



## School Board of South Milwaukee

### Resolution 17-4 Support for Wisconsin Voucher Tax Transparency

**Whereas**, the South Milwaukee School Board, administrators, educators, staff, parents and community members of South Milwaukee are united in our effort to provide all children with the highest quality educational opportunities possible; and

**Whereas**, the South Milwaukee School District supports local control and the ability of the elected School Board to make decisions to support the learning of our students; and

**Whereas**, private school voucher advocates have consistently pushed for expanding the use of taxpayer-funded vouchers to pay tuition for students in private schools in Wisconsin; and

**Whereas**, the Governor and members of the Wisconsin Legislature have expanded voucher programs into many more communities and have increased state payments to voucher schools; and

**Whereas**, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 published September 22, 2017 includes private school voucher eligibility expansion along with an additional \$6,170,200 in FY18 and \$9,523,200 in FY19 ; and

**Whereas**, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 published September 22, 2017 includes private school special needs vouchers that are based on the private school financial submission to DPI of costs associated with a particular student, of which costs will be reimbursed to the private school by the resident public school and state taxpayers with no authority for either the DPI or resident district to verify the expenditures on the financial submission; and

**Whereas**, Assembly Bill 267 and Senate Bill 183, the “Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill,” would require property tax bills to include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any net reduction in state aid, if any, to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide voucher program, the Racine voucher program, or the Milwaukee voucher program ; and

**Whereas**, the increase in statewide property taxes due to school boards levying to offset lost aid due to the voucher system was over \$25 million in 2016-17. The statewide property tax impact is estimated to grow to significantly over the next two years; and

**Whereas**, the South Milwaukee School District was required to levy \$37,907 in taxpayer dollars to be allocated to the statewide voucher program in 2016-17, and local taxpayers are not provided with information about their tax dollars being spent on private and voucher schools. When private school voucher programs expand in our community, South Milwaukee loses aid (to the voucher schools) and our School Board must raise additional property taxes to replace the aid lost to the voucher schools or lose that funding permanently under the state-imposed revenue limits; and

**Whereas**, just as property tax bills show how much money goes to public schools and technical colleges, taxpayers deserve to know the cost of expanding the voucher program; and

**Whereas**, the voters of Wisconsin have never had an opportunity to vote on whether or not Wisconsin should have a taxpayer-supported private school voucher program; and

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the South Milwaukee Board of Education calls on Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to support the Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill in an effort to be open, honest, and transparent with the taxpayers of South Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

**In Witness whereof**, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board for the South Milwaukee School District, have executed this resolution this 18th day of October, 2017.

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Board President, Carol Dufek

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Board Vice President, Patricia Krause-Bordak

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Board Clerk, Therese Travia

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Board Treasurer, John Haslam

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Board Member, Jon Shelenske

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Board Member, Douglas Perry

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Board Member, David Maass