needs of our students and expectations of the District residents who elected us. This proposal implies that a top-down, government knows best decision-making model is better than locally elected officials exercising their judgment in such matters based on each community and student needs;
- **Badger Assessment:** The prohibition on funding the Badger assessment after 2015 is particularly problematic. The governor's proposed budget language calls for local control over the use of the Common Core, but prohibits us from using an assessment that would measure student mastery of those standards. Additionally, our staff has spent an enormous amount of time and energy preparing for the implementation of the Badger Assessment. To pull that assessment in favor of some other undetermined assessment, then link those results to a high stakes school and District 'grade' again is problematic and greatly concerning;
- This budget proposal removes some of those tools that Act 10 provided. By further diminishing our local control, this budget cripples our ability to adequately provide for the children in our school district. Our electors, our students and our parents have high expectations of us as Board members. If we're not doing the work expected of us, our community electors will vote us out of office. This budget as proposed replaces the thoughtful decision making of our local electors with the disposition of the Legislature and Governor. We don't believe any political party espouses that form of government.

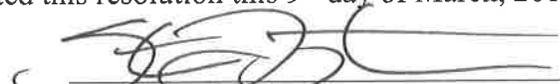
In closing, we ask that you restore in full the categorical aid for both years of the biennium and that you restore our authority to exercise revenue cap decisions. We also ask that you reject any expansion of the voucher program and lift the prohibition on funding of the Badger Assessment. Finally we ask that you not dissolve the Local Government Property Insurance Fund.

Thank you for your time and attention to this memo. We would be happy to respond to any follow up questions.

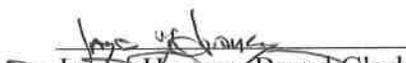
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education for the School District of Delavan-Darien, have executed this resolution this 9th day of March, 2015.



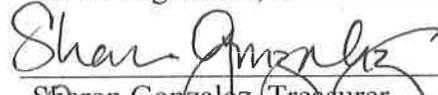
Jeffery Scherer, President



Steve Logterman, Vice President



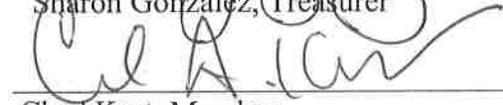
James Hansen, Board Clerk



Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer



Roxann Kelton, Member



Chad Kort, Member



Joe Peyer, Member