



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARABOO

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARABOO BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION

Common School Fund Baraboo Board of Education Opposition to Senate Bill 713 and Assembly Bill 857

WHEREAS, the State Senate and Assembly members have introduced legislation to end the use of Common School Fund to finance school library purchases in our state; and

WHEREAS, the School District of Baraboo Board of Education's mission is to strive for excellence to ensure that every learner is successful in an evolving world. The School District of Baraboo Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 713 and Assembly Bill 857 because it is contrary to that mission for the following reasons:

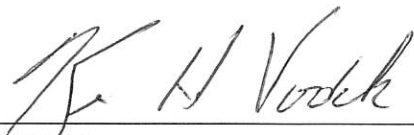
- SB713 and AB857 would end the only dedicated source of school library funding in our state.
- The current regulations protect how Common School Fund money is spent that ensures equitable access to learning materials for all staff and students in our public schools.
- Librarians use the money to nurture a love of reading and learning. They make informed selections based on their intimate understandings of what their students want and need. They fill their shelves with books that excite and inspire students. Many of these students come from low income families and have barriers to public library resources.
- The money is also used to purchase digital tools that give schools access to reliable information for research. If school libraries couldn't provide these, students would rely on websites that are often biased, commercialized, and/or not intended for educational research. In order for our schools to develop critical thinking, informed citizens, ready for today's workforce, they need these quality digital resources.
- Wisconsin schools benefit from having Common School Fund money used exclusively in their libraries. The books, ebooks, newspapers, periodicals, web-based resources, and other tools purchased are curated to ensure they are appropriate and easily accessible to all students and staff.
- The current Common School Fund structure works and has provided many years of benefit to the Baraboo School District's libraries and our students. We also

believe that this bill is in violation of how the framers of the Wisconsin Constitution intended the Common School Fund should be set up.

- The Baraboo Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 713 and Assembly Bill 857 which endangers future generations of students who will lack access to quality school libraries and the foundation of our education will corrode along with our citizen's critical thinking and love of learning.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of Baraboo Board of Education calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Senate, and Wisconsin State Assembly to oppose this legislation, which is not in the best interest of current or future residents of the State of Wisconsin.


Adopted, approved and recorded February 12, 2018.



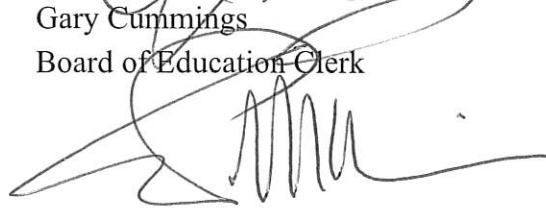
Kevin Vodak
Board of Education President



Gary Cummings
Board of Education Clerk



Doug Mering
Board of Education Vice-President



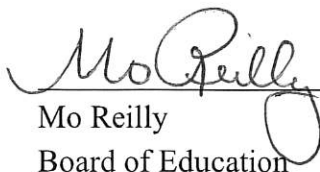
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