

A Resolution Calling for Termination of Voucher School Funding from Public Education Funds.

Whereas, a private religious school in the School District of Menomonie Area has recently become a voucher school. And said school has taken \$69,000 from School District funds in the 2019-20 school year, and \$182,600 from the School District in 2020-21 school year, and

Whereas, the taxpayers of the School District of the Menomonie Area are being penalized by having their public education tax dollars go to a private religious school, and are doubly penalized by having their property taxes raised the following year to reimburse the District for the missing funds, and

Whereas, the School District of the Menomonie area lost \$351,718 during the 2020-21 school year to the statewide voucher program, and similar amounts in previous years, which means the School District has lost millions dollars of funding to the statewide voucher program over many school years, and

Whereas, funding private religious schools with public taxpayer monies, violates the principle of Separation of Church and State. Taxpayers are forced to support a religion, dogma, doctrine and orthodoxy with which they may not agree or support. And furthermore taxpayer support for a limited number of religious organizations harms the diversity and inclusion of religious thought and practice in the U.S. and

Whereas, Wisconsin Association of School Board (WASB) resolution states that “the WASB strongly opposes the use of state or federal taxpayer dollars to subsidize nonpublic schools or nonpublic students/parents through a system of vouchers, scholarship tax credits, tuition tax credits or deduction plans or other similar arrangements, and

Whereas, All publicly funded schools, including private schools receiving voucher funding, must have the exact same accountability and transparency standards and requirements, and

Whereas, the WASB opposes the current voucher funding mechanism, under which taxpayer-financed vouchers are provided to private schools through deducting state aid from public school districts. This harms the majority of Wisconsin’s students by diminishing resources available for public schools or requiring school boards to raise local property taxes to compensate for the lost aid. Creating two publicly supported education systems threatens the sustainability of public school districts., and

Whereas, The WASB supports legislation to require property tax bills to include information from the school district in which the property is located regarding the dollar amount (and percentage change) of the net reduction in state aid, if any, to the school district between the current year and the previous year as a result of pupils enrolled in statewide voucher schools.”

“Now, therefore be it resolved that the School Board of the School District of the Menomonee Area calls upon the Wisconsin State Legislature to end the funding of private voucher schools with public education funds.