

Resolution on Work of Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards School Board, administrators, educators, staff, parents and community members of the Port Edwards School District are united in our effort to provide all children with the highest quality educational opportunities possible; and

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards 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, the current system for financing schools in the state of Wisconsin creates many areas of disparity in how revenue is raised, how much revenue is allowed and how the revenue is ultimately spent; and

WHEREAS, the current system for financing schools in the state of Wisconsin creates disparity between public school districts, private schools and independent voucher schools by providing funding mechanisms that do not treat each student equally; and

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards School District enrollment due to open enrollment and new residents has been increasing at a rate much faster than new revenue is able to be raised; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin provides no immediate relief to raise additional revenue to school districts with rapidly expanding enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards School District is currently educating 426 students, but only receiving full funding for 380 students due to the structure of the school financing system in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards School District is not able to raise revenue for open enrolled students into the District at a rate at least equal to resident students; and

WHEREAS, the Port Edwards School District has an aid deduction for voucher students at a rate greater than the school district is able to raise for students open enrolled into the Port Edwards School District;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Port Edwards School Board calls on the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding to fully investigate the current system of school funding in Wisconsin, then to propose changes to the system to remove disparities within the funding mechanisms that create inequities for school districts and students; to provide full funding for each public school student; to create transparency within the system so that school district residents and property taxpayers easily understand how public schools are funded; and to create transparency within the system so that school district residents and property taxpayers understand local school district costs for financing vouchers and how those costs affect property tax bills.

Passed by the Port Edwards School District Board of Education on January 10, 2018