



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARABOO

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Baraboo Board of Education School Funding Reform Resolution

Whereas the Baraboo Board of Education whose role is to educate and elevate the needs of its three thousand plus students.

Whereas the Board in conjunction with its community has a strategic plan that is emphasizing four core areas: Community Partnerships, Maximizing Potential of Learners and Educators, Personalized Learning and Modernized Community Campus. We have attached a copy of our strategic plan for your review. As you can see we have ambitious plans for our students requiring resources for professional development, technological upgrades, and programming to prepare our students for the jobs of the future.

Whereas the Baraboo Board of Education has heard from the Baraboo Community that realizes the importance of having a STEM/business educated workforce that requires a higher level of investment in our schools.

Whereas the Baraboo School Board understands the need for long-range planning, but faces barriers in this process because of the lack of a long range school funding plan by our state. This has been a problem during both Republican and Democratic Administrations.

The school funding reform formula needs to encompass the following principles.:

First, the revenue levels need to be adequate to meet the education needs of all our populations, recognizing the needs of students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, gifted and/or have special needs.

Second, Baraboo has rural components of its population that requires a substantial investment in bussing costs and the funding formula needs to takes this into account.

Third, the revenue caps need to be lifted for low spending school districts such as the Baraboo School District. For the latest year we have complete state records Baraboo School District for the school year 2016-2017 was at \$9,451.56 per student versus the state average of \$10,438.26.

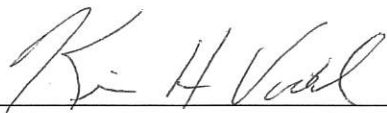
Fourth, School Levy Credits should be placed into equalized aid which will provide the same level of property tax relief but will be distributed more equitably.

Fifth, the school funding formula is able to adequately cover all of our maintenance needs both short and long term.


Lastly, until the school funding formula is equitable and provides a high level of instruction for each of our public schools then the further expansion of the State School Choice program should be avoided. Local fiscal impacts of both the School Choice program and Milwaukee Parental Choice Program should be listed as a separate line item on each person's tax bill.

The Baraboo School Board has concluded that the state needs to develop a new school funding program that provides equitable and transparent funding for the school districts of our state and therefore gives our students the best opportunities for success. As we strive to prepare our students for the challenges of tomorrow we place a high priority on enhancing our partnership with the state to ensure adequate resources to reach our goals.

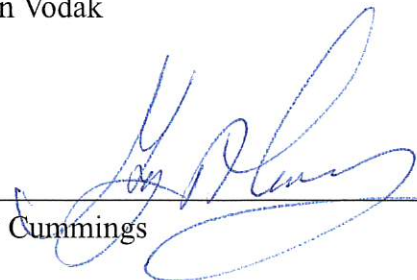
We ask for support in getting the resources we need and look forward to hearing from the legislature, governor and future candidates for statewide office about plans to improve the current school funding formula.




Kevin Vodak



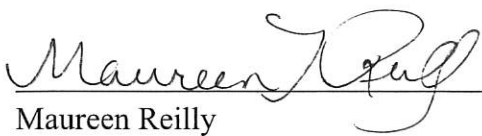
Doug Mering




Gary Cummings



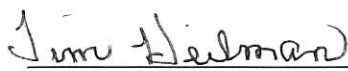
Sean McNevin



Maureen Reilly



Mike Kohlman



Tim Heilman