



# Thank You for Speaking Up for Public Education

Last month, school board members and administrators from around the state testified before the state Legislature's powerful Joint Finance Committee during its series of public hearings on Governor Scott Walker's proposed 2017-19 state budget. They urged lawmakers to support Walker's funding increase for K-12 schools. If approved, the increase will provide an additional \$200 in per-pupil categorical aid in the 2017-18 school year and another \$204 in the 2018-19 school year along with a package of additional categorical aid increases.

I want to thank all of the school leaders who have testified, called, wrote letters and talked to their legislators on behalf of public schools in recent weeks. Your advocacy is crucial to convincing lawmakers to fully support these critical investments. If you haven't reached out recently, please take a few minutes this month to contact your legislators and let them know of your support for state funding increases and how it will impact your schools. Our combined, continued advocacy is needed to ensure that these increases become law.

Members of the WASB board of directors have also been advocating for the funding increases. In addition to testifying at the budget hearings,

WASB president Capt. Terry McCloskey of Three Lakes and immediate past president Stu Olson of Shell Lake joined Gov. Walker and I at Waukesha South High School for a press conference in early April urging lawmakers to support the governor's proposed school funding increase. For more details on the status of the governor's budget, see this month's "Capitol Watch" column on page 24.

The work that you, our school leaders, do is invaluable to the health of public schools statewide and at your local level. As always, the WASB is focused on supporting you in the work of school leadership. Several upcoming WASB events offer opportunities for you to grow and improve in your role as a school leader.

This month, the Spring Academy Workshops will be taking place in the evening at all 12 CESAs. The workshops include a dinner (beginning at 6 pm) followed by a workshop led by a WASB attorney on the roles and responsibilities of school boards. This workshop will provide school leaders with greater understanding of the state laws that directly impact service on a school board and the basics of school governance, including an introduction to the Key Work of School Boards as well as a closer look at the state's

open meetings, public records and conflict of interest laws and a board's powers and duties. For a complete list of the dates and locations of the Spring Academy Workshops, see page 26.

On July 14-15, we will be holding the Summer Leadership Institute in Green Bay. This event includes a keynote speaker and dinner on Friday, July 14 and then a full day of sessions on Saturday, July 15. Sessions will cover a variety of important school leadership topics, such as conducting effective school board meetings, guiding board operations and fiscal authority through policy-making, and among others, board/superintendent relations. For more information on the Summer Leadership Institute, visit [wasb.org](http://wasb.org).

In closing, I'm excited to announce that the WASB will be launching an updated and redesigned website in June. Watch for more information in next month's *Wisconsin School News*. But in the meantime, please make sure your district's membership information is updated by May 19 in the WASB's database to reflect the recent elections and reorganizational meetings to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you again for your work for our public schools and I hope to see you at an upcoming WASB event. ■

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