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Resolution on 2013-2015 Wisconsin Biennial Budget Educational Funding

Whereas, Wisconsin school districts have operated under state-imposed revenue controls since the 1993-94 school year, restricting educational opportunities for students, and;

Whereas, state school aids to public schools were reduced by over \$800 million in the 2011-13 budget, and;

Whereas, most categorical aid to schools was reduced by ten percent in the 2011-13 budget, further reducing available resources for schools, and;

Whereas, the 2011-13 budget reduced state-imposed revenue limits by \$550 per student on average statewide in the 2011-12 school year, and;

Whereas, our district has experienced larger class sizes, increased fees, fewer professional development and collaboration opportunities for staff, increased demands for technology services and devices, and fewer opportunities to implement new and innovative curriculum, and;

Whereas, current law provides for no adjustment in the state-imposed revenue limits yet many school district costs (e.g., technology, transportation, insurance, classroom supplies and equipment, etc.) are rising more than district revenue limits even with this year's \$50 per student adjustment, and;

Whereas, most of the cost savings for schools from not paying the employee share of retirement costs have been achieved, and some of those savings will be partially offset by higher 2013 contribution rates for the employer's share (from 5.9 percent to 6.65 percent) under the retirement fund, and many districts will likely have to seek additional health insurance savings, and;

Whereas, the state's authorized Consumer Price Index (CPI) is now 2.07% for bargaining of labor wages and equates to a \$195 increase in the revenue limit per student that would invest less than 40% of the state's 2013-2015 budget, and;

Whereas, the state's economy is on the uptick and the state budget office estimates an increase of over \$1.7 billion in increased tax collections during the biennial budget term ending June 30, 2015, and;

Whereas, the public education system in Wisconsin serves all students from 4-year-old Kindergarten to grade 12 with opportunities to maintain our tradition of strong student achievement, and;

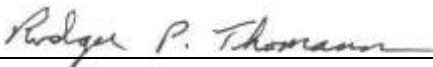
Whereas, in the long term, education is the state's economic engine,

Now, THEREFORE, we the members of the School District of Fort Atkinson Board of Education, support an increase in state resources to public schools through increased state aids and a significant, upward, per-pupil adjustment of revenue limits to cover inflationary increases in school costs and restore resources lost in the previous biennial state budget, and urge the Governor and state legislators to support a greater investment in public schools in the 2013-2015 biennial budget.

Resolution passed unanimously on March 21, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

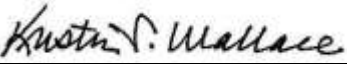
School District of Fort Atkinson Board of Education



Mr. Rodger Thomann, President



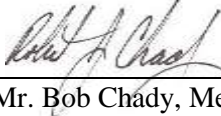
Mrs. Carrie Chisholm, Vice-President



Mrs. Kristin Wallace, Treasurer



Mr. Scott Johnson, Clerk



Mr. Bob Chady, Member