

RESOLUTION #1 – PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, Act X, section (2) of the Wisconsin Constitution states:

The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as practicable; and such schools shall be free and without charge for tuition to all children between the ages of 4 and 20 years.; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long tradition of providing a high-quality public education system; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) Board of Education is committed to making policy and financial decisions that enable the school district to provide quality educational programs and services to the school-age children of our community; and

WHEREAS, investing in public education is an investment not only in our students' capacity for success beyond high school but an investment in economic development and the future of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin and Nation; and

WHEREAS, since the 1993-94 school year, school districts have been operating under state-imposed revenue limits that cap the amount that schools can collect in state aid and local property taxes combined, and thus serve to limit school spending; and

WHEREAS, since the 1993-94 revenue limits were put in place, the ECASD has operated at below the state average and made budget cuts totaling over \$30 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, while it is the eighth largest district in the state, the ECASD ranks 272nd out of the 424 districts in per-pupil spending; and

WHEREAS, 40 percent ECASD's schoolchildren come from low-income families that rely on the wrap-around services we provide; and

WHEREAS, with no increase in per pupil revenue limits, none of the additional state dollars allocated for PreK-12 education general aid, will go to classrooms, rather, it must instead be directed to reducing property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has proposed "Fair Funding for Our Future" for the past three biennial budgets, to reform the funding formula; and

WHEREAS, reallocation of state money to public schools has been proposed for the past several years in the legislature; and

WHEREAS, an additional penny sales tax across the state has been proposed, which has been estimated to generate an additional \$850 million dollars (Legislative Fiscal Bureau, 2012) annually for public schools in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker and various legislators of both political parties have made public comments in support of increasing funding for public schools, if additional state revenue is available;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire Board of Education calls upon the Governor of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Legislature to fulfill their constitutional obligations, and equitably and adequately fund public schools in Wisconsin, for the benefit of Wisconsin's future and for the benefit of all public school students and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education for the Eau Claire Area School Districts, have executed this resolution this 12th day of September, 2016.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, President

Joe Luginbill, Vice President

Charles Vue, Treasurer

Kathryn Duax, Clerk

Carolyn Barstad, Board Member

Aaron Harder, Board Member

Jennifer Fager, Board Member