

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER
665 Coolidge Avenue – Suite B
Rhineland, WI 54501

Resolution in Support
of the
“Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill”
(Assembly Bill 267 and Senate Bill 183)

WHEREAS, the School District of Rhineland Board of Education, administrators, professional and support personnel, parents, and community members are united in the efforts to provide all children with the highest quality educational opportunities possible; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education supports local control and makes conscientious decisions in support of high quality educational opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, private school voucher advocates have consistently urged for expanding the use of taxpayer-funded vouchers to pay tuition for students in Wisconsin’s private schools; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and members of the Wisconsin Legislature have proposed expanding voucher programs into many more Wisconsin communities, and have proposed increasing state payments to voucher schools; and

WHEREAS, the current voucher amount is \$7,530 for pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade and \$8,176 for pupils in grades 9-12; and,

WHEREAS, a memo from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau demonstrates that payments to voucher schools under Governor Walker’s proposed budget would range from \$7,757 to \$8,403 per student by 2018 and with the inclusion of all of Governor Walker’s proposed increases, some public schools might receive as much as \$1,700 less per student; and

WHEREAS, the memo from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau also shows that tax dollars for voucher operations are increasing twelve (12) times faster than total public school aids, and voucher payments would more than double over eight years; 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, with the statewide property tax impact estimated to grow to \$37 million in 2017-18 and to \$47 million in 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, with tax dollars for voucher operations increasing twelve (12) times faster than total public school aids and voucher payments doubling over eight years, net general aids that support public schools and reduce property taxes would decrease by 1.3%; and

WHEREAS, if private school voucher programs expand to the Rhineland community, the School District of Rhineland will lose state aid to the voucher schools, and the Board of Education will be required to 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, if private school voucher programs do expand to the Rhineland community and the School District of Rhineland is then required to levy taxpayer dollars to be allocated to the statewide voucher program, just as property tax bills show how much money goes to public schools and technical colleges, taxpayers deserve to be informed of the cost of expanding the voucher program; and

WHEREAS, the *Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill* (Assembly Bill 267 and Senate Bill 183), authored by Rep. Dana Wachs (D-Eau Claire), 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 to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide voucher program, the Racine voucher program, or the Milwaukee voucher program; and


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education appeals to Governor 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 the School District of Rhinelander and the State of Wisconsin.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, all being members of the School District of Rhinelander Board of Education, have officially approved this resolution.

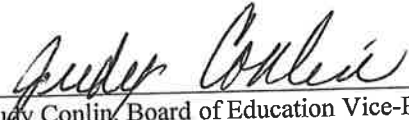
Dated this 18th day of December, 2017




Ronald Counter, Board of Education President




Mike Roberts, Board of Education Treasurer



Judy Conlin, Board of Education Vice-President




Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk



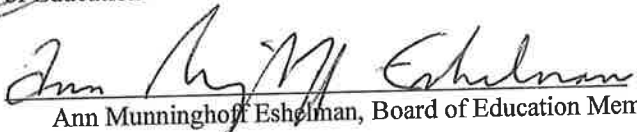
Duane Frey, Board of Education Member



Benjamin Roskoskey, Board of Education Member



Dennis O'Brien, Board of Education Member



Ann Munninghoff Eshelman, Board of Education Member